



# Deer Lake Watershed News

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

Volume 25, Spring 2014



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Deer Lake Watershed Assn  
Officers 2013-2014:

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President

**Denny Carlson**  
Vice President

**Lois Master**  
Treasurer

**Art Lind**  
Secretary

**Chad Lovdahl**  
Board Member

**Jim Kush**  
Board Member

**Denny and Sue Carlson**  
Newsletter Editors

## President's Corner by Jerry Blair

It looks like winter is finally coming to an end. This summer, we will be raffling off a cedar log swing. The plan is to sell no more than 200 tickets at \$5.00 each. We will be displaying it on the day of the flotilla, and the 5K run, with the drawing held at the annual meeting in August. The money will be used for upcoming projects such as the CCC Camp project or new dam project.



Your President,  
Jerry Blair

## We say Good Bye to long time resident

Ivy Verna Neshaim Dunlap was born in the Brainerd, MN area. She went to a one room school and then carpooled into Brainerd to finish high school. She worked several jobs in the Brainerd area before migrating to the San Diego, CA area to work in a defense plant cutting aircraft parts for assembly into bombers.

After the war, she returned to the Brainerd area. She started a family and finally migrated to the Bigfork and Effie area in 1952. She stopped at Deer Lake Charlies and asked Vega Blackmer if there was anyone in the area needing help. She said there was an "old" guy up the road who needed help cleaning cabins, Harold Dunlap. She was hired immediately. She worked that summer with her son and daughter, living up on the top of the hill in a log cabin. Ivy married her boss, Harold, that winter and we moved into the big house.

Our brother Norman came along to complete our family.

Ivy and Harold continued to run the resort,

**Editor's Note:** Ivy Dunlap, long time resident of Deer Lake and the owner/operator of Camp Deer Resort worked long and hard during the summer months serving the many guests who returned year after year to her resort. A common site after Saturday change-over of many cabins was seeing Ivy washing and hanging out dozens of sheets and pillow cases for the new group coming to camp. We will miss Ivy.

Camp Deer, until his passing in 1970. Ivy, then with son Norman, ran the resort from then on. In the spring of 2012, Ivy decided she was going to retire from resort work and moved into the Bigfork Valley Community home. She immediately changed her

mind, but toughed it out anyway.

According to the staff at Balsam Hall, Ivy was the best folder of towels among the residents.

Ivy was an excellent cook. Her cinnamon rolls were reknowned. She was also an accomplished seamstress.

Ivy is survived by 3 children, James (Emily), Katherine Crowell, and Norman, 3 grand children and 6 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband Harold, brother Kenneth Nesheim, sister Alice Van Geest, son-in-law, Howard Crowell, and parents Ludwig and Mae Nesheim.

There is going to be a celebration of life in late July.

# More Deer Lake Watershed History by Lawrence Blackmer

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In the early 1900's, the loggers came into Deer Lake by way of Deer Creek which flows into the Bigfork River. They built a log dam at the mouth of Deer Creek. This raised the water levels on Deer, Pickerel and Battle Lakes so they could cut all the big Norway and White Pine logs in the area and then float them down to the Bigfork River and on to the sawmill. At that time, the watershed was huge because of all the dammed up water. Much of the pine was cut east of Battle Lake near the Stitz Ranch. Horses and oxen would skid the logs to Battle Lake. The lakes were kept very high at this time.

When they removed the log dam on Deer Creek, all the water levels receded down to normal levels. In fact, the levels became too low, so in about 1936, the CCC Camp on Deer Lake built a cement dam on Deer Creek to stabilize the water level.

After the logging, there were still no roads into Deer Lake. That is when my parents went up Deer Creek by boat to Deer Lake and built Hideaway Inn Resort. When I was born in 1927, we were still traveling by boat. Fishing was great and the watershed had cleared up nicely after the logging. The outboard motor was worth its weight in gold. Everything was brought in by boat.

