



# the Dead Lake Association

Inc., Box 127, Richville, MN 56576

## Newsletter

December 2012

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### NORTH BAY

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Ernie West, VP, Nomin. Chair

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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**

## Grant Money to improve Water Quality

The Dead Lake Association has received a grant to assist lake property owners in improving Dead Lake's water quality by managing storm water run off. This new initiative has been made possible as a result of the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Dead Lake Association is one of only a hand full of lake associations receiving this funding in Otter Tail County. Dead Lake property owners will get money, volunteers and technical help to solve their storm water and erosion issues.

The Dead Lake Association's Board of Directors and the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District will select the Dead Lake property owners to receive grant money for the installation of "buffer" strips, "rain gardens", re-grading of gravel driveways and other practices that will improve Dead Lake's water quality.

Dead Lake is particularly suited for a grant program like this. During past DLA surveys, Dead Lake property owners have consistently indicated that "lake water quality" is a top priority. Dead Lake is the second largest "Natural Environment" lake in the state of Minnesota. Of the Minnesota DNR's three lake classifications, Natural Environment lakes are the most restricted according to the shoreland rules that establish lot size and setbacks. However, as the larger, deeper lakes that are more suitable for recreational or general development (the other two lake classifications) become developed, there is growing pressure to develop the more sensitive natural environment lakes. Hence there is no guarantee that the wilderness character that Dead Lake now has will be preserved unless the current lake property owners choose to maintain this wilderness flavor.

There are about 50-60 Dead Lake properties whose natural shorelines were removed when lake lots were originally developed in the 1940's-1980's. However, research has shown that a natural shoreline controls storm water run off and protects the very scenic beauty and wildlife that originally motivated most buyers to purchase lakeshore on Dead Lake.

According to Dead Lake Association's President, Doug Martin, "Right now is the time for our property owners to take action. Money and volunteers are available. Property owners can get their storm water run off problems solved and also benefit Dead Lake. However, planning must start today for the implementation of these projects in the spring. It's as simple as making a phone call to learn more about how the program works."

### **What's a Buffer Strip or Rain Garden?**

Simply defined, a shoreline "buffer" strip is comprised of native vegetation with long roots that hold the shoreline together to prevent erosion and act as a surface filter for sediment, fertilizer and other pollutants. The buffer also provides wildlife habitat, a natural appearance that can include flowers and also deters geese and their droppings from entering the lawn. The depth and width of the buffer is customized so that it's appropriate to each lake lot.

In addition, a "Rain Garden" helps slow or retain storm water run off. During a rain storm event, large amounts of storm water run from roofs, down driveways, across lawns and hillsides into Dead Lake. To capture this flow, a shallow depression is dug into the land and planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. The rain water is directed to this depression where the water and sediment can soak into the ground.

## Gravel Driveway Re-grading

Gravel driveways can be re-graded to prevent storm water from eroding the driveway and the associated silt from entering Dead Lake.

### What are the Challenges?

Although “maintaining and improving Dead Lake’s water quality” is a top priority according to the 2008 Dead Lake Property Owner Survey, this priority is directly challenged by the powerful social pressure to maintain the status quo.

Along heavily populated areas, many property owners may be reluctant to change the familiar shoreline “look” that they and their lake neighbors have grown accustomed to even if they know that making changes will benefit the health of the lake and enhance its natural beauty.

In addition, many part-time Dead Lake property owners come to the lake to relax because their recreation time is very limited. However, once a storm water control project is completed or a buffer zone is established it may reduce maintenance time.

A majority of lake property owners are willing to take action to maintain the health of their lake if they are provided the financial resources and technical help. According to Lindy Ekola, Minnesota DNR Shoreland Habitat Specialist, she sees a “Neighbor Effect”. If one lake property owner restores their shoreline, re-grades their gravel driveway to control storm water run off or installs a rain garden, their lake neighbors see the results and often make changes too. Lakeside property owners often have varying opinions about what constitutes “appropriate” shoreline landscaping. However, most will agree that “natural” is better than “artificial.” Even a narrow buffer can enhance the view across a lake.

### How does the grant program work?

To address these issues, lake property owners and their immediate lake neighbors are encouraged to work together to restore the shore line of their common beaches, re-grade gravel driveways and capture storm water before it enters Dead Lake. This support includes developing a “neighborhood” strategy for those willing to participate, awarding grant money, free professional technical planning regarding the best methods for managing storm water run off and free lakescape designs that include native plant selection and plant sourcing. In addition, high school volunteers have already been secured to help with the site preparation and planting to keep the property owner’s time commitment to a minimum.

