

STAR Lights

Highlights from Star Lake for Members of the SLPOA Spring 2024

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Star Lake Property Owners Association

Board of Directors

*Dick Fultz
President*

*Steve Roth
Vice-President*

*JoLene Jean Kerr
Treasurer*

*Gail Hagen
Secretary*

*Linda Dimitrijevic
Director*

*Yvette Lewis
Director*

*Tom Deegan
Director*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dick Fultz, President

Did the winter go as fast for you as it did for me? OK, I admit to having experienced one of the mildest winters in many years; even though, to some, Kansas' winters are all mild. This year we had two measurable snow falls; one at barely an inch, and then the BIG one – 7 inches! It came down Sunday and Monday and was mostly melted in a week. I never spoiled the rust on my snow shovel. I had some ice because of the melting, but my jug of ice melt is about 85% still in the jug. Every storm went north or south of me and we actually had more danger from prairie fires than bad snow storms.

I spend my falls hunting deer and that too was a bust. I passed on several Does (because we have a Doe season in January) and only saw a Buck once in the field doing a spectacular imitation of a Nascar competitor.....there and then gone in a split second. January's Doe season turned cold – the coldest week of the winter. OK, I am showing my age.....I have no desire to be out at minus 14 degrees with a 30 MPH wind blowing. So, no deer for Dick this year. My son-in-law fared better so I will get some venison for the freezer. Most of the cold snap meant a cup of coffee and an occasional peek out the window. All I lacked was a fireplace.

And it looked like the winter was normal snow and temps for the Lake, but an early spring meant the ice was gone quickly. I am sure that many ice fishermen and women were frustrated by the ice conditions. A report from my 'spies' told me that several ice houses were in trouble because of thin ice. I hope they got their Ice Castles out before they became Under-Ice houses. Perhaps the side blessing to this is that fishing pressure on Star was down this year. One big fishing tournament moved because of bad ice conditions. With all the discussion on fishing limits this past year the one fact that popped up: it takes 7 (SEVEN) years for a blue gill to reach a pound. With liberal limits and lots of ice shacks, it can have a heavy impact on populations. Nobody wants a 1/4 pound blue gill. The fishing committee, led by Vice President Steve Roth, is diligently working with MN DNR to reduce the daily limit. We shall see if it can happen. I would hope we can have lots Star Lake residents taking their grandkids out for a fun day and being successful.

But - what about this summer? Well, it should be a great year on Star Lake. We will kick off the year with our Annual Meeting on June 8th at Camp Joy. The Camp has a new director we look forward to meeting, and has agreed to allow us to use their facility for our meeting again. It is really a good one for our meeting. Along with a great breakfast, we will have a meeting with election of Directors, a presenter or two with brief presentations on current affairs around the Lake (I know Linda Dimitrijevic who is head of our lake water quality committee, has a special guest lined up), and, with a little luck, some great door prizes.

The fishing fun enjoyed by many at our Swamp Shark Tournament will be enjoyed again this year – with a new name! The SLPOA Family Frenzy Fishing Tourney will encourage Star Lake families to participate. There will be a challenge of bringing in the smallest Northern and a limit of 'hammer handles' to help balance the Lake's predator/prey fish numbers. Steve Roth will be heading this up. The event will be held on July 27th and more details will be available at the Annual Meeting.

The Lake-wide picnic will be held in August, with the date to be determined. An early note - Yvette Lewis has volunteered to host it on the west side of the Lake. If you went to Pierre's celebration you know where it will be held. Watch for more communication with details later this summer.

(Continued on Page 2)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

While I'm mentioning info: Looks like the MN DOT will spend this year in Pelican Rapids on the Highway 108/59 redo, and the highway 108 East of Pelican Rapids will be in 2025. I understand that a detour around Pelican Rapids will be using County 41 so the Silent Lakes areas will get some increased traffic and the trip to Fargo will be that way. Please remember that lots of businesses in Pelican will need your patronage, just don't forget them this summer. Drive carefully.