There was an old logging trail from Togo to Stitz Ranch and on to the east shore of Battle Lake. In the summer during a dry spell, some of the iron ore miners from Hibbing would push and pull their way in close enough to Battle Lake so they could camp on the lakeshore overnight and do some fishing. Sometimes in the evening on a still day, my folks could hear the fishermen on Battle Lake singing and calling and having a little party. One day in midsummer, Dad came into the lodge at Hideaway and said, "The guys on Battle Lake must be having quite a party. They have been noisy and carrying on for a long time." The next day in the afternoon, an outboard came across the lake to our shore. It was the St. Louis County Sheriff and he said that three Hibbing miners had drowned in Battle Lake. Dad told him we heard the shouting but thought it was just another party. Dad was upset because he thought he might have been able to get over there and save them if he had known they were in trouble.

In about 1931, County Road 533 was built from Highway No. 1 to Hideaway Inn, soon after, the Deer Lake CCC Camp was built. The camp had equipment and

built more roads, including the Roller Coaster which opened up more of the watershed. The CCC boys came from all over, and it seemed quite a few came from Missouri. One of them by the name of Jack Meredith married a local girl, Vera Roots and moved back to Missouri. The Root family lived along Highway No. 1 going toward Effie. Dad would drive my brother Chuck and I to a little one room school called Horton. It was about half way from Deer Lake to Effie. There was no school bus out our way in those days. One day, the Roots boys told us that Jack Meredith and a buddy had stopped in at their house to visit and to do some fishing. They had shown the Roots boys some big caliber pistols and let them shoot at targets. A few days later, we heard that the local law officers stopped at the Roots home to arrest Meredith and his friends for kidnapping and theft down in Missouri. Meredith tried to run and was shot down right in Roots yard in front of the family. This was pretty exciting stuff for us up here in the wilderness.

The old cement dam the CCC camp built on Deer Creek is deteriorating and has safety issues. The DNR has plans to put in a new nature-friendly type dam as soon as funding is available.

**JUNE 9th:**

## **Meeting and presentation on the new Rock Arch Rapids Dam with Fish Passage**

The first phase of the proposal for establishing a new modification of the existing cement dam on Deer Creek has been designed. Phase 2 is now ready for a grant proposal to be written for funding. The DLWA will work cooperatively with the DNR Divisions of Water and Ecology and Fish and Wildlife.

Jeff, Tillma, Stream Habitat Specialist with the DNR, will present a summary and update on the progress and feasibility of this project becoming a reality.

We urge all watershed members and friends of the watershed to mark their calendars for this important meeting on June 9, 2014, at Deer Lake Charlies at 7:00 p.m.

Well, we have had a good old-fashioned winter, haven't we? Instead of us senior citizens going back to "I remember how cold it was back in the old days", we can all now go back to how bad it was in 2013 and 2014 for our reference point, or maybe we should just try to forget it! Speaking of reference points, I always like to use the size of the snow drift at Camp Deer, where it banks up on the north side of the old minnow room and the block utility building. It's a good barometer of the ferocity of the winter's snow, wind, and cold. I would guess the drift had to be close to 10 feet tall by this March. As kids we used to go down and dig snow tunnels in that drifted area with the Gardner girls whose parents owned the resort at that time. You could stand up in those tunnels.

On a more spring-like note, the sap is starting to run (it's April 9th), the geese and swans are honking, a few ducks are around with one sighting of a robin so we've turned the corner to spring. We should have a good summer coming up. With all the snow our lakes and creeks should be replenished with water, and hopefully more soil moisture for a good berry year.

Deer Lake will now be stocked every year with about 900,000 Walleye fry instead of every other year with 1.3 million fry. The DNR Fisheries feels there should be a better chance of survival stocking every year in case the fry happened to be stocked on a bad survival year. Our existing 17" - 26" Walleye protected slot limit will continue on Deer, Pickerel, and Battle Lakes for five more years, after which the DNR Fisheries will survey and decide if there can be adjustments in the protected slot sizes. Hopefully, we can observe an increase in the Walleye per net pull population. Limits remain the same. Bluegills seem to be holding their own with a 10 fish limit still in place. Anglers are

reminded to throw back the large 9" plus Bluegills to keep the gene pool available for growing larger Bluegills in the lake. A reminder too, you can only keep one Northern Pike over 30 inches in your possession limit.

