

STARLIGHTS

Highlights from Star Lake for Members of the SLP0A

Spring 2023

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Star Lake Property Owners' Association

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Steve Roth
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Gail Hagen
Secretary

Linda Dimitrijevic
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dick Fultz, President

Wow – what a winter (and hopefully it is over)!

If there ever was a winter which made a summer at the lake more welcome, I can't remember it. SNOW, lots of it and every week. Shovels, plows, snow blowers, scrapers, slow driving and ALL! And it seemed to be unending.

But we won't have to worry about low lake water levels! Nature has spoken and has addressed the situation. Somewhere under that white stuff was grass waiting to emerge, gardens waiting for plants, and all those chores you put off last fall just waiting for you to take care of them. Okay - I'll be honest... I'm far to the south and having one of the mildest winters in recent history here in Kansas. In fact, we have had no snow since the first of the year and less than 5 inches all winter. Our concern now is ground moisture as the crops are going to be planted. My nephew planted corn on the 1st of April and it's sprouting already – now we need some rain.

Summer is almost here and with it all the fun activities that our beautiful Star Lake offers: swimming, fishing, long afternoon naps on the deck, cold ones with friends, pizza night at duCharmes' Corner store, and coffee on Saturday morning with the gang. It is always good to see everybody after a long winter away. Missing this year will be our friend Pierre but I know he's watching over us and guiding our discussions. Yvette will be brewing the coffee for us, cooking those ribs, serving up pizza on Tuesday nights. Bell's Bar and Grill is open and ready to serve! And don't forget – Property Taxes are due in May!

As for your associations board members, the first big event we are hosting is the Annual Membership Meeting and breakfast at Camp Joy on June 10th. Watch for signs around the lake the first part of June. Matt and his crew at Camp Joy will be cooking up a great breakfast - all you can eat - with pancakes, Camp Aquila Pure Maple Syrup, eggs, sausage links and strawberries on the side. Of course, hot coffee and cold water will be available. The meeting will feature a couple of presenters (to be announced), election of Board members, and open forums on subjects you may bring.

So, here's the deal: your Board members are volunteers - paying dues just like you - and devoting many hours of their time to address issues and concerns raised by you as members. Here is your chance to get involved. Volunteer to run for a position on your Board. We meet monthly year around (in person during the summer season and via the internet in the cold months). There are many activities that Board members perform during the year and with more Board members we are able to spread out the 'load'. Here's your chance to volunteer and add your opinions, concerns and voice to the Board. You can contact Gail, our secretary,

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

or me via our email thru the website if you are interested. I hope you will consider joining our board.

Okay, I'm not in Minnesota as I write this and left in September, so I cannot report on the status of our 'radar' speed signs - but I do know they were shipped to MnDOT last February and were very recently installed and hopefully working by now. As traffic increases this summer, these signs will be visual reminders of the speed limits along the north shore on Hwy. 108. No, it is not a freeway and we hope the signs help to slow the traffic down across this busy section of highway. Speaking of MN Highway 108, the MnDOT shows Highway 108 to be redone next year from Pelican Rapids to Perham. Next year it will be a mess, with Pelican Rapids a mess this year. Not only is Pelican Pete moving, so will all of Highway 108 through the town - and it will take all summer. So, watch your driving and be safe during the construction.

I hope this newsletter finds you and yours well and ready for a great summer at the Lake. I look forward to visiting with each of you at this summers' activities. See you on the Lake!

Dick Fultz



Linda Dimitrijevic, Director



I have been coming to Otter Tail County since I was a just a kid. We were a "fishing family" from Missouri. It did not take long to realize that fishing in Minnesota was much better than fishing in our home state. One of the places that our family stayed was Galaxy Resort. It never ceases to amaze me that many, many years later my husband (Bob) and I now own a cabin within sight of that same resort – now Bell's Resort.

We have been on the North Shore of Star Lake for over 25 summers. I still like to fish – and also kayak and sail (yes – that is my little Sunfish sailboat cruising around the North arm). We have made many friends on and around Star Lake throughout the years. We now enjoy the added friendship of my fellow board members. I must say, that 20 years ago when we attended Annual Meetings, I could not have pictured myself as serving on the board. Our neighbor, Arnie Schenck, was a previous board member and encouraged me to consider volunteering for an opening on the board. It is a great learning experience and a way to serve our Star Lake community for those that may be interested in doing so.

Bob and I continue to make Star Lake our summer home – and May through August are our favorite months of the year!

Linda Dimitrijevic



Did you know...

Alcohol is involved in about 30 percent of fatal boat accidents in Minnesota. Drunk boating is drunk driving — designate a sober ride on the water and on the road.

Boat Safe and Sober!

Family Resorts on Star Lake

By Gail Hagen, Secretary

One of the numerous things I love about Star Lake is that we have many opportunities for families to experience the fun and enjoy life at the lake - even if it is for just a week! After my parents sold their cabin on Star, my husband and I wanted our four daughters to enjoy swimming, fishing, campfires and star-filled nights at the lake - like I did as a kid. We started out by renting a cabin for the week at Ebert's North Star Resort. After a couple of years renting for a week, we moved up to a seasonal cabin rental, and eventually were able to purchase our own property. Many of the property owners around Star Lake have similar stories, with a history of renting from one of the many family resorts on Star Lake.

