



August 27, 2021  
Volume 20, Issue 2

## Inside this Issue

- 1 - President's Corner  
- Future Projects  
- State of the Lake
- 2 - Drought!  
- Join our Association  
- New Directory!  
- SLA Marketplace
- 3 - Purple Loosestrife

Serpent Lake Association  
P.O. Box 580  
Deerwood, MN 56444

**SLA Board meetings:**  
The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 9, 2021, at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood.

Anyone interested in lake issues has an open invitation to participate, attend board meetings, and sit on any number of committees. New ideas and new faces are always welcome!

**The SLA appreciates the continuing and significant support by Deerwood Bank for printing & mailing our newsletters, Oars N Mine for all of the buoy work, and Salem Lutheran Church for our monthly Board meetings.**

# Serpent Lake Water Watch

*A Newsletter from the Serpent Lake Association*

## President's Corner

*Jerry Hartl*

Thank you to all who have put their trust in me to become the next SLA president. First, I must give much praise and accolades to all of our previous board members and presidents. Terry Tichenor you have been the driving force in turning Serpent Lake and its water quality around!

As president, I will work towards keeping our lake's waters in great shape. Continue dealing with the treatments of Curly Pondweed CPL, watching for trends on zebra mussels and other issues as they arise. We are relatively new to Serpent Lake with the purchase of our lake home in December of 2016. My career has been in print and promotion. While a volunteer board member, I took on the opportunity to create our new directory and branding our association with a new image. We have also been working with our local businesses to build a network for future partnerships and donations. We are actively building community through our monthly association socials. Come out and meet with your fellow lake neighbors you will not find a better network of wonderful and fun lake neighbors!

Future projects that would be of interest to our lake owners and businesses of Crosby. At some point in the future a partnership with businesses & city for planning new public docks, making boat/pontoon parking spaces available for lake owners near Crosby Park. Many lakes in Minnesota have city docks and Serpent Lake should have docks too! Many lake owners and guest would enjoy short walks into downtown Crosby for meals, drinks and shopping from our waters.

**State of the Lake: Water quality & Drought is the word from our summer into fall 2021!**

### Water Quality:

This past spring all of the identified Curly Pondweed (CPW) beds had been treated. If you are finding new beds around your property, please reach out to us so that we can locate them for future treatments. Our water quality expert Arlen Bowen will document any new CLP beds in Serpent. Come next spring the process of visiting them, tossing rakes, and plotting them on a map and planning for the aggressive treatment next spring with the approval of the DNR. This represents one of our major expenditures for 2022 at an estimated \$15,000-\$30,000.

## September 1, 2021

Based on number and size of beds identified located.

Our water quality testing volunteers have been busy checking and testing over the summer. The results have been outstanding!!! These are the recent Serpent Lake Secchi disk readings:

6/4/21	24.0 feet
6/14/21	25.5 feet
6/25/21	27.0 feet
7/7/21	32.0 feet
7/14/21	35.5 feet

Factors that have helped in gaining these clarity numbers is the lack of rain water runoff. In addition to test points in Serpent, we also will be sampling Peterson and Cranberry Lakes. We are always looking for new volunteers to take part in our water testing especially some of our local youth who are interested in the science of water conservation. Interested parties please e-mail Arlen Bowen [bowen@brainerd.net](mailto:bowen@brainerd.net) or me [jerry.hartl@comcast.net](mailto:jerry.hartl@comcast.net)

### Drought!

We have been living through a period of significant drought conditions. All lake owners have been affected with the need to move boat lifts out into deeper waters and or purchasing more docks. We have moved all the shallow water markers out into deeper water. Be careful when boating in shallow waters not to hit props or lower units finding the rocks. Wake board boats should stay out in deeper water not to cut weeds or churn up the lake bottom. As the season ends without any significant rain this issue will continue to worsen. Keep a close watch out for your boats

and pontoons not to get stuck on lifts. Many local boat and barge companies are sending out warnings that they will be busy removing boats for storage and lifts for the upcoming winter. They will not have the time to take boats that are stuck on lifts!

