



Deer Lake Watershed News

DEER LAKE — POPLAR LAKE — PICKEREL LAKE — BATTLE LAKE —
FIVE ISLAND LAKE — MIRROR LAKE— AND MANY OTHERS

Volume 20, Winter 2011



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President's Corner by Dennis Carlson

Happy Holidays 2011!

I hope all is going well for our watershed residents. As I write this, a day before Thanksgiving, the weather, in typical Minnesota fashion, has changed from single digits, snow, and frozen lakes to 45°, melting snow and prospects for 50° tomorrow, all in two days. It helps to shorten the winter anyway! A blur of late summer, beautiful fall colors, grouse, duck and deer seasons and then the holiday seasons are here. Nothing really earth-shattering within the watershed this past year. Water levels fluctuated from low last spring to high in June to low this fall. We will need snow and rain to recharge our lake and stream levels for the coming spring. Secchi disk readings were lower this summer due to a quick rise in water levels in June and the warm rainless mid and late summer weather with algae blooms. By late fall, clarity in Deer Lake had improved from 8' to 12'. Pickerel and Battle lakes also improved at a similar rate. Fishing seems to be holding up, with an increased number of larger 20" to 26" slot walleyes being reported caught. The larger female fish should lead to an increase in spawning and egg production. Bluegills, Northerns and Bass all seem to be holding their own. More and more anglers are realizing the importance of "catch and release" of the mid to large fish.

A reminder to those of you who took the time to keep a creel census log that we inserted in the summer newsletter last July, to please send them in to us at: DLWA, Box 23, Effie, MN 56639. I have several that were given to me, plus about 25 daily census cards dropped off at the Deer Lake public access box. It's satisfying to see anglers taking time to pick up a creel census card and fill it out. Next year, we will get the seasonal creel forms out in our spring newsletter.

The increase in grouse numbers was a pleasant surprise this fall for hunters even though it is difficult to get close enough to bag one. Ducks and deer, however, were not a surprise with mostly poor reports on both. Wolves and wolf sign showed they are doing well with no management, or predator controls to keep their numbers in check.

A project that we hope to get started on next spring will be the clean up of the old CCC dump

area that was discontinued back in the late 1960's. We hope to beautify the area with trails and signage of the old camp and will work with the DNR and State Thistledeew Camp on a cooperative effort. We'll know more of what can be done by spring. Art Lind is working on contacts with the DNR for this project. I've also spent several hours on the phone with DNR officials exploring ideas for grant monies for pursuing the possible construction of a rock riffle control dam on Deer Creek, with fish passage capacity. As we know, the old cement dam built in 1936 is breaking down on the side walls and should be replaced. It is not listed as a high priority with the Division of Waters, but with possible grant monies and the DNR Fisheries cooperation, perhaps we can get moved up on the priority list.

Also, we're aiming for a mid-July 5-K Run/Walk/Crawl event next summer, so start easing into your exercising routine. It will be a community event for fun. Our spring newsletter will have all the details! Jim Kush will be heading up the race committee. Speaking of the newsletter, over the last nine years that we have printed the newsletters, we have sent it to all residents of the Deer Lake Watershed. Because of an increase in cost in printing and postage, not to mention the volunteer time and expense to put the newsletter together and get it in the mail, we will be sending the newsletter to members only. The non-members who enjoy reading the newsletter and would like to continue receiving it can send a subscription amount of \$6.00 for the year to our P.O. box 23, Effie MN 56639. Of course, if you would choose to support our association with a membership of \$15, you will continue to receive the newsletter and support the association. Forms for subscription or membership are found in the newsletter. I hope all of you and yours have a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2012, See you on the ice!

Dennis Carlson
DLWA President

Deer Lake Watershed Assn
Officers 2011-2012:

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Jerry Blair

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Newsletter Editor

DLWA Fishery Update

In the summer of 2010, Deer, Pickerel and Battle Lakes had fish population assessments completed and revised lake management plans were written. While each of the lakes are distinctly different in terms of the overall aquatic habitat and fish community, it makes a lot of sense to manage the three lakes collectively. The revised plans took into account an analysis of past stocking efforts and the results achieved. What the analysis showed was the fry stocking in Battle and Pickerel did not appear to contribute to the fishery any more than natural reproduction or immigration from Deer Lake. The old stocking plan was walleye fry every other year (in odd numbered years) in the following amounts; Deer – 1,332,000 fry, Pickerel – 152,000 fry, and Battle – 200,000 fry. The new plan is still every other year with all of the fry, a total of 1,680,000 going into Deer Lake. These fish were stocked on May 22, 2011.