Family Resorts in Minnesota have dwindled over the years. It's hard work, costs are going up and getting workers is a challenge. But we are fortunate to have three resorts on Star Lake that still offer weekly cabin rentals. I hope you enjoy reading about Bell's Resort Bar and Grill, Franks Lodge and Campground, and Spruce Lodge Resort.

Bell's Resort Bar & Grill



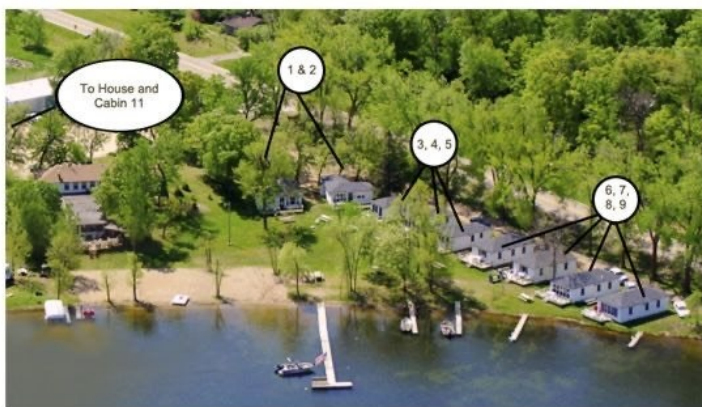
What was once Ernie's, then Galaxy Resort is now Bell's Resort Bar & Grill. Located at the corner of the North Arm of Star Lake just off County Hwy 41, Bell's Resort offers families a choice of 10 cabins featuring 1 or 2 bedrooms with decks overlooking Star Lake. Kids and adults alike enjoy a beautiful swimming beach and plenty of dock space for fishing boats, pontoons or just throwing a line out to see what's biting. Bell's Resort also offers pontoon rental (available to the public) as well as gas at the dock.

Rhonda Bell, along with her dad, Roland Bell, purchased what was Galaxy Resort in December of 2018. Together they opened the bar and grill in February of 2019. Unfortunately, Roland passed away just two short months later. Operating Bell's Resort Bar and Grill is a labor of love that includes Rhonda's family: Mom – Christine; Son – Damian (13); partner – Trevor Boe; and their newest family addition – Joselyn (Josey) who was born on October 25th of 2021. Rhonda and Trevor have been operating the resort working through challenges like the pandemic and an extensive remodel of the Bar & Grill.

Bell's Bar & Grill reopened in January of this year and offers twice the space in the bar, a new menu featuring the still popular broasted chicken – and new items like BBQ pulled pork (Christine's specialty) and shrimp or fish tacos. Finish off your meal with a made-from-scratch dessert like a slice of mom's Sour Cream Strawberry Rhubarb Pie or Bell's Cookie (caramel and oatmeal).

The summer hours for Bell's Bar & Grill Tuesday-Thursday, opening at 4:00 PM; and Friday-Sunday opening at 11:00 AM. The kitchen closes at 9:00 PM and the bar is open until 1:00 AM. You can easily access Bell's Bar & Grill from the lake by pulling up at their new expanded dock system, or from County Road 41.

For more information or to inquire about availability of their cabins and pontoons, call Rhonda at 218-296-2830, or email at rhondanorthernbell@gmail.com.





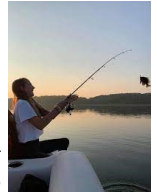
Family Resorts on Star Lake

(Continued from Page 3)

Frank's Lodge and Campground



What began almost 100 years ago, Frank's Lodge & Campground has been providing families a taste of Minnesota Lake life for generations. Located in the West Arm of Star Lake, Frank's Lodge offers weekly rentals in one of their 7 cabins or 2 lake houses. Depending on which comfortable cabin you choose, they can accommodate an individual or couple just getting away - or large groups of up to 10 people in the largest house. Frank's has two campgrounds for seasonal renters as well- Franks Lodge Campground and Buckhorn Campground. Guests can enjoy swimming from the beach or dock, fishing, hiking on wooded trails, a playground, and large grassy RV sites with free Wi-Fi and full hook-ups. Guests must love their time at Frank's as over 90% of their guests return every year!



In addition to the weekly cabin rentals and the seasonal campgrounds, Frank's offers their Lodge for guests to use which provides a larger indoor space and a kitchen for groups that want to gather for meals or other events. Their store sells bait, ice, firewood, snacks and other food items - you can even rent a pontoon, kayak or fishing boat. Laundry facilities are also available.

Frank's Lodge and Campground is family owned and operated for several generations of the Frank family starting with John and Mary Frank in 1932. Their son, Buck, and his wife, Lucille, took the reins in 1940 and added the campground to what was then only the cabin resort. Buck was also instrumental in getting the bridge built on County Hwy 41 that now allows boaters to pass from the West Arm to the main lake. The resort has remained a family operated business to this day. John and Kathleen Frank have spent many years updating the resort with newly built handicap accessible cabins and expanding the camping areas with the addition of Buckhorn Campground. With the help of their daughter, Linda, and their granddaughter, Heidi, the Frank family looks to the future to make plans of carrying on their legacy of providing the best possible vacation or summer stay for their guests.