Our Watershed Board had a good meeting with DNR Fisheries Supervisor, Chris Kavanaugh and biologist Dave Weitzal in December. We appreciated being involved in their decision making for the management plan for Deer, Pickerel, and Battle Lakes. The meeting was candid with both the DNR and watershed trying to work together to do what's best for our lakes and fishing. Also, the fishing survey log that some of you filled out and returned was appreciated by the fisheries department. I will enclose one more survey diary with this newsletter so if you can please remember to fill it in when you go fishing you will be helping determine our fish management direction and outcomes.

We are still waiting to have the former CCC Camp area on Deer Lake logged off. The logger, Mike Reiger, has assured me that he will try to log the area in late July or early August this summer. This would allow us to get started on our plan for clean-up and mapping. Let's all get ready for a great summer at the lake. It's been long winter!

A few other reminders for this summer's activities: Our "Fun Run" will be on Sunday, July 13, instead of our usual Saturday start. We are hoping the "fun" aspect will attract and appeal to the sociability of the event to just enter and walk with your neighbors and friends. The membership form is inserted in this newsletter. Also, get your raffle tickets for the Cedar Post Swing Set to be drawn at our annual meeting on Aug. 9.

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## Mark your calendars:

**Late May/early June:** Repair and upgrade gravel portion of Co. Rd. 533

**Saturday, May 9 -26:** Bass Lake Canister site one-time clean-up, appliances, scrap metal, tires (no rims), furniture, no electronics

**Saturday, May 17:** 9:00 a.m., Deer Lake Charlies, Road side clean-up, Deer Creek dam clean-up

**Monday, June 9:** 7:00 p.m. Deer Lake Charlies, New Deer Creek dam proposal and discussion

**Friday, July 4:** Deer Lake Flotilla, noon start in Hideaway Bay

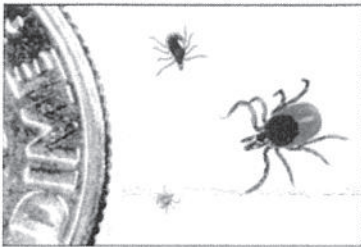
**Sunday, July 13:** 9:00 a.m., 3rd Annual 5-K fun Walk/Run (Registration form inserted in newsletter)

**Saturday, August 9th,** 5:00 p.m.: 12th Annual Meeting/Potluck at Deer Lake Charlies



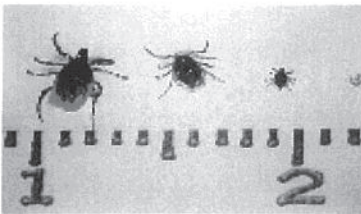
## DEER TICKS

Lyme disease is an illness that may affect the skin, joints, nervous system, heart, and other areas of the body. People of all ages can get Lyme disease, which is caused by the bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The bacteria are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected deer tick. The deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) is also called the black legged tick



*Enlarged stages of the deer tick appear next to an enlarged dime.*

Top: Nymph  
 Lower Left: Larva  
 Right: Adult female



*Blacklegged tick (deer tick) life stages next to a metric ruler. The adult ticks (two ticks at the left) are approximately 1/8 of an inch long, while the nymph (third from left) is just under 1/16 of an inch.*

The images shown below represent the approximate sizes during different stages of a tick's life.

- *Larvae*

A deer tick starts as a 6-legged larva, which does not transmit disease.

- *Nymph*

Most cases of tick-borne disease are caused by the nymph, which looks like a freckle or speck of dirt. The nymph feeds from May through July.



- *Adult*

The larger adult ticks feed in fall and early spring, and are easier to see and remove. After feeding on deer, the female lays her eggs, which hatch into larvae in May and June. Only the nymphs and adult female can transmit disease. The adult female has a reddish-orange back.