In early June, 2011 we completed the special assessment netting for sunfish on Deer, Pickerel and Battle. The purpose of this sampling is to collect a large enough sample size to characterize the size and age distribution and growth rates of the sunfish population. The catch rate data from this sampling is less important because it can be highly variable depending on the timing and spring weather. We look at statistics called PSD, RSD-P and RSD-M, these are relative measures of the proportion of the population larger than 6, 8 and 10 inches, respectively. Generally, a higher number indicates a better population but it is important to have some balance. This sampling had been done previously, in 2005 and 2009. The table below presents the changes over time in each of the lakes.

Lake	Year	PSD	RSD-P	RSD-M
Deer	2005	66	25	0
	2009	60	26	1
	2011	93	37	1
Pickerel	2005	71	33	0
	2009	54	10	0
	2011	86	19	0
Battle	2005	85	66	0
	2009	64	11	0
	2011	64	15	0

Photo Corner



THE BUCK OF A LIFETIME

Lawrence Blackmer, Pickerel Lake resident, 84 years young, pictured with his 12 point, 210# trophy buck. The buck was taken at 8:30 a.m. on opening morning of the 2011 deer hunting season. The buck had a 19 1/2" inside spread and a green score of 168 points. Congratulations Lawrence!

A reminder for all watershed members and friends to bring your photos to the "Photo Corner" at Deer Lake Charlies. Bring photos of fun times at the watershed, hunting, fishing, swimming, or anything unique that you want to share with others!

The sunfish sampled this year have not been aged yet, that will be done this winter. It's too early to draw any conclusions from this data. Another sample will be collected in spring 2013 and then all of the data will be analyzed and a recommendation made on the sunfish bag limit.

Also in 2013 there will be the standard summer netting completed on the three lakes to evaluate the walleye protected slot limit.

Please feel free to contact the Area Fisheries Office at (218) 327-4430 or by e-mail chris.kavanaugh@state.mn.us if you have any questions or would like more information.

DNR Contacts

Enforcement: Jason Hansen (Bigfork) [218-832-7808](tel:218-832-7808) jay-son.hansen@state.mn.us

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Forestry: Craig Schmid [\(218\) 246-8343](tel:218-246-8343) craig.schmid@state.mn.us

DON'T LITTER!

The Life of Litter:

Orange and banana peels - 2 to 5 weeks

Plastic bag - 10 - 20 years

Aluminum cans - 200-500 years

Plastic 6-pk. cover - 450 years

Cigarette butts - 1 - 5 years

Cotton rags - 1 - 5 months

Glass bottles - 1,000,000 years

Painted wooden stake - 13 years.

Season to Season by Helen Stensrud

Did you like the 3-inch snowfall here on October 27, the huge flakes so dense as they drifted down, we couldn't see the nearest point? What does that tell us, I wonder...

Not long ago it seems, we heard the first loons after ice-out, and now they have left again. Isn't it just a month or two since we spotted the first bloodroots of spring before the surrounding young poplars leafed out? Already, after one of the leafiest summers in memory, trees are bare once more. It was a beautiful summer, sun and rain in good measure, and already we have enjoyed the warm colors of fall and are almost ready for -- you guessed it -- winter. Put the extra blanket or sleeping bag, snow shovel, and winter safety kit in the truck or car, and set aside sun lotion and mosquito dope in favor of warm socks and lip ice. Yikes!

This summer provided some perfect fishing days, not that we survived on our catch. Did you, too, watch a heron stay just ahead of your slow-trolling boat, check on the progress of the water lilies, turn to track the cloud bank in the west and calculate the distance home in case of a squall? When we are out on the water, quiet times are frequent, but are sometimes interrupted by deep discussions about important matters, such as whether the occasional bigger walleyes prove that the slot limit is working, or how the rainfall is for people

who have gardens, or what's for dinner (let's call it supper, and not get too fancy).