For more information about cabin rental, the campgrounds, or boat rental, call Linda at 218-298-2619; or email at:

frankslodgecampground@gmail.com.



Spruce Lodge Resort



Some of the most beautiful shoreline and sugar sand beaches on Star Lake are along the South side. It is there, in the Southwest corner, that you will find the quaint family-friendly community of Spruce Lodge Resort. If you have the chance to stop by, be sure to say hello and visit with Ruth Felton.

Ruth and her husband, Skeeter, purchased Spruce Lodge Resort in 1977, when there were 13 resorts on Star Lake! Skeeter passed away 20 years ago, but that didn't stop Ruth from continuing to operate the resort. With much help from family and friends, Spruce Lodge Resort continues to offer weekly rentals in 8 cabins with 1-3 bedrooms, and 11 seasonal RV spots. You'll be fortunate to find an available week, though, as the only open times this year are early June and mid-August. Most of the renters return year after year. In fact, she has seen several generations come and go over the past 46 years. Many are now property owners on Star Lake!



Ruth recently celebrated her 88th birthday - but you wouldn't know it by visiting with her. She will eagerly tell you much about the history of Star Lake and her many years at the resort. She frequently receives cards and visits from people that tell her about how they met, got engaged, or celebrated special occasions at the Dance Hall in the hexagon building that was located where the seasonal campers now sit. And apparently there was a Saw Mill at one time on the property.

Ruth's family all help to keep Spruce Lodge Resort a favorite for many to enjoy. Her son, Wade, and his fiancé, Sami Hammer, live here full-time now, making the move from Bismarck to help his mom. Ruth's two daughters and 7 grandchildren all pitch in as well. Ruth is from Canby, Minnesota, and taught Kindergarten for 43 years. She retired 25 years ago, but has spent every summer on Star Lake for 46 years.

For more information or to check on cabin availability, contact Ruth at 218-758-2922, or Wade at 701-426-4424.



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Adopt-A-Highway

By Dick Fultz, President

The Spring Adopt-A-Highway clean-up event will have already taken place when you are reading this! Volunteers met at Bell's Resort Parking Lot on Saturday, May 20th - a little later this year - as was the snow melt! A big Thank You to our volunteers that help us keep our roadways around our beautiful Star Lake trash free!

Watch for announcements for the Fall clean-up event on our Facebook page and through email.

Fisheries Improvement

By Steve Roth, Vice President

As I write this, we are finally seeing many of our local lakes opening up, in addition to seeing large parts of Star Lake gradually relinquish its ice. To say this winter has dragged on and on is more than an understatement. The months of March and April were about the worst that I can remember.

This winter was busy on Star Lake. The sportsmen plowed numerous roads that were scattered across the lake. Large groups of fish houses seemed to look like small cities as they lit up across the lake during the cold winter nights. The fishing reports that I heard were mostly positive. Obviously, weather is a big factor in the fishing success.

My fishing was mostly through a spear hole - and for the most part, I was mostly just watching. I did witness a crazy amount of small Northerns. However, this winter was the first time that I spotted fish bigger than 30 inches - and they are still swimming!

One of the items we are discussing in Fisheries is reducing the Bluegill limit on Star Lake. Minnesota is also reviewing the limit statewide and may be reducing that number to what Star Lake is potentially proposing. The statewide progress continues to be monitored, but that will not deter our work to reduce the limit on Star Lake. Much of our membership has spoken and the consensus is to bring that limit down. We will continue the process with the Minnesota DNR Fisheries. Look to see more traction along with the possibility of requesting your support with a petition to help us build our case with the State of Minnesota.

I am looking forward to getting out and enjoying the lake. Snowfall amounts this winter will bring water levels up to where they need to be. Hopefully this Summer we will experience many days of sunshine as well as consistent rain to keep the lake level favorable.

Membership & Communication

By Gail Hagen, Secretary

The 2023-2024 Membership campaign is underway. The letter and membership form was mailed on May 11th to all Star Lake property owners asking for their renewal or to join the association. We are asking that all forms be submitted prior to the Annual Meeting (June 10th). The registration forms are available on our website and you can also complete and pay online.

In addition to membership of property owners', we also have an Associate Membership level that is offered to non-property owners. The seasonal guests at our resorts around the lake are ideal candidates to offer this level of membership as most share our passion of Star Lake, as well as our vision and mission of the association.

The SLPOA Board of Directors made the tough decision to increase the fees this year - the first time since 2018. Like you, we have experienced increases in our expenses, such as the cost of paper, printing, food for the picnic, and other expenses. We sincerely appreciate your support of the Star Lake Property Owners' Association.

As we wrap up the production of the Spring Newsletter, we are also working hard to finalize the 2023 Membership Directory. Watch for updates and other information relating to SLPOA on our website, email, Facebook and mail.

Help us spread the word about SLPOA and invite others to join. For more information or if you have any questions, please call me at 218-329-2729.