Another update: the contract for the completion of the bike trail thru Maplewood State Park has been awarded and the project should be completed this summer. By fall you'll be able to ride from Pelican Rapids to Perham on a paved Heart of the Lakes Trail. I might have to check out one of the new E-bikes. The trail will be a great asset for our area. It sure will be nice to travel it - too bad it doesn't circle Star Lake. The access is only two miles from us, so we have a great recreational asset for all our Lake neighbors.

A great summer is headed our way. I hope that you will have a safe and fun-filled summer on Star Lake. I always feel blessed by being on Star Lake every summer and this will be the 13th year that I get to spend ALL summer at the cabin, a promise I made to myself when I approached retirement. The Lake, the weather and all the great Lake-folks I have met these past years have truly made my life richer and filled with joy. See you on Star Lake this summer.



JoLene Kerr, Treasurer

I joined the SLPOA in the summer of 2019 as a Board member. I was at the annual meeting at Camp Joy and there was a position open and before I knew it I volunteered to run for the open position. After some discussion...a nomination...a vote... I won! (FYI...no one else ran against me - But WIN I DID!). Being a member of this Board for the last four years was like winning the LOTTERY! The friends I've made...the activities I've been able to be a part of and the love for the lake we live on has surpassed all my expectations! I presently serve as the Board's Treasurer.

Mark and I have been married for 37 years. I grew up in Wahpeton, ND and he grew up in Fergus Falls, MN. He introduced me to Star Lake in the summer of 1987 when we spent the 4th of July with friends. We spent many hours visiting those friends during all seasons here at the lake for many years. We were able to purchase our property in 2012 and completed our home in 2017. I'm happy to say we have shared our piece of heaven by hosting the SLPOA picnic for the last three years, thanks to Mark's hard work on maintaining our beautiful property.

We have a daughter and son (both married) and four grandchildren (two girls and two boys...ages 8, 6, 6, and 4). Our daughter lives in Colorado and our son lives 45 minutes away but ALL come for extended weekends and full weeks to enjoy what we experience every day at Star Lake. We also share our home with our 100 pound dog - a labradoodle (Kevin) and also our goldendoodle (Robby).

In my spare time I like to read, visit the kids in Denver, and garden!!! My herb and vegetable gardens have tripled over the last two years and this summer I am expanding AGAIN! We also have taken up Pickleball and are up for games so give us a call!!!

In closing...if cruising by our place on the Northeast shore please honk, waive or stop for a beverage. AND I encourage you to consider joining our Board... you could win the LOTTERY!



*"Volunteers are not paid -
Not because they are worthless,
But because they are priceless."*



Generations in Star Lake Township

By Gail Hagen, Secretary

I recently had the pleasure of speaking to Doris Champlin, a very modest and kind woman with generational experiences in Star Lake Township. Doris and her family have lived in the area around Star Lake for almost her entire life-time. As we talked, I realized that her story would be different from other STAR Spotlight articles. Doris' stories were not necessarily about Star Lake experiences. In fact, it was a rare occasion for her family to even go fishing. Doris' stories are about appreciating and working the land, experiencing the changes with development in the area, and offering community service.

Champlin Family Farm



For over 150 years, the Champlin family has lived on and worked the land bordering Star Lake. Deep into the West Arm of Star Lake (almost as far as you can go), the 167 acres of land was homesteaded in 1873 by Matthew and Flora Champlin, the grandparents of Doris Champlin. Matthew, along with the help of his son, Harley (Doris' father) helped build the home on the property in 1915. Originally without running water or electricity, their life was very different than what we now enjoy. Water came from a cistern pump and had to be carried into the home, and heat for the house came from burning wood. Bathing took place in the kitchen in a big tub. It was four years before the electricity was available, and eventually, indoor plumbing and electricity was installed – but the only bathroom was in the basement. Doris was born while her parents lived in that home.