We have several areas for water to enter Serpent Lake but all are dry. We have one outlet that the city has control over. The DNR dictates what the outlet logs need to be set at that the city of Crosby maintains. We have had boards getting pulled out during the summer by some persons. We notify the city of Crosby and DNR when they have been tampered with. Looking for volunteers to keep check on the outlet and report any future tampering.

**Please renew or join our association:** If there is no **red slash** on your address label, we thank you for your membership contribution and support to our association. **If there is a red slash** on your address label, it indicates we have not received your membership dues for the 2021-2022 year (our fiscal year runs May to May). When you join or renew your membership will receive our brand new directory! We are as efficient as possible with the use of your Association Budget; all board members, water testers, road clean-up crews and buoy maintainers are unpaid volunteers. As discussed earlier, the big-ticket planning item in our annual budget for the Serpent Lake Association is the planned \$15,000-\$30,000 per year to treat the one invasive species we can fight which is CLP. The consequence of not treating this weed every year

## Water Watch – Page 2

would be unnavigable waters caused by weed-mats and loss of property values around the lake.

We very much appreciate those members contributing over and above their dues to the Serpent Lake Preservation Fund because it is this fund with which we cover the weed control cost and water testing lab fees. I highly encourage those property owners who are not members to join, pay the dues and a make contribution to the preservation fund to keep our water as weed-managed as possible! Please send us a check directly with a \$.55 stamp it will save us on the middleman charges.

### Our New directory is available:

Paid up current dues will give you our new directory. Check out all of our local supporting businesses who took out ads. Learn about the history of our lake and see what efforts have been made to turn Serpent lake water quality around. Buy an extra copy or two for only \$10 each! Keep one on your watercraft for easy look up of your old and new friends' locations / docks on the lake.

### New Serpent Lake Association Marketplace:

Red Threads one of our local businesses partners is helping us promote our association with the printing and embroidering of our new branded shirts, hats and other items. Our new digital marketplace can be located on the Serpent lake website <http://serpentlake.org/> Look for the link. Or go to [www.redthreadsmn.com/serpent-lake-association](http://www.redthreadsmn.com/serpent-lake-association). With every purchase made 20% of the sales will come back to our

September 1, 2021

association to be used on future lake projects. The site is very new and Mandi will be expanding it over time. She can produce kid sizes when you are ordering. It is a great time to think about Holiday gifts for family and friends who love our lake and area.