Early fall continued warm for hiking or however you like to get around. We frequently saw fox tracks, but fewer wolf tracks until just this week, had a doe and her two young around the place quite often, laughed as a weasel, as though on cue, ran past the dock when guests were enjoying the campfire with us, looked for the song birds, nuthatches and woodpeckers who made wonderful music, or good noise, and noticed the silence when they wisely and quickly disappeared at the sight of a merlin in the top of the white pine.

Did you enjoy the warm days, and get all your planned projects finished? You saved some for next summer, maybe?

We usually do, too, and find more than enough to keep us occupied for the next few months, both indoors and out. Remember warm caps and mittens, jigsaw puzzles, phone calls (or your social media of choice), plus the TV remote, not to mention your project list.

Stay warm, get together, eat your soup, and try to stay awake -- you know how quickly the seasons change in our neck of the woods.

Happy Holidays by the Art Lind family

It has been quite some time since I last wrote an article for the Deer Lake Watershed Association News Letter and I thought it was a good time to try my literary skills, limited as they are, for the final issue of the year.

We are in "the second week of Deer Camp" mode, as the song goes, "We drink, we shoot the bull, but never shoot no deer", quite the opposite is true this year, so this gives me a starting subject for this writing.

We have had an excellent season so far with 6 deer in the freezer for 10 hunters, one of which, a grand nephew, shooting his first deer. Even with the wolves serenading us every morning, sometimes too close for comfort, other times a good mile or so away, we have been able to bring home some venison each weekend. Deer Camp happens to be at Art's garage where we gather after the hunt to skin deer, raise a glass, and compare stories of the day. We ate up last year's jerky and about 10 lbs of sausage and a couple packages of chops from this year, during our butchering event on 3 deer from the weekend. Kathy keeps hoping we will all get together and buy a real Deer Camp, or so she says, but she keeps cooking apple bars and occasionally fixes our lunches. She even tries to show a devout interest in the day's hunt. Occasionally I can cook venison in the house but usually she wrinkles her nose and says, "you can use the electric fry pan if you cook in the garage". She is not too fond of venison.

Each morning I was visited by a weasel, white as the driven snow, hunting for his morning meal, diving under the brush

and circling around my deer stand. I was thinking that ounce for ounce the weasel is one tough predator and must really go after the red squirrels. No sooner did that thought enter my mind and there goes the weasel running for his life with a red squirrel hot on his tail. The chase went on for about 5 minutes and I'm not sure what the finish of the chase was, but the red squirrel, if the same one, crawled up on a branch just across from me and chattered for 10 minutes, as if to say, he is the top dog here.

I was only able to get out fishing 1 time this fall, having to attend a niece's wedding, then to follow that up with a business trip the first week of October. When my niece, Stacey, got engaged I told her that she can't get married on the opening weekend of Duck Hunting, to which she replied, "when is that?" Of course I told her that traditionally it is the first weekend in October. She and Brad scheduled the wedding for September 24th just to please Uncle Art. This was before they set this year's opener to that same date of course.

During this past year our watershed association has continued to be active. One of the new adventures was the purchase and installation of the duck nesting platforms on Deer, Pickerel, Battle, Lorraine and other spots in the area. We hope to see some activity in the surviving nests next spring. We did lose a few nests on Deer Lake, due to ice movement last spring. We hope to install a few more in the coming year. With the extreme drought we are in, I hope we get just enough snow this winter to renew the level in this spring, but still be bearable this winter.

Homesteading In North Bustie, an interview with Lila Blackmer by Loey Master

Due to its remote location, the land in and around the Deer Lake Watershed was some of the last in Minnesota to be opened up for homesteading. In the early part of the 20th century, logging companies began making their way northward from Grand Rapids and Deer River into the Bigfork River Valley. Homesteaders soon followed.