Following his dad's footsteps, Doris' dad, Harley Champlin farmed, and then Doris – growing grain crops and raising beef cattle. Farming over the years had its rewards and challenges. Doris remembers many dry years when the harvest was bleak. But her dad was able to supplement their income in other ways to get them through those tough times. Doris has seen many changes in farming practices and equipment. Her grandfather didn't have a tractor when he started farming the land – just horses! Their first tractor was extremely modest compared to today's equipment. Gender didn't matter when it came to farm work! Doris and her sister (Janet) drove tractors and helped wherever it was needed. Janet was a natural at farm work outside and Doris helped out in the house, preparing meals to feed the hired hands during harvest.

Doris and her sister (went to a one-room school house while growing up along with their neighbors, the Frank family kids (John, Joyce and Mary). Their school house was conveniently located across the road from their farmstead. On occasion, they ventured off to The Boathouse (small store that was near the bridge on CH 41) and enjoyed a soda or candy – a nickel went a long way! On those hot summer days when work was done, they enjoyed a dip in the lake taking advantage of the sandy beach at Camp Joy.

Champlin Family Farm

(Continued from Page 3)



Doris has a daughter, Karen (Fergus Falls) and a son, Anthony (Minneapolis); three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Before moving back to the farm, Doris' family lived in the Twin Cities and Saint Cloud and her children were city kids. In addition to helping out on the farm, Karen's memories include walking through the land and making the peaceful trek to the lake - enjoying and the beauty and sounds of nature that surrounded her when she reached the shore of Star Lake.

After moving back to the farm, Doris worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Gervais and at Fiskars Manufacturing in Fergus Falls. Doris was one of the charter members of the Star Lake Property Owners Association. She also served on the board of Star Lake Township for 30 years as Clerk and then Treasurer. What has impressed her the most over the years is how generous the Star Lake community is in giving of their time. Someone is always there to pitch in and help where needed. Her time on the Star Lake Township also gave the opportunity to serve as an Election Judge where she was able to meet and get to know her neighbors in the area, one of the personal benefits that she appreciated the most from her time serving on the board.

I like to think that Doris' grandparents, Matthew and Flora, and parents Harley and Marie, are looking down feeling very proud of Doris – what she has given to the community, and has done with the legacy they built and maintained for their family. I would bet that in another 150 years, Doris' grandchildren will also be looking down at the future generations of the Champlin family, feeling proud of their commitment and love of the land.

Star Lake - Lakes Monitoring Database

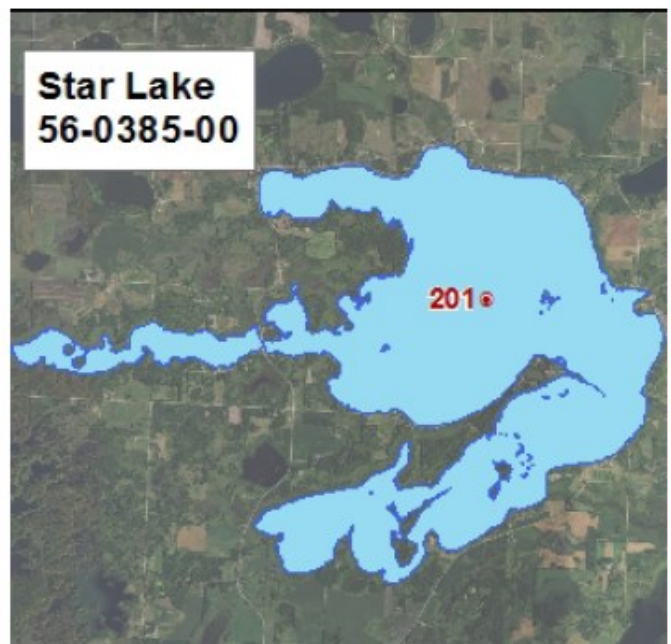
Source: RMB Labs

Water Quality Characteristics

(data from RMB monitoring database only)

Parameters	Primary Site 201
Total Phosphorus Mean:	17.3
Total Phosphorus Min:	0
Total Phosphorus Max:	30
Number of Observations:	121
Chlorophyll-a Mean:	5.4
Chlorophyll-a Min:	0
Chlorophyll-a Max:	12.5
Number of Observations:	121
Secchi Depth Mean:	13.8
Secchi Depth Min:	6
Secchi Depth Max:	25
Number of Observations:	117
Trophic State Index Mean:	43.4