"We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun." - Winnie the Pooh

Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring

Contributed by the AIS Committee

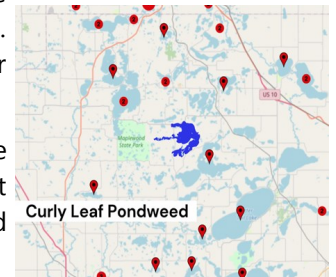
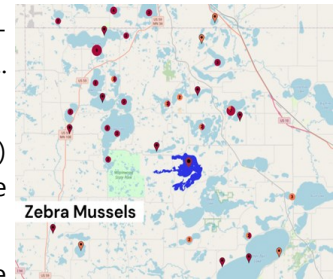
Minnesota Nice

Hopefully we are growing our collective knowledge about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), especially how AIS impacts our Star Lake. And while, *yes*, we have the infamous zebra mussels... many of our neighboring lakes do not.

Consider two ways to look at AIS; AIS that are present in Star Lake and AIS that are not (yet) present in Star Lake. The great thing about these two perspectives is that they require the same mindset. No matter how you consider AIS, **preventing the spread of AIS is key.**

This first map shows where zebra mussels have been positively identified. You can note the marker on Star Lake. But also notice the many lakes around us that do not have zebra mussels. Cleaning everything that comes out of our Star Lake is key to preventing the spread from Star Lake to another lake.

The second map shows where Curly-leaf has been positively identified. Notice that Star Lake does not have Curly-leaf Pondweed yet but neighboring lakes do. Cleaning everything that comes out of these neighboring lakes is key to preventing the spread of Curly-leaf Pondweed to our Star Lake.



Prevention is key! Let's be MN Nice and make sure to follow all AIS prevention guidelines this season!

AIS Sampling Rake Drive

The Aquatic Invasive Species committee is working to increase the number of AIS (vegetation) sampling rakes in an effort to increase the amount of testing of Star Lake. A sampling rake is basically two bow rakes (minus the handle) welded together to make a double-sided bow rake.



The call is going out to the Star Lake faithful who might have the remains of a broken bow rake. If you have been meaning to repair that bow rake but have not been able to get around to it and it is now just taking up space, we will put it to good use.

The AIS committee is taking up a collection at the 2023 Annual Meeting of bow rakes that have seen better days. Bring your rake to the annual meeting and drop it in the bin near the registration table.

Throw a Rake for Star Lake!

The AIS Committee is looking forward to getting out on the lake for the 2023 summer season. We are ALSO excited to offer a few opportunities to "Throw a Rake for Star Lake!" for our Star Lake friends.

Are you interested in learning more about how we monitor the lake for AIS? Join us on one of the following dates and help us *THROW A RAKE FOR STAR LAKE!*

On these days, we will throw our AIS Sampling Rakes at different boat landings around the lake and work to identify the plants we pull in. We will show off our aquatic plant identification manual and discuss the status of AIS in Star Lake.

This is a GREAT opportunity for all stewards of the lake, especially our younger generation, to learn about AIS and meet new friends.

Scheduled dates include:

Saturday, July 1 at 9am and **Saturday, August 19 at 9am**

Sign up at this web address (bit.ly/starlakeais) or watch the Star Lake Property Owners' Association's Facebook page for updates and locations!

How's the Lake Level?

This question is certainly among the most often asked questions regarding lake conditions – others being: How thick is the ice? Is the ice out yet? What's the wind like? Over the past couple of years – how's bridge reconstruction going?

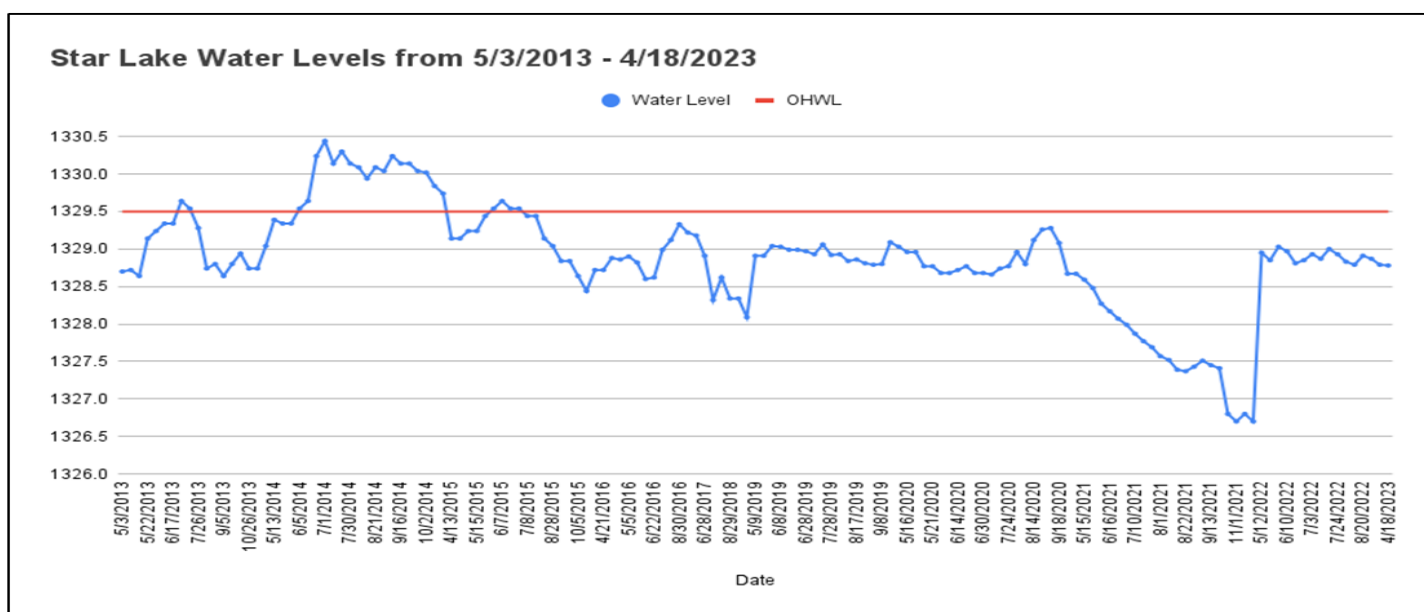
As most may know, the bridge is done - complete with a new DNR Water Level gauge. The gauge is located on the 2nd pillar to the right as you enter the West Arm. The gauge was placed and permanently attached at **1327.34 feet** above sea-level per DNR direction.