Darin Newville, District Manager for the East Otter Tail Water and Soil Conservation District, indicated that if enough Dead Lake property owners show an interest now in participating in this program, an even more substantial grant can be requested in 2013 to satisfy this demand.

Until this winter’s snow cover becomes too deep, Newville’s staff will conduct individual property site visits on Dead Lake and prepare plans for property owner approval and implementation beginning May, 2013.

Additional volunteers are needed for a very limited time to help with site preparation, planting and weeding. Construction equipment, such as a tractor with a box blade, is needed to re-grade gravel driveways to redirect storm water run off away from Dead Lake.

### How do I learn more about receiving a grant or volunteering time or equipment?

Call Doug Martin Cell: 612-991-6230 E-mail: [dmmartin2@earthlink.net](mailto:dmmartin2@earthlink.net) or Spence Schram at 621-750-5975 E-mail: [sschram@arvig.net](mailto:sschram@arvig.net) to learn more about how to participate in the Dead Lake Association Grant Program.

## 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.

# LAKESCAPING: BEAUTY, LAKE PROTECTION, WILDLIFE WHAT MORE COULD ONE WANT?

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By Terry Sullivan

How exciting for Dead Lake residents to have the opportunity to put lakescaping on their property, mostly funded by Soil and Water Conservation District! Our own project started six and a half years ago and we are absolutely thrilled over the progress – and all the benefits it provides.



When we first thought about lakescaping in 2005, the concept was fairly new to Otter Tail County. My husband, Tim, was quite skeptical. Why would you pay to put flowers by the shoreline, spend the first few years weeding, and for what? Then we did some research and found out some amazing facts. Like: an adult goose leaves about 7 pounds of droppings per bird per week on one's lawn and the dense lakescaping prevents them from walking up on our grass. Like: it's not just flowers but grasses that we would plant and some have roots that go down almost 30 feet, preventing erosion like nothing else. Like: one of the flowers we decided to plant is the food source for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. Like: the aroma of the milkweed flowers is better than lilacs AND lasts longer. We were sold and put in the site next spring.

And we've never regretted it. We (Tim, myself, other volunteers and SWCD staff) used both an application of seed and planted flower and grass seedlings. At the same time we laid down a coconut mat on top of our perennial ice ridge. The second summer we had flowers blooming. This year we were delighted to see new species of flowers. And the geese don't come onto our grass through the dense lakescaping (nothing for our grandchildren to slip on as they run down to the lake for swimming).



Of course there are things we could have improved upon: applying several applications to kill the existing vegetation at the lakescaping site would have been helpful. Also beneficial would have been a better job of weeding at the beginning. But the SWCD staff was most professional and helped us throughout the process. Tim and I strongly encourage any interested person to call us: on Tim's cell phone at 218-770-9192 or my cell phone at 218-770-9573. We also hope to schedule a Lakescaping Open House next summer, possibly several times as the flowers change throughout the months. You'll be amazed at the colors, the scents and the wildlife this project can provide – and benefit our precious Dead Lake.

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## LAKEWAVES

**EDITORS' NOTE:** We hope you all had a great summer! We send special greetings to our "snowbirds" and wish you many happy days in the southern sun. We hope those of you who stay around will enjoy this very special time of the year on the lake.

**FACEBOOK:** Join us on <http://www.facebook.com/DeadLakeAssociation> for news, contact information, photos, events, etc. We encourage you post your pictures of lake scenes or fun times spent on the lake. We'd also love to hear from you "snowbirds"!

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Dead Lake Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2013, at the Dent Senior Citizens Center. Please mark this date on your 2013 calendar!

**BEACH GET-TOGETHER:** The North Bay annual beach party/potluck was hosted by Sally Bosch in late July. About 40 beach residents enjoyed good food and fellowship on a beautiful day at the lake.

**WINTER PHOTOS:** We are looking for snapshots of winter activities on Dead Lake. If you carry a camera while you are ice fishing, cross country skiing, or participating in other "cold" activities, please snap away and share the results with us for future newsletters. Send your pictures to [khelm@eot.com](mailto:khelm@eot.com) or [skhansen@arvig.net](mailto:skhansen@arvig.net) or post them on our Facebook page. We all know that Dead Lake is beautiful any time of the year!