- *Engorged adult female deer tick*



- *Wood ticks (also called dog ticks)*

Larger than deer ticks, wood ticks have white markings on their back and do not transmit Lyme disease, human anaplasmosis, or babesiosis.

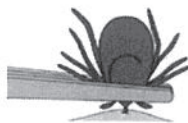
# TICK-BORNE DISEASE Signs and Symptoms



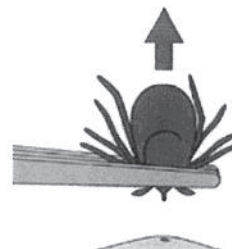
The following are the most common tick-borne illnesses diagnosed in Minnesota. If you are bitten by a tick, take quick action to remove it and watch for signs and symptoms of illness. If you begin to feel ill, visit a clinic as soon as possible.

DISEASE	SIGNS	SYMPTOMS
<p><b><u>Lyme Disease</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmitted via bite from an infected deer tick carrying the Lyme bacterium</li> <li>• Infected tick must be attached for 24-48 hours</li> </ul>	<p>Within 3-30 days after bite, look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ A distinctive bullseye shaped rash</li> <li>⇒ Fever</li> <li>⇒ Chills</li> <li>⇒ Headache</li> <li>⇒ Muscle and joint pain</li> </ul>	<p>Other symptoms that may appear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Multiple rashes</li> <li>⇒ Facial paralysis on one side</li> <li>⇒ Fever</li> <li>⇒ Stiff neck</li> <li>⇒ Headache</li> <li>⇒ Irregular heart beat</li> <li>⇒ Dizziness and heart palpitations</li> <li>⇒ Persistent weakness and fatigue</li> <li>⇒ Weakness, numbness or pain in arms and legs</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Anaplasmosis</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmitted via bite from an infected deer tick carrying the bacterium</li> <li>• Infected tick must be attached for 12-24 hours</li> </ul>	<p>Within 1-2 weeks after bite, look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Fever above 102 degrees</li> <li>⇒ Severe headache</li> <li>⇒ Muscle aches</li> <li>⇒ Chills and shaking</li> </ul>	<p>Less frequent symptoms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Nausea and vomiting</li> <li>⇒ Loss of appetite</li> <li>⇒ Weight loss</li> <li>⇒ Abdominal pain</li> <li>⇒ Aching joints</li> <li>⇒ Change in mental state</li> <li>⇒ Diarrhea</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Babesiosis</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmitted via bite from an infected deer tick carrying microscopic parasites that infect red blood cells</li> <li>• Tick must be attached for 24-36 hours</li> </ul>	<p>Within 1-3 weeks after bite, look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Fatigue</li> <li>⇒ Headache</li> <li>⇒ Loss of appetite</li> <li>⇒ General malaise</li> </ul>	<p>Other symptoms that may appear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ High Fever</li> <li>⇒ Chills</li> <li>⇒ Muscle aches</li> <li>⇒ Nausea</li> <li>⇒ Vomiting</li> <li>⇒ Anemia</li> </ul>

## HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE AN EMBEDDED TICK



1. Grasp the tick close to the skin with a pair of tweezers.
2. Pull the tick outward slowly, gently, and steadily.
3. Don't squeeze the tick.
4. Use antiseptic on the bite.



# Season to Season by Helen Stensrud

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"**Everything changes,**" said our wise friend, and time after time we find it to be true.

Winter will change to spring -- soon, more or less. That will be a change. The snow will melt, trees will leaf out, and in the (near?) future the lake will sparkle in the sun, reflecting new leaves, your boat, and maybe a great blue heron fishing near the shore -- a very big change from our view these days. Just imagine, we'll even hear loons. Loons! **Everything Changes!**

This bitterly cold winter we remembered years when we enjoyed winter hikes warmly dressed, but usually not for 32 below! We recalled seeing many tracks in the snow, tracks of deer, wolves and partridge, and snowshoe hare and fox prints in abundance.