On April 18, 2023 a reading was taken and recorded as **1328.78 feet**.

The last reading was recorded on November 29, 2021 at **1326.7 feet**, indicating an increase in lake level of **2.08 feet** since that time.

The Ordinary High-Water Line (OHWL) for Star Lake is **1329.50 feet**. (*The ordinary high water level is an elevation delineating the highest water level that has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape, commonly the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial.)

This means that the most recent reading (1328.78 feet) has the lake at **.72 feet** below the OHWL.



Additional information regarding water levels can be found on the Star Lake Property Owners' Association website (About Star Lake > Lake Information).

Have You Tested Your Well Water Lately?

As a private well owner, you are responsible for regularly testing the water you use for cooking and drinking to make sure it is safe. If you treat your water, test the water after it goes through treatment.

OTC Land and Resource has water test kits available. These kits will test your water for coliform bacteria, arsenic, nitrate nitrogen and lead. RMB Environmental Labs of Detroit Lakes will conduct the analysis and provide you with a report.

Testing kits can also be picked up and dropped off at Ace Hardware in Perham, and Pelican Rapids City Hall. There is a fee for the testing service and is paid directly to the lab.

For more information, contact RMB Environmental Labs at 1-888-200-5770.

Protect your health!

Test your well water for:



Testing is even more important if young children drink the water.

<https://www.rmbel.com/get-a-water-test-kit>

2022 Star Lake Water Quality Analysis Report

Star Lake has partnered with the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTCCOLA) for the past 20+ years by participating in an annual Water Quality Monitoring Program. The program provides for a May thru October monthly sampling of waters from about 60 Otter Tail County lakes. The monitoring program collects water samples for analysis by RMB Laboratories in Detroit Lakes.

The 2022 Analysis for Star Lake indicates the lowest level of phosphorus and chlorophyll and the greatest depth of visual clarity in the past 10 years. A full copy of this report can be found on the SLPOA website. Phosphorus, chlorophyll and water clarity are the three primary elements for determining water quality, and ultimately the Trophic State Index (TSI). Think of the TSI as the score-card of lake health.

The TSI classifications are:

Oligotrophy – TSI of less than 30, where waterbodies have the lowest level of productivity

Mesotrophy – TSI of 40-50, where waterbodies have a moderate level of biological productivity

Eutrophy – TSI of 50-60, where waterbodies have a high level of biological productivity

Hypereutrophy – TSI of greater than 70, where waterbodies have the highest level of biological productivity.

The TSI of Star Lake in 2022 remained Mesotrophic (mees-oh-TROH-fik), the same grade as in previous years. The short definition of this grade would be a lake with water moderately clear most of the summer- but getting "greener" in late summer. It has little to no oxygen at the deepest points resulting in the loss of trout. Walleye may predominate.

To keep our Star Lake healthy, we need to understand the impacts that our actions have on water quality. Phosphorus levels in the water directly impact water quality. Phosphorus originates from a variety of sources, many of which are related to human activities. Major sources include human and animal wastes, soil erosion, detergents, septic systems and runoff from farmland or fertilized lawns. Everything we can do to mitigate any of the above will help to improve/maintain the TSI of Star Lake.

For more information on this topic visit the SLPOA website "About Star Lake".

Common Pollutants in Stormwater



Yard waste: Yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings contain nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. These nutrients become pollutants in the water and can cause algae blooms that disrupt the balance of fish, plants, and macroinvertebrates. An impaired or polluted waterbody can also clog or reduce the health of another waterbody downstream.



Fertilizers: When used incorrectly or excessively, fertilizers can put excessive nutrients into our lakes, streams, and wetlands.



Herbicides and Pesticides: When used incorrectly or haphazardly, chemical treatments for weeds and/or insects are poisonous to wildlife and aquatic life.