According to the provisions of the Homestead Act, once areas were officially designated as open for homesteading, 160 acre parcels of land were available to anyone that could satisfy the requirements. To be eligible, they had to be either 21 years old or the head of a household. They had to select their parcel of land, blaze their property lines, designate the corners and somehow mark each corner with a description of the property. The description had to contain their signature and the signature of a witness. Next they had to fill out a notice of intention and file it at the nearest Government Land Office which was located in Cass Lake.

Finally, in order to receive a legal deed to the property, they had to live on the property for five consecutive years and show evidence that they had made improvements to the land. If they accomplished these requirements, they could file an affidavit of compliance in the Itasca County Clerk's Office in Grand Rapid and have it signed by two witnesses. This document would then be sent to Washington, DC and, in time, they would receive a deed to their property signed by the President of the United States.

From the early 1900's through the 1920's, families arrived from other Minnesota communities and from areas outside of the state. Oscar and Thea Jensen, along with their little daughter Irene, were one of those early homestead families. They came from Erskine, a small town in northwestern MN. In Erskine, Oscar had worked in a store but due to poor circulation in his legs, he was advised to find work which required more physical activity. Recently, I spoke to my aunt, Lila Blackmer, Oscar and Thea's youngest daughter, and asked her about her early memories of growing up on their homestead in North Bustie. The following are highlights from our conversation.

Lila was Oscar and Thea's third child and she had two older sisters, Irene, born in 1915 and Berenice, born in 1923. She was followed by her brother Alvin born in 1927 and lastly Vernon in 1934. Like most Scandinavians, her parents valued hard work and the Jensen children were expected to do their fair share.

She recalled that there were always daily chores to be done before and after school. Each morning before breakfast, she and Berenice would trudge down to the water pump by the barn and carry pails of water back up the slippery path (especially in the winter) to the house. This water was for their mother's daily use. They also had to clean the cream separator and have it ready for that day's fresh milk. After breakfast, they would load a cream can on their wagon or sled, depending on the season, fill it with water from the

pump and walk the one and a quarter miles to Northland School, pulling the cream can full of water behind them. This water was for school use and for this job they earned five cents per day.

Northland School was a one room school and provided education to children grades one through eight. Each of the students brought their own lunch and sometimes, especially in the winter, some brought a jar of soup or stew which would need to be heated up before lunch. Two boys were responsible for heating the food and to accomplish this, they were allowed to leave the classroom and go into a little back room to light a small table-top kerosene stove. They would put a pan of water on this stove, place the jars in the water and when the food was warm enough, they would bring the jars back out and deliver them to the students. Lila remembers that it often took the boys a long, long time to accomplish this simple task.

Saturday was cleaning day and for Lila and Berenice, that meant that in additions to their daily chores, they were expected to help give the entire house a thorough cleaning. Lila's least favorite job was washing the soot from the chimneys of all of the kerosene lamps and then polishing them for the week ahead.

In those early days, it was not uncommon for farm families to have additional people staying with them. They may have been family members, hired hands to help work the farm, or people who paid for their room and board. The Jensens had all three at one time or another. Oscar's father and Thea's mother both lived with them at separate times and they always had a hired hand staying with them. For several years, they also rented a room to the teacher at Northland School. Normally, teachers rotated from one school to another every few years, so over the years they housed a number of different teachers. Lila vividly remembers hearing the teacher leave the house before anyone else was up so she would have time to get to the school house and start a fire in the big wood stove to make sure that the classroom would be warm enough for the school children when they arrived.

The goal of homesteaders was to be self sufficient and with a short growing season, the summer months were especially busy for everyone. The family garden had to be prepared, planted, and then weeded throughout the summer months. Produce had to be harvested and most had to be canned for the winter months although root vegetables like potatoes and carrots could be picked and kept in the root cellar at a cool constant temperature. Full days were spent picking berries. Strawberries, raspberries and blueberries were the favorites, but pin cherries, chokecherries and cranberries were also gathered. All of these were made into a variety of delicious jellies, jams, and sauces. It was hard, hot, "buggy" work but Lila fondly remembers sitting in the shade during an afternoon break, sipping the fresh lemonade that her mother had sent with them as a special treat for their hard work.

The Jensens also raised a variety of livestock on their farm. Cows, pigs, sheep and poultry had to be fed, watered and tended. The cows had to be milked twice daily, and some of the livestock had to be processed for food. Venison, partridge and ducks helped to round out their meat selection.