Trophic State: Mesotrophic

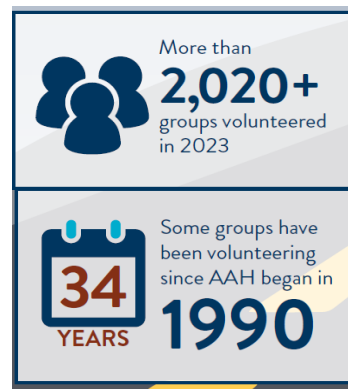
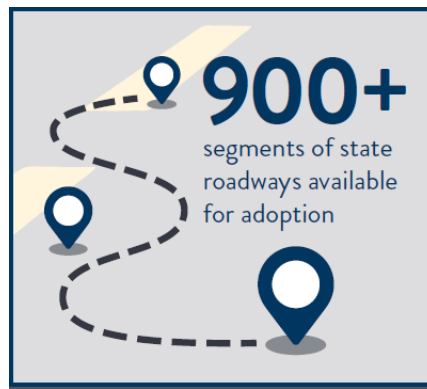


COMMITTEE UPDATES

Adopt-A-Highway

By JoLene Kerr, Treasurer

The 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 of Highway 108. Together, we do make a difference!



Fisheries Improvement

By Steve Roth, Vice-President

Spring is here, even though I don't think Winter ever truly arrived. I watched the wind and rain destroy the final remaining ice along highway 41 on Sunday April 7th. I was only able to get out ice fishing one time this Winter. There was lack of the usual ice fishing pressure than what has been "normal" as far as the past few winters. Hopefully that lack of pressure helps with the populations and quality of fish.

There is good news on the panfish limit reduction. In December, Jim Wolters, Area Fisheries Supervisor of the Minnesota DNR, submitted a proposal to reduce the sunfish and crappie bag limits from 10 to 5 for Star Lake and other lakes in his management area. The proposal was recently passed and will now be open for public input. Signs will be posted at Public Boat Accesses to inform the public of the proposed reductions and ways to provide input to the DNR. The DNR will be gathering any feedback received and have a public input meeting late this Summer. Unless there is a large and organized opposition, limits would go into effect March 1st, 2025. I will stay in contact with the DNR and pass along any feedback. Please feel free to offer feedback, there will likely be a website listed on the signs for that.

This year there will be a Spring and Summer DNR fisheries lake survey. Those are scheduled for mid-May and early June. It is always interesting to see fisheries health and the changes over previous results. The surveys are done every three years with the last ones completed 2021.

Lastly, we are very excited to bring back a very popular Star Lake event this summer! The Swamp Shark tournament was held for three years – 2020 to 2022 – and was a fun event for all that participated. This summer, we will be holding the "SLPOA Family Frenzy Fishing Tourney" – with the goal of catching and keeping Northerns. More details are in a separate article in this newsletter. A big thank you to JoLene Kerr for her help in coming up with the new name and the tournament design.

See you on the lake! Have a great summer!

Membership & Communication

By Gail Hagen, Secretary

The Membership Drive for 2024 is happening right now! It will be hard to beat last years' record of 250 memberships, but we are going for it! A letter was mailed in late April to all property owners around Star Lake (as per Otter Tail County) as well as last years' members. If you are on our email distribution list, you would have also received an email on April 30th with membership renewal information as well as information about the upcoming Annual Meeting. If you are on Facebook, we also posted information and a link to the SLPOA Website for renewing your membership. And lastly, the website has a "Join Us or Renew" button prominently displayed across the banner of each page. We utilize many avenues to keep you informed, so if you are not getting our communications – please let us know!