Sediment: Soil, sand, and debris wash into lakes with stormwater and makes the water murky or cloudy. This blocks light from filtering into the water, and harms fish, plants, and aquatic wildlife.



Bacteria: Bacteria like E. coli from animal waste, including pet waste can make people or pets sick.



Chloride: Chloride is a chemical found in road salt and deicers. It's used in winter to keep ice off our streets, sidewalks, and parking lots. It's toxic to aquatic life and alters the way lakes cycle temperature and nutrients over the seasons. Chloride is a permanent pollutant in freshwater and can contaminate groundwater.

Slow It Down, Soak It Up

There's lots of lawn care and water information out there. Sometimes it can be confusing! Remember that the basic idea is to **slow down** runoff and **soak it up** into the ground. Once you start watching for opportunities, there's often creative ways to approach it considering your aesthetic tastes and practical needs.



Chances are you're already doing some of these water-friendly practices. Read on to see which ones you are already doing, and which ones could be something new to try.

Healthy lawn and yard care includes:

- Mowing
- Watering and irrigation
- Fertilizing sparingly
- Re-routing and reducing runoff
- Using native plants for gardens or groundcovers
- Controlling pet waste and erosion
- Smart salting



The Good Neighbor Seasonal Checklist

SUMMER

- Mulch grass clippings**
Mulch grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn.
- Mow high**
Set your mower for 3-4". This will result in a healthy lawn with deeper roots and will require far less watering.
- Water wisely**
Lawns only need about 1" of water per week. Account for rainfall in your watering, aim away from hard surfaces like driveways, and water in the morning and evening hours to retain the moisture. Odd/even watering bans don't imply that watering is needed on your allocated day.
- Try some brown**
Grass is adapted to go dormant during dry times such as mid/late summer. Try going with the flow and letting some of the turf to temporarily turn brown.
- Sweep driveways**
Keep streets and driveways clean of debris.
- Consider replacing your turf**
Tired of the lawn?
Replace thirsty turf with deeper-rooted groundcovers, low-mow turf, bee lawns, or native plantings.



Treasurer's Report

by Jolene Jean Kerr

The account balances for SLPOA (as of May 1st, 2023):

Regular Checking Account	\$ 3,610.16
Money Market:	\$ 18,640.45*
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 22,250.61

* Lake Protection Fund

Our largest expenditure this winter was the purchase of the Digital Speed Signs that have been installed along the North Shore of Star Lake along MN Highway 108 at a cost of \$5,623.90.

Amazon has notified us that they are discontinuing the Amazon Smile program. We have received our final payment from Amazon. Thank you for your past support of the Star Lake Property Owners' Association by using this program.

Water Safety - Buoys

By Yvette Lewis

The installation, maintenance, repair and removal of the buoys located around Star Lake is taken care of by volunteer property owners of Star Lake, and we need your help!

If you are available in the late spring and fall, have access to a boat, and have a willing friend or family member - we really need your help to place and remove buoys located east of Peterson Point. We were able to get them removed this fall, but cannot commit to being able to place them in the Spring.

Please contact Yvette Lewis, 701-219-4309, if you are able volunteer.

A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers that take care of this for all of us on Star Lake. Your efforts help us to enjoy the lake with confidence that the major hazards within our lake have been identified and marked for safe boating and fishing.

Be safe on the lake!

Boating Safety

The Minnesota DNR offers an online Boating Safety course that allows youth (ages 12-17) to receive a Minnesota water operator's permit. Adults wanting to learn more about boating safety are also encouraged to take the course - and you might be eligible for a discount on your boat insurance (check with your insurance agent). You can study on any device - your mobile phone, tablet or laptop; take the exam and print your card! The fee is \$29.95.

Thinking about trying a paddleboard, kayak or canoe? There is also a free Paddle Sports Safety course that offers an introduction to paddling safety. Learning how to paddle is a great way to get your feet wet in recreational boating, and starting off with basic boating knowledge will make your experience safer and more enjoyable. www.dnr.state.mn.us



MOTORBOAT OPERATOR AGE RESTRICTIONS

OPERATOR AGE	RESTRICTIONS
LESS THAN 12 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 hp or less--no restrictions. More than 25 through 75 hp--must have someone at least 21 years old on board within immediate reach of the controls. More than 75 hp--not allowed to operate even with an adult on board.

OPERATOR AGE	RESTRICTIONS
12-17 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 hp or less--no restrictions. More than 25 hp--must either have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a watercraft operator's permit, or someone at least 21 years old on board and within immediate reach of the controls.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATOR AGE RESTRICTIONS REGARDLESS OF HORSEPOWER

OPERATOR AGE	RESTRICTIONS
LESS THAN 13 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot operate--even with an adult on board.
13 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must have either someone at least 21 years old on board, or a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21 years old.
14-17 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must have either a watercraft operator's permit, or someone at least 21 years old on board.



Swamp Shark Tournament Update

By Steve Roth, Vice-President



Starting in June of 2020, the board of the Star Lake Property Owners' Association organized and hosted a small fishing tournament for members of the association. The Swamp Shark Tournament grew in participation over the next two years, with more families participating in this day of fishing fun and friendly competition. It has also been a great way for the association and membership to show our support for two of the primary businesses on our lake.

