



# the Dead Lake Association

Inc., Box 127, Richville, MN 56576

## Summer Splash Fundraiser a Huge Success!

### Newsletter

August 2012

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### NORTH BAY

Kay Helm, Secretary  
Bonnie Swanson  
Ernie West, VP, Nomin. Chair

##### SOUTHWEST BAY

Phyllis Freeman  
Tim Sullivan

##### EAST BAY

Doug Martin, President  
612-991-6230  
dmmartin2@earthlink.net  
Deb Cullen, Treasurer

##### MEMBER AT LARGE

Jim Hatlevig  
John Kimple

##### BOARD MEETINGS:

If you would like to attend the next board meeting please call 612.991.6230 for the place and time.

Editors: Sue Hansen  
Kay Helm

Website: [www.dead-lake.org](http://www.dead-lake.org)

**Dedicated  
to Clean Water**



Spence & Pam Schram

Spence and Pam Schram have been Co-Chairs of this annual event since 2008. During this time, the Dead Lake Association has received almost \$50,000 due to their fundraising leadership. During the past four years, while Spence and others have been coordinating the live auctions, Pam Schram and Mary Martin have been responsible for organizing the silent auctions. They worked as a team to solicit donations and organized the live auction and silent auction displays at the Summer Splash banquets.



Mark Steuart

This year's 2012 Summer Splash Committee included Deb Cullen, Roger Cullen, Jim Hatlevig, John Kimple, Mary Martin, Doug Martin, Pam Schram, Spence Schram, Mark Steuart, Terry Sullivan, Tim Sullivan, Rhea West and Ernie West.

To see almost 40 pictures of the 2012 Summer Splash event, courtesy of Megan Kirchenwitz, visit: <http://dlasummersplash2012.shutterfly.com/>.

Financially, this was the most successful Summer Splash fundraiser since the Dead Lake Association began the summer banquets in 2008. The banquet included 13 live auction items, over 100 silent auction items, 10 general raffle prizes and 6 special raffle prizes. There were over 100 people that attended the event. The winner of the \$250 Grand Prize was Randy Anderson. Randy's family recently purchased their lake home on Dead Lake in July, 2012.



Mary Martin & Pam Schram



Mark Steuart was this year's entertaining auctioneer. Mark used both good humor and great timing to generate the maximum bid for each live auction item.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVES?

- \* Clean visible aquatic plants and debris from watercraft, trailers and equipment before transporting them from any water access.
- \* Drain water from the bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks and portable bait containers before leaving water accesses or shoreline property. Also, keep the drain plug out and any water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- \* Dump unwanted bait in the trash.
- \* The DNR also recommends spraying watercraft with a high-pressure water system and rinsing with very hot water after use. Another option is to let the watercraft and any related equipment dry for at least five days before using it again.
- \* CHECK FOR INVASIVES WHEN TAKING OUT DOCKS AND LIFTS and when selling or buying water-related equipment. A new law effective July 1 requires that all boat lifts, docks and swim rafts must be completely dry for 21 days, including rainfall, before being used again.



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

# LAKE MONITORING

by Sue Hansen

The water sample results for the first 3 summer months are now posted on-line at [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info) and so far the results are looking pretty good. Listed below is data for the 5 Dead Lake test sites for May, June and July:

	North Bay (205)	West Bay (211)	Narrows (207)	East Bay (202)	South Bay (212)
May } Secchi Depth	17.0 ft.	11.5 ft.	15.0 ft.	18.0 ft.	15.5 ft.
June } Reading	10.5 ft.	8.0 ft.	9.0 ft.	13.5ft.	7.0 ft.
July } Reading	7.5 ft.	6.0 ft.	10.5 ft.	14.5 ft.	-- ft.
Phosphorus Avg.	24 ug/l	28 ug/l	22 ug/l	28 ug/l	23 ug/l
Chlorophyll-a Avg.	7 ug/l	4 ug/l	5 ug/l	6 ug/l	5 ug/l
TSI Index Average	47	47	47	45	46

For our new lake residents and also for the rest of us, here's a reminder of what all of these numbers mean: Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a (algae concentration) and Secchi depth are related. When phosphorus increases, this means there is more food available for algae, so algae concentrations increase. When algae concentrations increase, the water becomes less transparent and the Secchi depth decreases. The resulting numbers from these three measurements are converted to a trophic state index using an equation. The TSI ranges from 0-100. 0-30 is Oligotrophic, where water is very clear, phosphorus is low and algae is sparse. 30-50 is an in-between stage where the number of aquatic plants algae increase due to more available phosphorus. A TSI of over 50 describes a lake that is eutrophic, with a high density of plants and algae that could be unpleasant for swimming at certain times in the summer.