My second 3-year term will be ending this year. The past six years has gone by so fast! I remember the annual meeting six years ago – I had retired in January (Mike was still working), and there was a call for nominations for an open Director position on the Board. Mike nudged me, gave me "a look" (I interpreted it "you need something to do") and I slowly put my hand up. I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into, but what could it hurt! When you hear people say they feel as though they benefit more than what they give as a volunteer – it really is true! I've been able to meet so many kind and loving people; had the opportunity to challenge myself and grow with learning new skills; and have felt so blessed to be a part of the welcoming community of Star Lake. During this time, I've also gotten more active in other organizations and have decided that it is time for me to step aside from my Board of Directors position with the SLPOA. I will remain involved in special projects for the board as needed.

I truly believe that doors open for us when the time is right – and we just need to trust and have the courage to walk through. Are you feeling a need to do something different, or give more of your time and talent where it is needed? The SLPOA will welcome your involvement, new ideas and commitment! The door is open...

Thank you for supporting the SLPOA, the volunteer Board of Directors, and the community of Star Lake!



Turn in Poachers (TIP)* in Minnesota

Report a violation in progress

- ◆ To report a violation, call 800-652-9093 24 hours a day, or key in #TIP on your cell phone.
- ◆ Download the MNTip app on your mobile device on the App Store or Google Play. Use the form to submit your anonymous tip online. After submitting, you will receive a 6 digit code, which is your anonymous ID to log back into the system. Check back within 24 hours to see if the officer has any follow-up questions.

Report a violation that isn't time sensitive: use this online form:

https://www.tip411.com/tips/new?alert_group_id=22714

*Turn In Poachers(TIP), Inc. is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to curbing the illegal taking of Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources. TIP works directly with the MN DNR as a public/private partnership.

Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring

Contributed by the AIS Committee

Curly Leaf Pondweed

Spring is here, and with it comes a chance for all of us at Star Lake to band together in a timely mission against a particular Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). This plant has a knack for getting a head start in the cold, under-ice conditions of early spring, potentially disrupting our aquatic ecosystem before we even launch our boats. So now is the time!

Curly Leaf Pondweed is a silent infiltrator, beginning its growth under the ice, getting a jump start on native vegetation. It's a crafty one, thriving in colder waters, and by spring, it's already setting up shop, outcompeting our local flora. This invader not only disrupts our lake's ecosystem but can lead to dense mats that hinder recreational activities and could potentially lead to unsightly and harmful algal blooms.

According to the MN DNR fact sheet, "Curly Leaf Pondweed is similar in appearance to many native pondweeds commonly found in Minnesota waters. It can be distinguished from other pondweeds by its unique life cycle. It is generally the first pondweed to come up in spring and dies in mid-summer. Leaves have undulating and finely serrated edges."

According to Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), "Curly Leaf Pondweed can grow in depths up to 15 feet. Curly Leaf Pondweed produces a long stem (up to a meter) with small, submerged leaves that have distinct "teeth," or wavy edges. In the spring, its turions look like small greenish-brown pinecones."

The urgency to focus on CLP this spring cannot be overstressed. Lakes in our vicinity have already reported invasions. Early detection is critical. The Star Lake AIS Committee has learned that potential funding sources for mitigation efforts only come after CLP has been in the lake one year since being positively identified.

How can we, as a unified community, confront the spread of Curly Leaf Pondweed? Here's our clear plan of action:

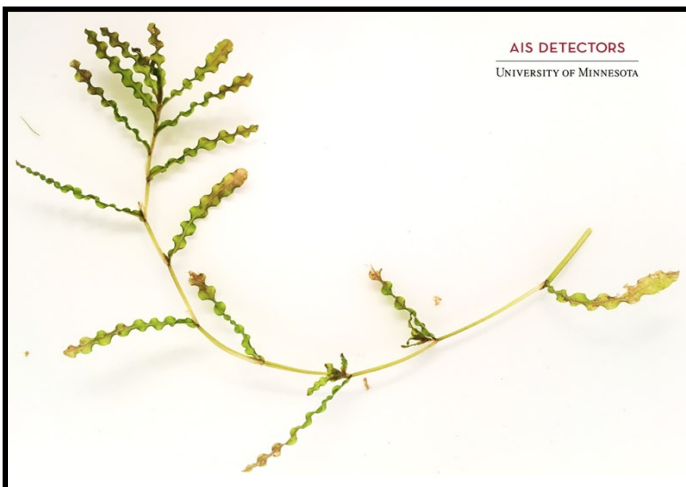
Early Detection and Reporting: Stay vigilant for early signs of CLP, especially during the late winter and early spring. If you see something unusual, report it to the AIS committee promptly. Quick action now can prevent bigger problems later.