**ICE-IN:** It looks like a new record for Ice-In on the lake! Numerous open water spots in the North Bay lasted well into December and finally froze over on December 10 with sub-zero temperatures. Ice-In dates for the past few years are as follows: Dec. 6, 2011; Nov. 23, 2010; Dec. 4, 2009; Nov. 21, 2008; Nov. 27, 2007; and Nov. 19, 2006.

## AUGUST FISH-SURVEY

“The best way to improve fishing on Dead Lake is to maintain a natural shoreline and protect the lake’s natural aquatic vegetation”, according to Howard Fullhart, Assistant Area Supervisor – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Department located in Fergus Falls, MN.

During August, the Minnesota DNR Fisheries staff collected fish samples from Dead Lake. This fish sampling occurs every three years. The purpose of sampling Dead Lake’s fish population is to provide data that will help the DNR determine the best methods to maintain and enhance the lake’s fishery. The DNR uses this data to determine the health, growth and quantity of specific fish species found in Dead Lake.



As a result of analyzing Dead Lake’s historical fish sampling data, the DNR doubled the bi-annual quantity of walleye fry that have been stocked in Dead Lake from 3.2 million to 6.5 million.

This winter, the Minnesota DNR staff will review the sampling data that they collected from Dead Lake during 2012 and post it to the Minnesota DNR’s web site. You can see the 2009 fish survey results at the LakeFinder section of the MN DNR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=56038300>.

# LAKE MONITORING

by Sue Hansen

**Thanks to our volunteer water samplers (Roger Cullen, Jim Hatlevig, Merv Freeman and Tim Sullivan)** who collected and delivered lake samples along with recording secchi disk readings, and weather and water conditions throughout the summer. This was the 17<sup>th</sup> year that the Dead Lake Association has participated in the COLA sponsored testing.

Listed below are the summer results for the 5 testing sites (check [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info) for complete data):

	North Bay (205)	West Bay (211)	Narrows (207)	East Bay (202)	South Bay (212)
May	17.0 ft.	11.5 ft.	15.0 ft.	18.0 ft.	15.5 ft.
June	10.5 ft.	8.0 ft.	9.0 ft.	13.5 ft.	7.0 ft.
July	7.5 ft.	6.0 ft.	10.5 ft.	14.5 ft.	-- ft.
August	5.0 ft.	6.0 ft.	7.5 ft.	9.5 ft.	6.5 ft.
September	6.5 ft.	6.0 ft.	11.5 ft.	10.0 ft.	7.0 ft.
Summer Secchi Ave.	9.3 ft.	7.5 ft.	10.7 ft.	13.1 ft.	9.0 ft.
Phosphorus Avg.	29 ug/l	25 ug/l	22 ug/l	31 ug/l	22 ug/l
Chlorophyll-a Avg.	14 ug/l	7 ug/l	7ug/l	9 ug/l	6 ug/l
TSI Index Average	52	50	48	49	48

The lake secchi depth average of 10 feet for the summer has stayed the same for the past 3 years, which is a good sign. Not such a good sign are several instances of increasing phosphorus and chlorophyll levels (North and East Bays). The “magic number” for the TSI Index, which can spell the difference between a clean, pure lake and an algae-covered lake, is under 50. Unfortunately, we have slipped over “the bubble” in several of the bays this summer. On a positive note, the average TSI for the entire lake is 49, which is within the DLA’s goal of under 50.

Many factors and variables affect our water quality from summer to summer. We don’t need to panic when the readings aren’t the best, and we also don’t need to get too excited when the readings look great! For a complete picture of water quality trends it’s necessary to look at the statistics over a number of years. So far statistics indicate that we are managing to stay within the goals set many years ago by the Board.