We originally planned this tournament for our members as part of our Fisheries Improvement with the objective of helping to reduce the abundance of small Northerns in our fishery and improve the balance in the system. It's hard to tell if this helped or not – the Northerns are still plentiful and aggressive, and the number of Bluegills appear to be even more scarce.

The board has made the decision to put this tournament on pause for the summer of 2023. We will take this time to re-evaluate, consider other activities to support in regards to improving the fishery of Star Lake, and seek input from you – our membership. We also look to our Fisheries Committee for their ideas and recommendations.

We hope to hear from you on this subject – and see you at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 10th at Camp Joy. Please feel free to contact us by phone or email using the information provided on our website.



In Minnesota, there are about a dozen different types of ticks. Not all of them spread disease. Three types that people may come across in Minnesota are the blacklegged tick (aka deer tick), the American dog tick (aka wood tick), and the lone star tick. The blacklegged tick causes by far the most tickborne disease in Minnesota. People in Minnesota are often bitten by American dog ticks but they rarely spread diseases.

In Minnesota, adult ticks will usually emerge right after the snow melts and reach peak spring-time activity during the month of May. The adult ticks will typically stay active throughout June. Adults will also become active again in the fall, usually by the end of September and through October, until temperatures drop below freezing or snow covers the ground. Blacklegged tick nymphs start to become active in mid-May and reach peak activity at the end of May through the month of June. Nymph activity tapers off slowly, and they are much less active by the end of July.

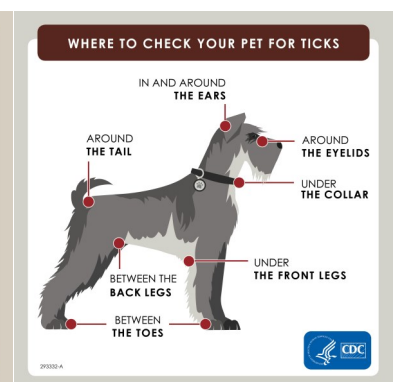
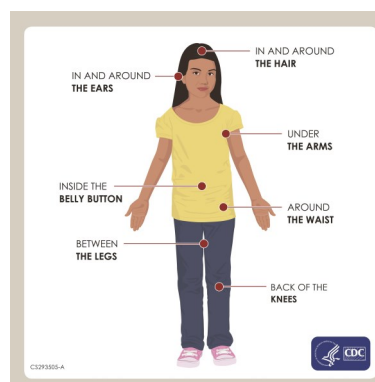
The Department of Health for the State of Minnesota offers excellent education on tickborne diseases many resources on ticks found in Minnesota. The following are examples of information to help you identify ticks, where to check for ticks on people and pets, and how to properly remove ticks. For more information, visit www.health.state.mn.us.

Prevent tickborne diseases

- Check for ticks at least once a day.
- Use an EPA-registered repellent (e.g., DEET or permethrin).
- Call your doctor if you get a fever, rash, or other symptoms after being in or near wooded or brushy areas.

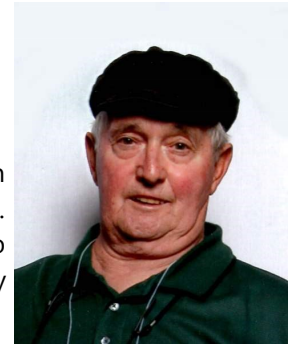
Tick removal dos and don'ts

- ✓ DO remove as quickly as possible.
- ✓ DO use tweezers or fingers to grab the head as close to the skin as possible
- ✓ DO pull up gently and slowly.
- ✓ DO clean the bite area.
- ✗ DO NOT burn with a match.
- ✗ DO NOT cover with petroleum jelly.
- ✗ DO NOT pour kerosene on the tick.





Saying Goodbye...



We lost a mainstay of Star Lake since our last STARlights Newsletter last fall. Pierre passed away on November 1st, 2022. With the permission of his family we are reprinting a portion of his obituary. The full obituary can be viewed at www.dobmeierfuneralhome.com. Our deepest sympathy to Mary, Yvette, Dale and the entire duCharme family. Pierre was one-of-a-kind and will be missed by many.

"Pierre duCharme, age 79, of Dent, MN, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 1, 2022, surrounded by his family at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, ND.

Pierre Louis duCharme was born July 7th, 1943 to Louis N. duCharme and Monica McCarty duCharme, of Barnesville, MN. Pierre attended Barnesville High School, where he was active in sports and school activities. He met his wife, Mary (Frank) duCharme, during one of these events in Perham, MN while Mary was cheerleading and Pierre, playing on the basketball court. Being from rival schools didn't make a difference to Dad. They were inseparable from that moment on, having just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary September 15th of this year.

Pierre graduated from North Dakota State University in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in teaching, but will most be remembered on campus for his athletic ability, as the quarterback and kicker on the Bison football team, hitting 3's on the basketball court, and a catcher on the baseball field. There may still be a couple of stories from his fraternity that are still floating around as well. All of this while raising two young children during his college years. He told us, "once a Bison, always a Bison", and influenced 3 of his grandchildren to attend NDSU as well.