The good news is that we are still holding our own with a TSI average under 50 (our average to date is 46 TSI). Parts of the lake did show higher phosphorus levels than last year; however, we are staying within the DLA's goal for phosphorus levels of 20-30 in all the bays. The chlorophyll levels in comparison to last year were considerably lower which is also good news. The secchi depth for the entire lake for these 3 months averages 11.7 feet compared to 11 feet last year and 10 feet the year before.

Thanks to our volunteer water samplers: Roger Cullen, Jim Hatlevig, Merv Freeman and Tim Sullivan.

# The Top 10 “One Minute” Volunteer Opportunities

Are you willing to help protect Dead Lake but your time is limited? Do you have a talent or equipment that could be put to good use in supporting Dead Lake? These are a few fun ways that you can contribute in a very limited way but still make a significant difference. If you would like to offer to help in another way, then let us help you support your passion. Contact Doug Martin at 612-991-6230 or e-mail [dmmartin2@earthlink.net](mailto:dmmartin2@earthlink.net)

1) A volunteer is needed to add photos and content to the Dead Lake Association web site. The Dead Lake Association's web site is up but it needs more pictures and content. We have content and photos that are ready to be posted. The training necessary to learn the web site software is basic. If you would really enjoy posting pictures and written content to the web site, this is a great opportunity to make an immediate and tangible difference. The tools are available but we need someone to make it happen! You can work independently from home or school to upload the information to the web site. It's like putting together a puzzle with a purpose but we need your help to make it a reality.

2) A volunteer is needed to take Dead Lake water level readings on a regular basis and call the information into the Minnesota DNR. You'll learn how to read the water level gauge located at the East outlet or have a water level gage installed at the end of your dock and then call in the information to the DNR. Water level readings have not been taken for the past 4 years so we're losing the ability to follow water level trends for Dead Lake. The time commitment is about 5 minutes each week.



3) Additional volunteers are needed to represent the Dead Lake Association at the local Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations meetings. These meetings are held once per month during the summer and allow the Dead Lake Association to learn from our peers. Without a volunteer to attend these meetings and networking, we're on our own.

4) A volunteer is needed to write one interesting and informative article for the Dead Lake Association Newsletter. If you enjoy writing and want to learn more about Dead Lake and its inhabitants, this is a great way to share with others. We have several very interesting topics to choose from but need a volunteer to pull the information together. If you have a phone and computer, you can easily work from home or school.



5) A volunteer is needed to be a “back up” for monthly water sampling should a regular volunteer be unavailable. You'll learn how to properly take a water sample from Dead Lake and what to do with it once its been collected. The time commitment is minimal, the sampling process is educational and the benefit to Dead Lake is that we have consistent trend analysis on the health of Dead Lake.

*Doug Martin and Spence Schram learn how to collect water samples from Dead Lake.*

6) A volunteer is needed to write a new “Volunteer Spotlight” column for the Newsletter. Many Dead Lake volunteers should to be recognized for the work they've done and continue to do to protect Dead Lake. This is an opportunity for you to be the catalyst to publically acknowledge these individual volunteers for their hard work and to inspire other property owners to get involved in protecting Dead Lake. You can work independently from home or school. A volunteer “interview questionnaire” has already been created and now it's just a matter of you stepping forward to make this new Newsletter column happen and making a difference!

7) Volunteers are needed to hang a zebra mussel “decoy” from the end of their dock for early detection. The zebra mussel decoy is simply a short plastic pipe that can be hung from the end of your dock and lifted out occasionally for inspection.

8) Volunteers are needed to submit interesting photos, lake news and educational information about Dead Lake and its property owners for publication in the Dead Lake Association Newsletter. If you have that interesting photo of the fish your grandchild caught, a story about Dead Lake that you would like to share or other human interest topic, this is your chance to share it with your lake neighbors.