**Reminder: we each need to do our part to keep our lake clean!**

## Dead Lake Logo Merchandise up to 50% OFF!

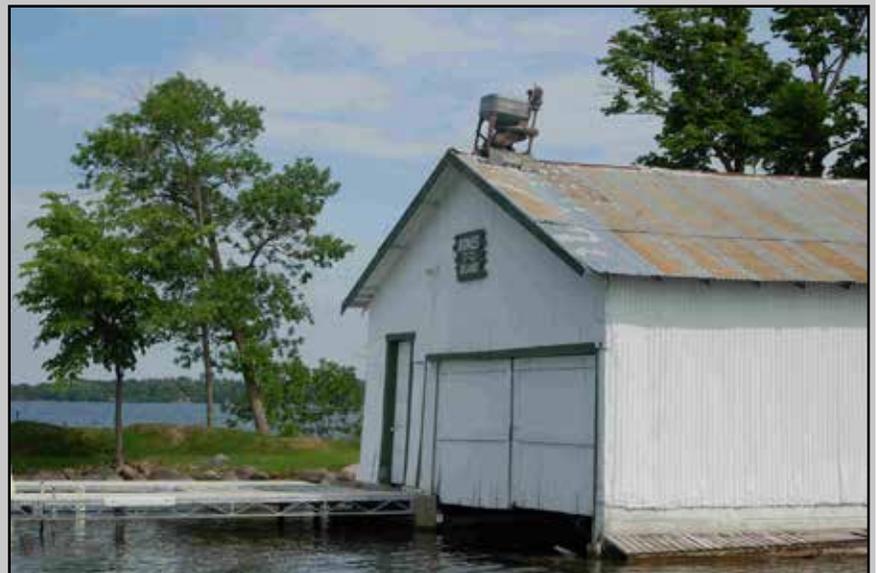
Dead Lake logo clothing is being closed out and sold at 50% OFF retail. Now is the time to buy your Christmas presents while there is still some selection. There is a limited selection of Dead Lake t-shirts, sweat shirts, denim shirts and ball caps.

In addition to the Dead Lake logo clothing, there are three beverage containers to choose from. There are two styles of coffee mugs and a Tervis-style insulated tumbler with a lid. These items are perfect souvenirs for family and friends that love being at Dead Lake. The discounted merchandise is on display at Woodland Resort located on the north end of Dead Lake at 38166 CO HWY 44, Richville, MN 56576. Contact Jim Hatlevig at 218-298-4143 or e-mail: [jhatlvig@arvig.net](mailto:jhatlvig@arvig.net) for details.



## Where is this item located on Dead Lake?

**Answer:** The item in the August 2012 Newsletter is of a Maytag washing machine that was originally designed and patented by Walter Bones in 1936. The descendants of Walter Bones currently own a small island located in the north central area of Dead Lake. The washing machine is mounted on top of a boathouse that's located on this small island. The island was owned by Floyd Maytag and was eventually sold to his employee and inventor, Walter Bones.



## COLD FACTS!

With winter just around the corner, those of us who enjoy Minnesota winter activities are starting to think of snowmobiling, skating or skiing, and especially ice fishing. Our first question is “**When is the ice safe?**” According to the MN DNR, you can’t judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on **all** these factors – plus the depth of the water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climate conditions.

Here are some general ice thickness guidelines and safety tips for those who truly enjoy our Minnesota winters!

**For new, clear ice only 2 inches or less – STAY OFF!**

4 inches thick – ice fishing or other activities on foot

6 inches thick – snowmobile or ATV

8-12 inches thick – car or small pickup

12-15 inches thick – medium truck

**For you avid ice fishermen:**

- \* Don’t fish alone
- \* Let others know where you’re fishing
- \* Avoid fishing near open water, streams, springs or multiple ice cracks
- \* Keep fishing holes small and few
- \* Watch your step
- \* Spread out
- \* Be prepared for emergencies

**SOME COLD FACTS ABOUT ICE:**

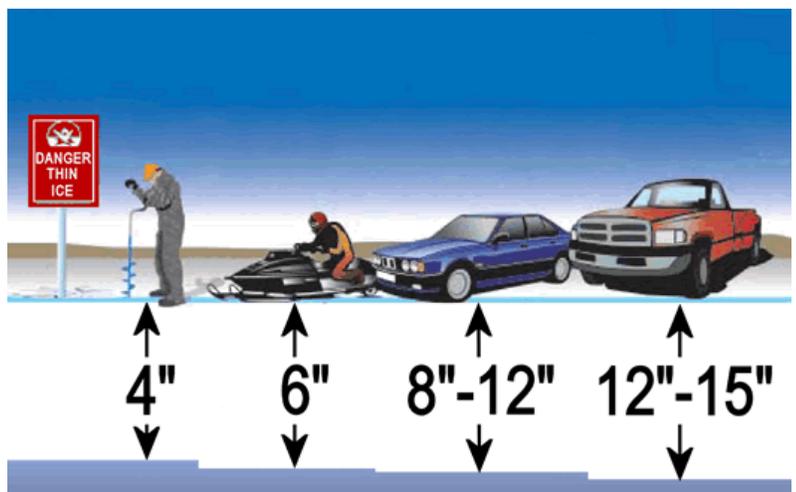
**New ice is usually stronger than old ice** – 4 inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while 1 foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

**Ice seldom freezes uniformly** – it may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

**The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process** – the extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

**Booming and cracking ice isn’t necessarily dangerous** – it only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

**Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice** – the movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our message to you this season is:

“Let us keep Christmas.