This year fewer deer made their rounds, we saw wolf tracks only once, and winter birds were not at the feeders in their usual number. Like some of us, they may have gone farther south to thaw out for a while.

At home we did some work, read some books, checked out the news (sometimes) and talked often to family and friends -- oh, and watched TV! All that is in the past, though. At least we hope the deep cold is gone, and now as always we live in the changeable present -- call it still winter, almost spring, or (use your own expression here). Keep your eyes open because as you know, **Everything Changes!**

How are things at your house? Many have their gardens planned and seeds ordered. Won't the ground warm quickly when the snow melts? We can wash windows when it's warmer, so now may be the time to

clean a closet, cabinet or drawer, or a couple of each. Maybe we need only one junk drawer after all. The garage-cleaning can wait, the planting will wait, the boating must wait. What will we do with all this time? No problem, is it? Spring cleaning will never hold our attention like a garden, tackle box, or a lawn chair in the sun, but spring will come and you know why -- **Everything Changes!**

When we meet this spring and summer we'll ask what's new with you. We'll want to know how you and your family are doing, and if you put in some tomatoes.

We'll wonder if you finished the remodeling or painted a room or two. We'll hope you took time to watch the sky, look up a new bird, or count how many kinds of frogs, or if you prefer, dragonflies, you see in your yard.

We'll wish each other warm days, cool nights, a cup of tea or coffee on a sunny afternoon and enough lemonade or whatever to go around at our get-togethers. Oh, and good fishing, at least now and then. Summer will come -- to our amazement, no doubt -- because as the wise man said, **Everything Changes!**

Meanwhile, let's not run out of hope, but let's pay attention to what may melt and disappear from the lake, what may leaf out, grow, blossom and bear fruit, and what may sing, chirp or hoot, crawl, swim, run or fly by in your neck of the woods and ours, because one thing is certain, one thing you can always depend on is -- **Everything Changes!** All right then!

Helen Stensrud April 2014

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**3RD ANNUAL  
DLWA 5K  
FUN WALK RUN  
SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014  
9:00 am Start Time**



A community event for friends and neighbors to gather and run, walk, or crawl 3.1 miles along scenic County Road 533, from the top of the hill at mail box 66533 to the finish line at Deer Lake Charlie's.

**A fun way to meet your watershed neighbors!!!**

**Look for registration form insert in this newsletter**

# Deer Lake Watershed Association Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your 2015 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, 2015**

Please Print or Type

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: (please check one)

Regular (\$20/year)    Lifetime (\$500 paid for life)    Contributor (\$100)    Donor (\$50)    Other

**We need volunteers to make our DLWA grow and grow!**

Would you like to be an officer or member of the Board?   \_\_\_ Yes   \_\_\_ No

Or you can volunteer to be a Committee Member in a Committee of your choice.

# 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FLOTILLA



**Friday, July 4th, 2014**

Noon start at Hideaway Bay  
Refreshments and awards following  
flotilla parade, sponsored by DLWA.

**Start planning your theme!**



Deer Lake Watershed Association  
 PO Box 23  
 Effie, MN 56639

**12th ANNUAL MEETING  
 and POTLUCK  
 August 9, 2014, 5:00 p.m.  
 Deer Lake Charlies  
 Presentation:  
 Deer Creek Rock Arch Rapid Dam  
 -- Election of new board members --  
 -- Great food, door prizes, socializing --  
 --Drawing for Cedar Swing Set--**

## 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  
 T.I.P Hotline .....1-800-652-9093

County Highway Engineer .....218-327-2853  
 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

The Raptor Center ..... 612-624-4745

## WEBSITES

MN DNR: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) MN PCA: [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)  
 MN Lakes Association: [www.mnlakesassn.org](http://www.mnlakesassn.org) DLWA Website: [www.deerlakewatershed.org](http://www.deerlakewatershed.org)  
 MN Shoreland Management Guide: [www.shorelandmanagement.org](http://www.shorelandmanagement.org)