Fortunately, the Jensen family did enjoy some modern conveniences both for entertainment and for work. They had a radio which ran on batteries but because the batteries were expensive to replace, the radio was only used for important announcements or on the occasional sporting event.

Sometimes the teacher staying with them was a sports fan and would have a game schedule from her alma mater.

When she knew one of the games was being broadcast, she would tell them in advance. On these occasions, everyone gathered around the table and eagerly awaited the start of the game. They listened intently as the announcer called the "play by play." With the crowd yelling its approval and the bands blaring their "fight songs" in the background, they felt like they were actually right there! Such an exciting event made for a memorable evening in the Jensen household.

A very useful addition to the Jensen household was a gas washing machine. This was placed in the basement and although it made Saturday's laundry day much easier, it had to be used with great care. Not only did these early machines run on regular gasoline which was a safety issue in itself, but the wringer which squeezed the water from the clothes had no emergency release and a careless little finger or hand could easily be caught and fed through the two rollers.

Needless to say, until the girls were older, Thea was in charge of operating the washing machine.

When a telephone line finally reached North Bustie, almost every family had a phone. Each telephone had a little crank located on its side and in order to operate the telephone, the user would turn the crank which produced a ringing sound. Each family was assigned a ring sequence and Lila remembers that their ring was one long ring followed by four short rings. Because several families shared the same line, it was called a party line and it had its advantages and disadvantages. One major advantage was that by having many families share just one line, the cost for the service was greatly decreased. Another advantage was that it provided a sense of security. One long sustained ring meant that someone needed help immediately, and with so many people sharing the line, one or more people always picked up the receiver and provided assistance. One obvious disadvantage of a party line however, was the lack of privacy. Anyone who shared the line could, at any time, quietly lift their receiver and listen in on someone else's conversation. This was referred to as "rubber necking" and it wasn't uncommon.

Another disadvantage was that if the line was in use, no one else could use it without interrupting. Sometimes this provoked harsh words and hard feelings.

Lila recalled that although work was always a priority,

there were many memorable family and social gatherings which they took part in and enjoyed. Card playing was a favorite family pastime. Lila fondly remembered that almost every evening after dinner was over and the chores were done, her Dad would bring out a deck of cards. She and Berenice would make popcorn and the family would play Whist. Oscar would not only remember the cards that had been played, but would somehow magically know the cards that the children held in their hands. With a grin on his face and a twinkle in his eye, he would playfully slap down the EXACT card that one of them needed and would say, "Is this the card that you were waiting for?" Oscar would win another hand and another would be dealt.

Skiing was a weekend and sometimes after-school activity. Most of the roads in North Bustie were lined with snow fences. These fences helped prevent snow from drifting across roads and closing them. As winter progressed and the winds blew, the snow drifts along the fence lines would get higher and higher. Lila recalled that on some sunny winter afternoons after school, the Jensen girls and the Lindstrom girls, who were the same age and nearest neighbors, would rush home from school, strap on their little wooden skis and race across the drifts like the wind.

Ice skating was another form of winter recreation. Between their farm and Northland School was a small lake. Although it had the misfortune of being called Stink Lake, it was used throughout the winter months as a skating rink for the entire community. During the week, various people would keep it shoveled off and on the weekends, people from as far away as Effie would gather there. There was always a big fire going to warm up cold fingers and toes and those who didn't have skates would enjoy tending the fire, drinking hot chocolate and playing other games on the ice.

On Sunday mornings after church, families would take turns hosting Sunday dinner. After dinner was finished and the dishes were cleared, the games would begin. The grown-ups played Whist and the kids usually played board games. Some of the older kids chose to play Whist with one another, perhaps in preparation for the challenges which awaited them as adults. In late afternoon, the games would be put away and they would have a "fast dinner" as Lila called it, so that everyone could return home in time to complete the evening chores.