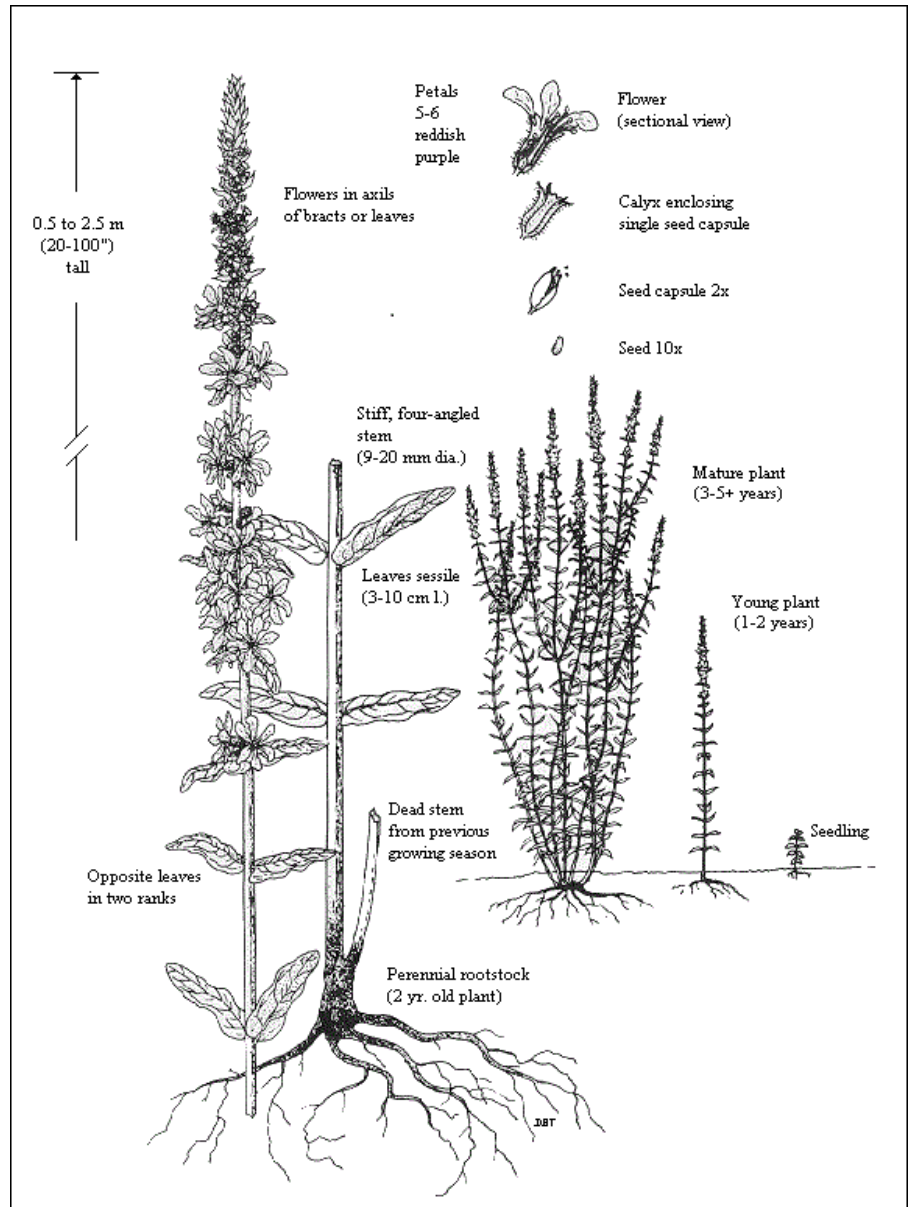
**Purple Loosestrife:**

This is another evasive plant that has been located along the shores of Serpent Lake above the water line. Attached is a diagram that shows you how to identify this plant. It is easy to identify with the purple flowers and leaflet design. This plant needs to be pulled out by the roots and put into the garbage can for removal. This time of year, mark the plant location and pull it out next summer before it blooms. The blooms hold seeds that can fall and spread when pulling.

Thank you for your interest & attention.

See you on the lake or at our next social!

Jerry Hartl  
22117 Ministers Point Road  
651 260 0145  
Jerry.hartl@comcast.net



**Serpent Lake Association**  
**P.O. Box 580**  
**Deerwood, MN 56444**



**DEERWOOD  
BANK**

*Thank you to Deerwood Bank for their  
continuing support of our lake association by  
providing printing and postage for the  
newsletter.*

### Questions? Comments? Ideas?

If you would like to contribute to or inquire about our newsletter, please contact Jane Busche at 218-591-3731.

For membership inquiries, please contact Debby Leonard at 534-9274 or [leon0005@charter.net](mailto:leon0005@charter.net)

Extra copies of the SLA Membership Directory are available to Association members for \$10; please contact your Zone Leader or call Ellen Uglem at 218-866-0012.

[www.SerpentLake.org](http://www.SerpentLake.org)

**Your 2021-2022 SLA membership is not current if you have a red checkmark on your address label. Dues run from June 2021-May 2022. Please fill in this form and mail it with your \$35 payment to:**

**Serpent Lake Association, P.O. Box 580, Deerwood, MN 56444**

Name or names at lake property: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake property address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:  ANNUAL DUES (\$35)  SLA LAKE PRESERVATION FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_