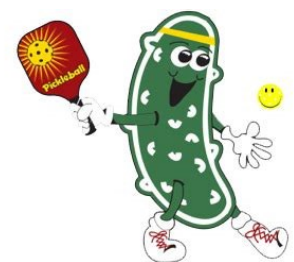
Pierre and Mary spent most of their summers on Star Lake, and decided to retire to the place they both so loved. Not known to sit still, duCharme's Corner Store was purchased, and the next chapter of their life began. This year he would have been celebrating 20 years on the corner. To say he was impactful in the lives of his "ice cream maidens" and grandchildren he tutored at the store would be an understatement. His genuine love for the lake, the people of the community, and his family showed through with the opening of the Store in the spring, his "coffee crew" friends, loyal customers, Tuesday night Pizza Night, and his favorite, Raspberry Chocolate Chunk cones. He would give a nightly recap of who came into the store that day, how much the regular's children grew over the summer, and who just stopped by to say "hi." So many vacationers made duCharme's an annual stop, and he appreciated the friendships.

Pierre is survived by his wife, Mary Frank duCharme; brother Ted (Ellen) duCharme, Barnesville, MN; his children Louis (Laura) duCharme of Lake Shatek, MN, Yvette (Dale) Lewis, Star Lake, MN, Paulette (Ian) Hansen, Cape Coral, FL, Andre (Leah) duCharme, Moorhead, MN, and Jean-Paul duCharme, Rochester, MN; 15 beloved grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Pierre's pride and joy were his wife, his children and his very close relationship with his grandchildren. Many of his life's stories, jokes, and knowledge will be passed on by them, as well as his beloved brother Ted.

To honor Pierre, a Celebration of Life will be held on July 1st, 2023 at his home on Star Lake. It will be a time for all to remember the life and influence he had on so many people. In lieu of flowers, a donation for Pierre may be made to the family, who are in the process of setting up a the "Pierre duCharme Athletic and Education Scholarship" fund for a young student in the area. This will be an ongoing scholarship for future teachers and athletes entering College."

Anyone Up For a Game of Pickleball?

Pickleball is America's fastest-growing sport - it's fun, social and friendly! We are fortunate to have courts available within a few miles of Star Lake - both indoor and outdoor! Play outdoor in Perham at KLN Family Brands Pickleball Courts, 700 3rd Ave N; in Vergas on the northeast edge of town on County Rd 4; and in Dent at the Community Center. Indoor play is also available at the PACC, Vergas Event Center and Dent Community Center. If you are interested in open play (or learning) with others from the Star Lake area, contact Mike Hagen at 701-238-8194, or email at hagmen28@gmail.com.





STAR LAKE GEAR

By Gail Hagen, Secretary

Back By Popular Demand : The Star Lake Gear Online Store is open for a limited time and is loaded with lots of options to show off your love of Star Lake. We are partnering with duCharme’s Corner Store this year to make it easier for you to pick up your orders and save you the cost of shipping. The store will be open starting May 22nd and will close at midnight, June 4th. Orders can be picked up at duCharme’s approximately 2-3 weeks later. duCharme’s will also carry some of the more popular items in their store in addition to their custom apparel items, making them available throughout the summer.

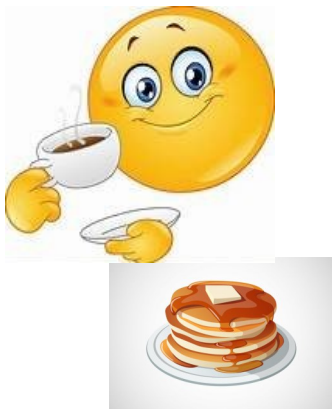
A small portion of your purchases will be donated back to Star Lake Property Owners’ Association, helping us to defray the cost of the Dynamic Speed Signs we have purchased to help make it more safe for all around Star Lake.

Don’t miss out on this opportunity! Please share this with your family and friends. Thank you for your support!

<https://starlakesummer23.itemorder.com/>

ANNUAL MEETING

By Dick Fultz, President



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 10th, 2023 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.

We plan to have a photo show running in the Chapel prior to the start of the meeting. Plan to arrive early and enjoy the numerous photos from our many events over the past few years, and also photos shared by our membership.

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

See you at the meeting!

Date: Saturday, June 10th

Time: 9:00 AM - Noon

Where: Camp Joy, Star Lake



Editor: Gail Hagen

Send Address Corrections to:

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Email: secretary@starlakeassociation.com



Star Lake and Surrounding Area Events

- May 22nd:** Star Lake Gear Online Store Opens
- June 4th:** Star Lake Gear Online Store Closes
- June 10th:** SLPOA Annual Meeting, 9:00 AM
- June 14-18th:** Turtle Fest, Perham
- July 1st:** Throw A Rake for Star Lake, 9:00 AM
- July 6-9th:** Pelican Fest, Pelican Rapids
- July 8-9th:** Phelps Mill Festival
- July 22nd:** Art In The Park, Pelican Rapids
- Aug 11-13th:** Vergas Looney Days
- August 19th:** Throw A Rake for Star Lake, 9:00 AM
- TBA:** Star Lake Picnic