Adopt Clean Lake Practices: Make it a routine to clean, drain, dry, and dispose of any debris from your equipment and boats every time they enter or leave the lake. This simple step is critical in stopping CLP and other invasive species from spreading.

Engage and Educate: Be Minnesota Nice! Spread the word about the importance of monitoring for CLP. Share identification tips and encourage your neighbors to get involved in protecting our lake. The more we know, the better we can protect our shared natural resources.

Star Lake is more than a body of water; it's the heart of our community, a place of joy and peaceful retreat. By staying alert for Curly Leaf Pondweed this spring, maintaining clean practices, and fostering community engagement, we can preserve the pristine beauty of Star Lake for future generations. Let's join together this spring to protect the lake we love.

Note: The AIS Committee is collecting old garden rake heads that can be used to create AIS detection rakes! If you have one you are willing to donate, please bring it to the SLPOA Annual Meeting on June 8th!



AIS Committee Members include Linda Dimitrijevic (Committee Chair), Bob Gettel, Bonnie Guyer Graham, Kristin Daniels, Lee Mindemann, and Sue Nyhus.

Treasurer's Report

by JoLene Jean Kerr

The account balances for SLPOA (as of May 1, 2024):

General Fund:	\$ 3,244.64
Lake Protection Fund:	\$ 18,343.38
Total	\$ 21,588.02

*Totals in the Lake Protection Fund amount includes the funds received from the Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group (SLCCG) in the amount of \$16,053.95 which was donated to the SLPOA in May of 2020.

Water Safety - Buoys

By Yvette Lewis

By the time you are reading this, the water buoys will most likely be in their usual spots around Star Lake, warning boaters of hazards within the lake that they need to be aware of. According to our Game & Fish contacts, the Star Lake Property Owners Association is one of just a few lakes that continue to support the cost and placement of buoys. We continue to keep our commitment to the SLPOA Objectives to "provide/maintain/replacement of safety buoys".

If you are one of the volunteers that place or retrieve the buoys, you know how challenging that can be! As they age and begin to break down, they take on more water and become very heavy to retrieve from the lake. Many of the buoys need to be replaced.

The board is researching sourcing options this year and are considering acquiring buoys with solar lights for more visibility after dark.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers and also to the membership for the support! We would not be able to keep our commitments without your help - both physically and financially!

LIFE JACKETS

The following are life jacket requirements in Minnesota:

- State law requires children under 10 years old to wear a properly fitted life jacket while a boat is underway. Underway means not securely fastened to a permanent mooring or tied to a dock.
- A readily accessible and wearable life jacket **is required for each person on board a boat**, this includes canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, paddleboats and waterfowl boats.
- **One Type IV throwable is required on boats 16 feet or longer** (except canoes and kayaks) and must be immediately available.
- Personal watercraft operators and passengers must each wear a life jacket.



Check the label on the life jacket to make sure it is a U.S. Coast Guard-approved flotation device and how to safely use it.

The following are exempt from state life jacket carriage laws:

- sailboards
- rowing team members specified in law and accompanied by a chase boat carrying the required life jackets





New Executive Director at Camp Joy

Tyler T. Tracy has been named as Executive Director of Camp Joy. Tyler and his wife Amanda have been married for 17 years and live in Fargo, ND. They have 4 children ages 14, 12, 9 and 7. Tyler and his family have been a part of Camp Joy since 2014. Their kids have been attending Camp Joy since 2014. Tyler was also on the Camp Joy Board from 2022-2023 until he was selected to serve as the Executive Director on November 1st, 2023.

Welcome to the Star Lake family Tyler!