Social gatherings for special events were the main source of community entertainment. Except for quilting parties which were for women only, most forms of entertainment were attended by the entire family and most were held in the Bustie Town Hall. Lila's husband Lawrence recalled that the hall was a small structure and when they had dances, there was barely enough room to move without bumping into someone else. It's probably safe to assume that active dances like the Butterfly and Polka had to be carefully choreographed or omitted altogether to avoid injuries. Wedding showers and baby showers were also held in the hall and

functional gifts like blankets, quilts and utensils were given and happily received. Of course, these gatherings were always accompanied by pots of coffee and a table covered with assorted homemade pies, cakes and other mouth-watering items.

With so many rural farm families in the Bustie area, the 4-H Club was a very active youth organization and nearly everyone in the community belonged to it. The highlight of the year took place in August when members would take a bus all the way to Grand Rapids to attend the Itasca County Fair. They stayed there for three days and nights and they slept in bunkhouses. The upper section of the bunkhouse walls were screened in to provide natural air conditioning. During the day they met other kids, went on rides and spent

some of their hard-earned money. Some members entered 4-H projects to be judged against other entries. Lila proudly recalled that one year her sister Berenice, who was an excellent seamstress, competed against nine other finalists from around the county. Each contestant modeled their own creation and Berenice was awarded first runner-up in the final competition.

Regarding her childhood, Lila recalled that it was a good life and laughter came easily and often. Hard work was expected and chores were shared and accepted as part of the daily routine. Lila and her husband Lawrence Blackmer live on the Northeast shore of Pickerel Lake. We thank her for taking the time to share some of her memories of the early days on the Jensen farm in North Bustie..

Deer Lake Watershed Association Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your 2012 membership! Members receive a subscription to the association quarterly newsletter, but best of all, it feels good to know that you are doing your part to support & improve our watershed. Thank you for your support!

Deer Lake Watershed Association (DLWA) Membership Form

PO Box 23 - Effie, Minnesota 56639 / DLWA dues year extends from January 1 to December 31, 2012

Please Print or Type

Name: _____

Complete mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Dues: (please check one)

Regular (\$15/year) Lifetime (\$500 paid for life) Contributor (\$100) Donor (\$50)

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE DLWA NEWSLETTER

(for Non-members only)

Name _____

Address _____

For the 2012 newsletters (Spring, Summer, and Fall)

send \$6.00 (checks to DLWA)

to DLWA at P.O. Box 23, Effie, MN 56639

Step 1: Take a closer look at your site. **Step 2:** Note items circled in these two grey columns. **Step 3:** Consider the corresponding Challenge(s) in this column. **Step 4:** Go for it!

In the Water From the water's edge lakeward	Circle your responses		In the Water Challenge Menu	Lake and Human Benefits	Relative Cost	Time-Effort	I'll take this Challenge*			
What is the width of the recreation area where aquatic plants have been removed?	No water use	About 10 feet	About 30 feet	More than 40 feet	↑	A Smaller Footprint Where aquatic plants were removed, allow them to grow back. Go Fish! Replant aquatic plants (MN DNR no-fee permit required).	Fish, frogs, and other wildlife use plants for nesting, cover and food. Aquatic plants protect your shore from erosion. Native aquatic plants can minimize invasive plants.	0	None	**
Are there downed trees ("fish sticks") in the water?	Abundant fish sticks	Some fish sticks	No fish sticks	More than 4	↑	Fish Sticks Let fallen trees and branches remain along the shore and in the water. Ships Ahoy! Store on land the water accessories you don't often use.	Fish, turtles, water birds and mammals use downed trees for shelter, resting, hunting and food. Increase fish habitat (otherwise limited by water accessories).	0	None	**
How many accessories (rocks=boats+other) are in the water?	0	1-2	3	More than 4	↑			0	None	**