9) Volunteers are needed to help organize a “Bay Party” for their lake neighborhood. You can help create a greater sense of lake community by joining with a few other volunteers to organize a casual “Bay Party”. You'll learn from the property owners in the North Bay who have been hosting family oriented “Bay Parties” for years. This networking with your lake neighbors enhances your lake experience and the Dead Lake Association will support you by contacting the lake property owners in your Bay so that organizing the informal gathering is fun and easy.

10) A volunteer is needed to “Welcome” each new property owner to the Dead Lake community. About once a month, a Dead Lake property is purchased and the new owner is often excited to learn about Dead Lake and how they can be a good steward of the land. As a seasoned veteran of Dead Lake, you'll simply meet the new property owners to answer their questions and to explain the broad resources that the Dead Lake Association provides to make their lake experience more enjoyable. This pro-active outreach strategy can often prevent development issues before they occur. You'll have fun meeting new people and sharing your knowledge of Dead Lake. At present, there is no Dead Lake “Welcome” program in place so you have lots of freedom to create something new and to have an immediate impact!



## **Meet Vince and Cheryl Prososki New Owners of Northern Lights Resort**

In late March 2012, Vince and Cheryl Prososki purchased Northern Lights Resort which is located at the east end of Dead Lake. They've been running the resort for the past three months and have some wonderful insights to share about their recent lifestyle change.

**Q: As a couple, what are your backgrounds and what was your life like prior to buying Northern Lights Resort?**

A: Vince was an Assistant Production Manager for Industrial Louvers which is a manufacturing company located in Delano, MN. Cheryl was a parish business administrator for two Catholic churches, a K-6 school and a full-time daycare located in Delano, MN.

We have been married for 32 years and have 2 children. Our daughter, Sarah, is 27 years old and is a math teacher for Minnesota Transitions located in South Minneapolis. Our son, Troy, is 25 years old and works in Plymouth, MN. Delano, MN was our hometown for the past 24 years. We were raised in Little Falls, MN.

**Q: What prompted you to buy a family resort?**

A: We have been thinking about buying a resort for 30 years. Actually when we were pregnant with our oldest we were looking but we didn't have the down payment. Our two children are now grown and we thought that we needed to do this when we could.

**Q: What has been the most significant change in your lifestyle after you began running Northern Lights Resort full-time in April 2012?**

A: We are now spending 24 hours a day working at the resort and working together. We miss our very active lifestyle of friends from Delano area. We hope to make new friends in and around the lake.

**Q: Within the next 5 years, what changes do you hope to accomplish with Northern Lights Resort and in your personal lifestyle change?**

A: We hope to continue the resort as family resort where families can come and relax and spend time together. In our society, families have less and less time together. We also want to maintain the environment and the love for the lake as we have come to know it.

**Q: What type of "experience" is your typical resort seeking when they decide to vacation at Northern Lights Resort?**

A: A peaceful quiet place to relax. Enjoy nature through fishing, swimming and resting by the shore line.

**Q: Once your resort guest has stayed at Northern Lights Resort, why do they return year after year?**

A: Hopefully, they've found what they were looking for once they've stayed at Northern Lights Resort.

**Q: What are the five most popular activities that your resort guests like to do while they're on vacation?**

A: Fish, swim, read, relax, water sports

**Q: What other information would you like to share about yourselves or Northern Lights Resort that the readers may find interesting?**

A: We are avid hunting and fisher people with the love of the outdoors. We take nature very seriously and want to maintain as we have received it.

**Q: What plans are you considering that will make Northern Lights Resort an even better "environmentally friendly" partner in helping to protect the water quality, fishery and natural beauty of Dead Lake?**

A: Maintaining the shore line and property as natural as we can. Adding more trees and beautifying the resort. Control the flow of water throughout the resort.

You can contact Vince and Cheryl Prososki at 218-758-2343 or by e-mail at [nlr@northernlightsresort.com](mailto:nlr@northernlightsresort.com)

# DEAD LAKE HISTORY

By Ernie West

Here we go again. Some of Dead Lake's laws started back in 533 A.D. How could that be, you ask? It's because that's when the Romans put into written law what the Egyptians had been practicing for who knows how long. The English adopted these laws in 1412 and because of that, sometime in the 1600's, the 13 colonies adopted these same laws. And finally, Minnesota, in 1857, included these laws in the Minnesota Constitution.