Family Frenzy Fishing Tourney

Save the Date: Saturday, July 27th

Family fishing is a tradition on Star Lake and so is a fishing challenge! The SLPOA is pleased to bring back a fun fishing event with a new name! The Family Frenzy Fishing Tourney will be held Saturday, July 27th. You and your fishing team will have until 12:00 Noon to catch up to your legal limit (minimum of 20) of small Northernns (22 inches or less). There is no limit to the number of parties fishing in your boat (must be legal). Cash prizes will be awarded to the first 10 teams to bring in 20 small Northernns. We will also award two cash prizes for the smallest Northern: one for Youth up to age 13; and one for Adults. T-shirts sporting the new logo will be available for distribution to participants of registered boats.

You must register in advance and be a current paid member of the Star Lake Property Owners Association. More information will be shared at the Annual Meeting on June 8th, as well as on the SLPOA website (starlakeassociation.com) and communicated through email and Facebook.

Mark your calendars and plan to participate at this fun family fishing event!



Star Lake Gear

It's back... The Star Lake Gear Online Store will be open for a limited time and will have numerous items to show off your favorite lake! The store will open on Friday, May 24th and close for orders at midnight, June 8th. Orders will be shipped directly to you approximately 2-3 weeks after the store closes. A small portion of your purchases will be donated back to SLPOA. Help us get the word out! Thank you for your support!

If you need help placing your order, call Gail at 218-329-2729 or JoLene at 218-205-1870.

<https://starlakesummer24.itemorder.com/>



LAKE STEWARD PROGRAM



The **Lake Steward Program** with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates works with lake associations to award property owners that protect lake health through land management. Improving water quality is a community goal that can be achieved when each individual recognizes the need to protect water quality and acts to align their property management with practices that sustain a healthy environment.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates protects Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates, and policy makers.



Allow Native Plants and Vegetation to Flourish -

Provide a 25 Foot Buffer Zone

The "buffer zone" of a property, the area from the waterline up towards the home or cabin, is crucial to the health and protection of a lake. The more native plants, grasses, trees and shrubs that grow in the buffer zone, the greater the filtration of runoff pollution and the greater the stabilization of the shoreline. Mowed lawn from the upland zone to the waterline causes seven to nine times the amount of runoff to reach the lake. A shoreline buffer of 25 feet or more creates an effective natural barrier to pollution carried in rainwater runoff. Taller vegetation allows for a stronger root system to develop and creates a sustainable, natural filter for rainwater runoff. A great way to protect lake health is to simply stop mowing a lawn 25 feet or more up from the waterline. "Don't Mow, Let it Grow" is a great first step to protecting lake health and water quality in Minnesota.



Maintain Septic Systems According to Best Management Practices

It is recommended that septic system maintenance occurs every one to three years. If a septic system malfunctions and leaks, lakes and rivers can become severely contaminated by the waste. Be sure to inspect a septic system every one to three years and contact your local septic system professional immediately in the case of a septic emergency.



Reduce the Amount of Impervious Surfaces

Hard surfaces like concrete, roofs, patios, and walking paths prevent rainwater from soaking into the land before entering a lake or river. As rainwater flows over hard surfaces it can pick up a variety of harmful chemicals on its way to a lake. Reduce the amount of impervious surfaces on your property to allow rainwater to infiltrate into the earth and prevent harm to the lake. Consider installing pervious stones or pavers if planning a sidewalk, patio, driveway or walking path on a lakeshore property.



Pick Up Pet Waste, and Keep Fire Pits Away from the Waterline

Pet waste carries harmful nutrients and pathogens. Be sure to pick up pet waste and dispose of it in a trash container. The ash from fire pits contains a lot of phosphorus. Keep fire pits at least 25 feet from the shoreline.



Allow Fallen Trees and Branches to Remain in the Water

When trees fall into a lake they create a favored habitat for a variety of fish, birds, and aquatic animals. Turtles, frogs, and other animals and insects thrive in these natural environments. Allow fallen trees and branches to remain in the water so long as they do not interfere with navigation or recreation.