Along the Shore From water's edge to 15 ft landward of the high water line	Circle your responses		Along the Shore Challenge Menu	Lake and Human Benefits	Relative Cost	Time-Effort	I'll take this Challenge*			
What width of your shoreline has been altered for lake access, view, recreation, other?	Little to none	About 10 feet	About 30 feet	More than 40 feet	↑	A Smaller Footprint Reduce this area to a smaller footprint with the following options(s).	80 percent of wildlife in MN depends upon a shoreline of native plants for their survival.	0 - \$\$\$	None to Moderate	**
Within this area: a. Describe the tree/shrub cover.	Dense	Many	Some	None	↑	Hedge Your Edge Plant native trees and shrubs along your shore.	Deep roots of native plants resist erosion from ice and wave action. Native plants also filter soil and pollutants from rainwater run-off.	\$ - \$\$	Moderate	**
b. What part is lawn or sand blanket?	None	About one quarter	About half	All or nearly all	↑	Green Armor Your Shore Plant native grasses and grass-like plants.	1.5 pounds of poop per goose per day will not land on your lawn and wash into the lake. Plants soften the appearance, filter run-off and provide wildlife habitat.	\$ - \$\$	None	**
c. What part is mowed or weed-whipped?	None	Only enough for a path	Some	All	↑	Bye-Bye Geese Stop mowing and weed-whipping. Geese avoid tall plants where predators may be lurking.		Saves you \$\$	None	**
d. What part is armored with rock?	None	About one quarter	About half	All or nearly all	↑	Soft Rock Install native plants into existing rock.		\$ - \$\$	Moderate	**
e. What other hard surfaces exist? (Circle all that exist.)	None	Other?	Boat(s) Sidewalk Building Dirt path	Road Building Patio	↑	Stop the Drop Remove unnecessary hard surfaces and replant or install pervious surfaces, berms, etc. to capture and filter rainwater.		\$ - \$\$	Moderate	**
f. Is there a fire ring or area?	No	No	Yes	Yes	↑	Ring of Fire Move fires and fire rings away from the lake (25 to 50 feet is recommended).	Reduce the phosphorous- and nitrogen-rich ashes carried into the lake by rainwater and wind.	0	Some	**
g. What portion of the shore has an ice ridge?	All - Ridge not breached	Part - Ridge not breached	None - Natural slope	All - Ridge regraded	↑	No Water Over This Dam Leave ice ridge in place and create an access over it. Plant a rain garden behind it for added beauty and filter.	An ice ridge across your entire shoreline can capture and filter up to 100% of soil, nutrients and other pollutants in rainwater run-off.	0	None	**
h. What length of shoreline is eroding? (continued on back side)	Little to none	About 10 feet	About 30 feet	More than 40 feet	↑	Shore Up Your Shore Consult with Itasca SWCD to determine which erosion control method is best for your shore. Permit may be required.	For a 100-ft lot, this can reduce the soil entering the lake by about 360 pounds per year and result in about 90 pounds less algae in the lake.	\$ - \$\$\$	Some to Great	**

THE ITASCA COUNTY LAKE CHALLENGE

While attending "The Water Summit" Conference last May, sponsored by the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, I collected some literature entitled "The Itasca County Lake Challenge." It is a questionnaire regarding your lakeshore, with possible solutions to making improvements that restrict erosion, improve water quality and fish and other aquatic habitat. Because of limited space to include the questionnaire in its entirety, I will put in portions over the next three issues of the newsletter. To seek more information and receive a full copy of the Itasca Lake Challenge, contact: Mary Blickenderfer, University of MN Extension, blick002@umn.edu 218-244-7996.



Deer Lake Watershed Association
 PO Box 23
 Effie, MN 56639

Winter is here!



WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

DNR Region II Office:.....218-327-4455
 DNR Division of Waters: (alteration of the bed of public waters):.....218-327-4416
 DNR Division of Fisheries: (removal or addition of aquatic plants, fish management:218-327-4430

Itasca County:

(zoning, landscape alterations or construction in shoreland within
 1,000 feet of lakes or 300 feet from a river):.....218-327-2857

Itasca SWCD: (wetland alterations, erosion control, shoreland restorations):.....218-326-0017

Conservation Officer Jason Hansen.....218-832-7808

County Highway Engineer218-327-2853

On-site wastewater treatment and well testing

Itasca Zoning Office:.....218-327-2857

or MN Extension Service:.....218-327-7486

MN Lakes Association:.....218-824-5565 or 800-515-5253

WEBSITES

MN DNR: www.dnr.state.mn.us

MN PCA: www.pca.state.mn.us

MN Lakes Association: www.mnlakesassn.org

MN Shoreland Management Guide: www.shorelandmanagement.org

DLWA Website: www.deerlakewatershed.org