These "laws" I'm talking about relate to water rites and public access. So it turns out Minnesota riparian rights, defined as property rights arising from owning property abutting water, are based on a long tradition, going back at least 1500 years. As such, a riparian landowner has the right to open water. This access is not a free pass for the public, though. On the other hand, public access is available through government property, though it may only be available on foot. State, county, township and cities may have property riparian rights. That means you and I have access rights, but the particular governing power can impose restrictions, like a city park may have restricted hours of use, or a township or DNR may limit maximum horse power use, or prohibit camping, fireworks, campfires, drinking, etc.

The most recent set of rules, regarding public access to water, is the result of attempts by the government to prevent transferring of invasive species from contaminated waters to other lakes. These rules, in case you haven't heard, are now being enforced with stiff fines. You have to remove the boat drain plug(s), and clean all vegetation off of the boat, trailer, and motor before leaving the boat access. You also must drain all boat live wells and drain all water from bait containers and replace it with known clean water. My own question, like most other sportsmen, is how can you comply 100% with this rule? For instance, how can you get every drop of water or every trace of weeds or seeds out of or off of your boat and motor? And every minnow will have some trace of water in it. No, I'm not complaining, in fact I firmly believe everyone should do the best he can to comply with the law before leaving a launch site.

Moving on to riparian rights, I've heard that any road that has its "road right of way" touching a body of water is also a public access. Be careful here, though. It may be illegal to park there and parking in the ditch could be illegal too, because private property actually goes to the center of the road in many areas.

Now's maybe a good time to debunk a myth that many people, me included, believed in. A dock that goes out from private land does not become a "public use" piece of equipment. It is private property and is protected the same as any other private property.

Credits: The Outdoor News (Steve McComas) and our local DNR office.



***30 inch Walleye makes Splash worthwhile***

In May, 2012, Spence Schram was fishing with his new fishing rod and reel that he had previously won at the 2011 Summer Splash Banquet. Spence was fishing on Dead Lake in about 4 feet of water using a minnow and bobber. The 30 inch walleye was released.

## **Part-Time Grant Writer WANTED!**

Part-Time Grant Writer - \$350 Stipend

Research and prepare grant proposals for the Dead Lake Association.

- Research grant funding opportunities that support Dead Lake Association goals
- Compose and send grant proposals
- Keep records to track submitted proposals and deadlines
- Provide additional information as requested by the grant maker.

The \$350 stipend is paid upon the successful application and approval of a grant that is awarded to the Dead Lake Association. Some grant research has already been done but additional funding sources must be identified and grant applications completed and submitted for funding. Work from home or school. Requires Internet access, phone and writing skills. For details, call Doug Martin 612-991-6230.

# Ditch 25 Plan

By Doug Martin

Ottertail County is paving the way for Dead Lake to receive additional water from Little McDonald, Kerbs and Paul (LMKP) lakes near Dent by approving the use of Ditch 25 to expand Dead Lake's watershed to reduce flooding for those lakes.

Dead Lake Association representatives and the other downstream lake representatives have attended Ottertail County Commissioner meetings and voiced concern that our lake's water quality may be compromised, there may be potential for flooding and that Aquatic Invasive Species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, etc. may be introduced to our lakes.

At the end of July, the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners approved an Operation Plan and draft that authorizes an outlet to be used to help control water levels on Little McDonald, Kerbs and Paul lakes. The Dead Lake Association and other downstream lakes submitted letters opposing the current Operation Plan because it doesn't provide enough specific, measurable, objective standards for determining when the Outlet Gate should be opened and closed.

As the Dead Lake Association's representatives, Mark Steuart and I participated in an Otter Tail County AdHoc Committee Meeting and worked with the other downstream lakes to influence the wording of the proposed LMKP Operation Plan.

The original Operation Plan developed by the LMKP Lake Improvement District (LID) proposed that the LMKP LID would control the Outlet Gate, that water would be vented downstream if Dead Lake's water level was less than Ordinary High Water (OHW) and the plan didn't include specific wording to address the issues of water quality and the prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species from entering our lake.

Although the representatives from the Dead Lake Association felt that the conditions of Outlet Gate Operation Plan aren't specific enough, there are some safe guards that have been built into the approved LMKP Operating Plan that would probably not have been included without the active involvement of the downstream lake associations. The Outlet Gate will now be operated by the Ottertail County Public Works Department, water can't be vented down stream unless Dead Lake's surface level is at least four inches below Ordinary High Water and the Outlet Gate will be closed if the Minnesota DNR and Ottertail County engineer determine that there is a likely risk of declining water quality or the introduction of Aquatic Invasive Species to the downstream lakes.