Its meaning never ends!

It’s the time of the year to share

the joys of the past

and the hopes of the future

and to remember all we have

to be thankful for.

If we can do this for a day, why not forever?

Let us keep the true spirit of Christmas today,

tomorrow and always.”

**SUE AND KAY**



## *Special Christmas Memories*

*from our readers.*

My Christmas memories are many thanks to my many years! I remember when we brought a fresh tree in the house mounted on a homemade wooden stand. We put REAL candles on it and lit them one time on Christmas Eve. What a wondrous sight!

Christmas Eve was always spent at my maternal grandparents along with the many aunts, uncles and cousins. We always sang carols on the way to Grandpa Henry’s. A favorite memory was when the road was blocked with snow and Uncle George met us with horses and a hayrack complete with hay and blankets to keep us warm. We got to ride a couple miles in the hayrack. We kids thought it was super!

The tree was always nearly inundated with gifts. We children couldn’t wait for supper of roast turkey and goose to be over so we could open our

treasures. But first we had to sing carols with my aunt playing the piano and my grandpa his guitar. Thank you for making me revisit these fond memories!

AND then....you jogged too many of my memories.

In the early sixties we lived in Alaska where Merv worked for the University of Alaska and I did some private duty nursing at the local hospital. Christmas was approaching and I was missing the family back in MN. We couldn’t afford to fly us all out to the “lower 48”. Merv had a professional trip that would end him up in MN for Christmas but I was stranded. Then one of our patients took a turn for the worse and he was to be flown to a Seattle hospital. I could accompany him at his expense, but what to do with the kids, 2 and 4? They could not fly with me, because my focus would be the patient. It’s a long story, but we ended up flying them to Seattle on another plane with a U of A Professor, had a Seattle cousin meet the plane and look for two kids with turquoise parkas!

Wonder of wonder it all worked out and we all connected and ended up in Minnesota for the big family Christmas. It was the last time I saw my grampa. He died two months later. But I will always treasure the memory of that special Christmas....and the extraordinary lengths we went to, to be with family for Christmas.

*Phyllis Freeman*



Some of my most personal stories and feelings about Dead Lake are about Christmas on Dead Lake. I suppose it’s a rare time that these two subjects are spoken about in the same sentence.

To start with, let me explain that we live nine to twelve hours, highway time, away from our closest children. Which pretty much rules out two day visits from our children and grandkids.

To keep some harmony in all of our families we’ve always let the other grandparents have special holiday privileges. Of course with the understanding that we get to have the kids for hunting and fishing at other times. (Just ruining them according to some other grandparents).

But back to Christmas. With all of our friends and neighbors busy with their family and Christmas, and no family of our own around, I almost

always spend my Christmas days alone out in the fish house (that’s just two out of eighty-five days a winter). Yep, I like to ice fish. But those two Christmas days are special.

To set the mood during these days it’s easy to find the kind of Christmas music I like on the fish house radio. There’s something about this solitary time, whether its during a howling blizzard, or a frigid crystal clear and calm night, that gives a person time to reflect on the past years events, and ponder on what the next year will bring. It’s a precious time that gives you time to think thoughts that you’ve been too busy to indulge in since last Christmas.

I don’t know what your plans are after the alleged dooms day this December 20<sup>th</sup>, but I plan on being out in the fish house this coming Christmas.

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas!**  
**Ernie West**



*the*  
**Dead Lake Association**

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

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**RECIPE FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS (AUTHOR UNKNOWN)**

TO: 1 crisp December night,

ADD: A generous portion of frosty air

BLEND IN: A large handful of stars and the fragrant scent of an evergreen tree

MIX: Into a family circle with a large scoop of love,  
A child's smile,  
The sparkle in his eye,  
The touch of a red-nosed reindeer,  
A sprig of mistletoe

Set mixture beside the fire in the warmth of that age-old tiding "Peace on Earth"

GARNISH WITH: The light of the Star in the East

SERVE: To the tune of a favorite Christmas Carol

NUMBER OF SERVINGS: Will serve all people everywhere

COST PER SERVING: Absolutely nothing