Store Docks and Other Equipment Away from the Shoreline

When removing your dock, swim rafts, boat lifts and other water related equipment for winter try to protect the shoreline vegetation. If possible, store equipment at least 25 feet from the waterline and minimize the amount of space it takes up by stacking equipment or elevating on blocks.



Avoid the Use of Riprap, and Allow Native Plants to Emerge

Some property owners choose to cover their shoreline in large rocks or boulders in an effort to prevent erosion. These rock installations are known as riprap, but often fail to prevent erosion and can be damaged by ice, wave or wake action. In addition, riprap does not provide a buffer for runoff pollution. Try to avoid the installation of new riprap on a shoreline.

If riprap is already present, plant native plants, shrubs and trees between the stones. This will strengthen the integrity of the riprap and the roots will filter and absorb excess nutrients, reducing the amount of phosphorus and other pollutants that reach the lake.



Allow Aquatic Plants to Flourish on the Shoreline

Aquatic and floating plants provide a critical habitat for fish and wildlife and oxygenate the water. Allow aquatic plants to grow where they are not impacting the use of your property, such as the sides of beaches or other unused spaces. Avoid pulling or smothering aquatic plants with barriers, or using mechanical devices or chemicals for removal. Aquatic plants benefit a lake and its inhabitants; allow aquatic plants to grow where they do not impact recreation or navigation.



Avoid the Use of Broadcast Fertilizers and Pesticides

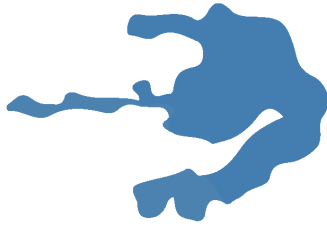
Fertilizers and pesticides are a major pollutant of Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Near shore fertilizers and pesticides are easily washed into the lake by snowmelt or rain where they drive algae blooms and kill aquatic insects which small fish feed upon. To protect lake health and water quality avoid the use of fertilizers and pesticides on lakeshore properties.



Allow Natural Vegetation to Grow - Anywhere!

The Lake Steward Program challenges the common perception of beauty. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates promotes seeing the beauty of the natural environment, in healthy aquatic habitats, tall grasses, native flowers, fallen trees and native trees and shrubs. After restoring a shoreline, many property owners enjoy the return of animals and wildlife. Beauty can be seen in the cooperation of people, plants, and animals to promote a healthy aquatic environment.





STAR LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Meeting Camp Joy, Star Lake Saturday, June 8th

- 9:00 AM Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Annual Membership Meeting (Chapel)
- Guest Speaker: Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTCCOLA, Chair, Environmental Affairs Committee
Subject: Water Quality Data and Lakes Monitoring Program

Breakfast will be served by the Board of Directors and their families. They will be serving scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages and the award-winning Camp Aquila Pure Maple Syrup. Coffee, Orange Juice and Bottled Water will also be provided.

There will be an election for open positions on the SLPOA Board of Directors.

The drawings for door prizes will be immediately following the conclusion of the meeting (must be present to win).

See you at Camp Joy on the 8th!



STAR Lights

Editor: Gail Hagen
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Star Lake and Surrounding Area Events

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| May 25th | Star Lake Gear Online Store Opens |
| June 7th-8th | Summerfest, Fergus Falls |
| June 8th | SLPOA Annual Meeting, Camp Joy |
| June 8th | Shops & Hops, Vergas |
| June 12th-16th | Turtle Days, Perham |
| June 15th | Downtown Art Camp, Vergas |
| July 13th-14th | Phelps Mill Festival |
| July 17th-20th | West Otter Tail County Fair, Fergus Falls |
| July 25th-28th | East Otter Tail County Fair, Perham |
| July 27th | SLPOA Family Frenzy Fishing Tourney |
| Aug 8th-11th | Looney Days, Vergas |
| Aug 17th-18th | Pioneer Fest, Perham |
| August (TBD) | Star Lake Picnic, Home of Yvette & Dale Lewis |