The outlet route, west of Perham, will extend in a southwesterly direction. Water will discharge from Little McDonald Lake to Berger Lake, in turn flowing through Big McDonald, Round, Star, Dead, Walker and Otter Tail lakes. Then the water will flow into the Otter Tail River.

It is still unknown when construction will begin on this project. The plan will proceed depending on approval by various state and federal agencies. Many regulatory hurdles remain before the drainage plan can become a reality.

Should the Outlet Gate be built, the Dead Lake Association will continue to work with the other downstream lakes to monitor and amend the Operating Plan in an effort to protect our lake's water quality, prevent flooding and prevent aquatic invasive species from entering our lakes.

## DEAD LAKE ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE

In June 2012, the Dead Lake Association (DLA) created a Facebook fan page at <http://www.facebook.com/DeadLakeAssociation> to promote and educate the lakeshore property owners of Dead Lake, Lake Alice and Indian Lake about events that affect our lakes. You DO NOT have to join Facebook to view these items. Simply enter the link above.

Here you can find:

News about events and contact information about DLA-sponsored activities such as the annual meeting, the Fourth of July parade, the ice cream social and the Summer Splash.

- Downloadable forms such as becoming a DLA member
- Where to buy DLA merchandise such as clothing, hats and coffee mugs.
- News about environmental issues such as updates on Ditch 25.
- Fascinating and historical articles about Dead Lake, written by Ernie West..

We hope you enjoy this new way to be informed about our beautiful lake.

Let us know what you think about this new feature by writing on the DLA Facebook fan page's wall. And don't forget to "like" us on Facebook!

If you have questions, suggestions or additional content regarding the Dead Lake Association's Facebook fan page, contact Julie Saffrin at [julie@juliesaffrin.com](mailto:julie@juliesaffrin.com)



Find us on

Facebook

...and keep up with what we are doing.

## NEW DEAD LAKE DIRECTORY IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The much-awaited newest edition of the **Dead Lake Association Directory** is now in the hands of a Directory Committee, headed by Terry Sullivan.



There is much work ahead but the goal is to have this edition in the hands of Dead Lake property owners, families and others by next June's Annual Meeting.

**But...**we are going to need the help of all property owners in order to do so.

In a few weeks, you will be receiving a letter/questionnaire asking for your current addresses and phone #'s to be entered into the directory. **IT IS VITAL THAT ALL COMPLY** by returning the questionnaire in a timely manner so that no one will be excluded from the edition.

We will be explicit as to what information we need for the entries, so please reply as soon as you receive the request.

Thanks in advance to all of you for your cooperation.

### Where is this item located on Dead Lake?

Why does this item represent an interesting chapter in Dead lake history?

Do you know the person from Dead Lake that actually invented this machine?



If you believe that you know the answers to these questions or have other Dead Lake related photos or items of general interest, send your reply to Kay Helm at [khelm@eot.com](mailto:khelm@eot.com) or Dead Lake Association P.O. Box 127 Richville, MN 56576.



*We extend a hearty welcome to these new neighbors.*

Sonny & Jennifer Ranz 31367 Stagecoach Drive Beach 23

Randy & Jen Anderson 35573 Minneshata Loop Beach 8

Cary & Diane Lund 38350 Egret Road Beach 10

If we've missed anyone, we apologize. If you have additions for this column, please contact Sue (758-2756) or Kay (758-3221.)

# Welcome To New Lake Residents!



*the*  
**Dead Lake Association**

*Inc., Box 127, Richville, MN 56576*

Return Service Requested

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 25  
PERHAM, MN 56573

## **Tomato/Onion Soup**

(a twist on French Onion, with a tomato kick)

- 2 large onions, sliced
- 3 Tbsp butter
- 1 c. celery, sliced
- 4 oz. can sliced mushrooms
- 28 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 2 cups condensed beef broth

Peel, slice onions and celery. Melt butter in saucepan. Add onions, celery, mushrooms; cook 'til tender. Add tomatoes, broth and seasonings. Simmer 1 hour and serve with seasoned croutons. Good for a crisp, fall night. Serves 6.

