



September 19, 2022
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Inside this Issue

- 1 - President's Corner
 - New SLA Website
 - Membership Dues and Preservation Fund Donations
- 2 - Lake Monitoring
 - Adopt-a-Buoy
 - Boat Inspections – Inspectors
 - Crosby Outlet
 - SLA Marketplace
 - Ice Safety
 - Garbage on the Ice
- 3 - Starry Stonewort
 - Roadside Cleanup

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

The next SLA Board meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 8, 2022, 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

We hope that everyone had a fun and safe boating season on our Serpent Lake. September is here and not too much longer, the trees will start to turn colors and fall yard clean up starts. We dread this time of year the most with pulling out our docks & lifts, storing our boats, and raking leaves!

Thinking of fall cleanup, please try to keep leaves from getting into the lake. Leaves will increase our phosphorus levels. One of the key pollutants is phosphorus (P), which is a component of organic materials such as leaves and grass clippings, pet waste, fertilizers and eroded soil. All water bodies receive phosphorus from the atmosphere and natural decomposition of aquatic plants, but problems “bloom” when they receive excessive deposits of nutrients from other sources. Leaves, pet waste, and fertilizer reach our surface waters when they are carried into storm drains by rain running off of lawns, parking lots, and other hard surfaces. This is called external loading.

Please consider making a buffer at your water's edge. This includes stop cutting your lawn 10-12 feet up from the shore and let nature take its course. I have stopped cutting our lakefront for 2 years now and was surprised to see the various flowering plants that have appeared.

New SLA Website:

Watch for emails and Facebook post for the link to our new website. Email blasts will be sent now via Mailchimp. This will make sending out information much quicker and easier. We will have the ability to send out targeted emails to notify members to pay membership dues. The website will have credit card payment capability for membership dues and preservation fund donations. If you are not receiving emails from us, we need to get your new email address. Don't be left out. Send us your email addresses to info@serpentlake.org and we will add to our listings. Your email address will stay private and will only be used to contact you with the lake association news and updates.

Membership Dues and Preservation Fund Donations:

Our membership last year set a record for our association. However, we are currently lagging behind on our renewals year-to-date. We really appreciate those who have paid and look forward to those members to be paid in full soon. The new fiscal year started on June 1, 2022 and ends May 31, 2023.

All board members, water testers, road clean-up crews, and buoy maintainers are all unpaid volunteers. The big-ticket planning item in our annual budget for the Serpent Lake Association is the \$15,000-\$30,000 per year to treat the one invasive species, Curly Pond Leaf (CPL). The consequence of not treating these weeds every year

September 19, 2022

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 contribute to the preservation fund to keep our lake healthy and clean. Remember, SLA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and your contributions are tax deductible.

Lake Monitoring:

Dave Smith with Kathy Robinson and Terry Tichenor will continue to collect water samples and measure clarity on Serpent, Peterson and Cranberry lakes. This data collection has been critical to gaining state grants and developing lake projects to keep our Serpent Lake healthy. Dave Smith has received the required training with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and is certified to conduct our lake monitoring. If anyone is interested and wants to get involved in helping out, let us know. We can always use more assistance.

Adopt-a-Buoy Update:

We have had a number of lake members step up and donate the \$150 for buoy naming rights. We have a large lake map board that displays all those who have donated. We have 10 buoys remaining to be adopted and have naming rights. Don't miss out! Please donate and adopt a buoy.

Boat Inspector / Inspections: For 2023 season in Deerwood

We contracted with Crow Wing County for additional inspector hours at the Deerwood boat landing trying to match the hours at the Crosby landings. Obtaining the

resources to cover the required hours was not successful. CWC and our association will pay any newly hired inspectors. If anyone is interested or knows someone interested in working part or full time next season @ \$15.00 per hour, please contact Crow Wing County 218-822-7030 or online www.crowwing.us/careers

Outlet - Crosby

Looks like the City of Crosby has been successful in securing the stop log in our lake's outlet. There were no issues with the outlet board being removed. We are very thankful for a solid solution and great summer weather to maintain lake levels!

Please renew your dues or join our lake association: Please keep your membership up to date. \$35 is not a huge price to pay and it all helps us with the expenses that come along with keeping our waters clean and healthy. This September newsletter, 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 yet received your membership dues for the 2022-2023 year (our fiscal year runs June 1st to May 31st).

Serpent Lake Association Marketplace:

It is not too early to plan ahead for your holiday gift shopping. Look to Red Threads to help with your purchases for Serpent Lake merchandise. Find items that make you look sharp with the printing and embroidering of our branded shirts, hats and other items. Our digital marketplace can be located on the Serpent Lake Association's new website under the members tab at the top. Click and drop down to Serpent Lake Apparel or go to www.redthreadsmn.com/serpent-lake-association. With every purchase, 20% of the price will

Water Watch – Page 2

come back to our association to be used on future lake projects.

Minnesota DNR Ice Safety Tips for Our Next Season on Serpent Lake

Ice is never 100% safe! The Minnesota DNR does not measure ice thickness on Minnesota lakes.

Guidelines for New, Clear Ice ONLY:

- UNDER 4" – STAY OFF!
- 4" – Ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" – 7" – Snow mobile or ATV
- 8" – 12" – Car or small pickup
- 12" – 15" – Medium truck

DOUBLE the above thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice!

White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

Your safety is your responsibility. Check ice thickness at least every 150 feet. Ice is seldom the same thickness over a single body of water; it can be two feet thick in one place and one inch thick a few yards away.

If you decide to drive a vehicle on the ice of any lake or river, cars, pickups or SUVs should be parked at least 50 feet apart and moved every two hours to prevent sinking.

Tip: Make a hole next to the car. If water starts to overflow the top of the hole – the ice is sinking and it's time to move the vehicle!

Don't Leave Any Waste Or Garbage on the Ice!

Everyone should take off the ice whatever he or she brings on the ice.

Items left behind by anglers can run the gamut from cigarette butts to bait to plastic bottles and beverage cans to slabs of wood used to prop up fish houses. In addition, remnants from

September 19, 2022

campfires on the ice are detrimental to the health of lakes and rivers.

Plan ahead:

- Make a plan for trash and waste removal before you arrive.
- Use colored garbage bags, especially in snowy conditions on the ice.
- Take time before departing the ice and make sure you leave only footprints behind.
- Secure your garbage before traveling.

Leaving trash on the ice is against the law, and could earn offenders a citation and a \$100 fine, plus court fees. Conservation officers do hand out tickets for littering.

Let's focus on leaving no trace!

Starry Stonewort:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the invasive algae starry stonewort in Bowen Lake near Backus and Thunder Lake near Remer in Cass County and in Turtle River Lake near the City of Turtle River in Beltrami County. It has also been located in Lake Bemidji & Leach Lake.

Follow-up surveys are being conducted to determine the extent of starry stonewort distribution in these lakes.

The Bowen Lake sample was confirmed by New York Botanical Garden scientist Kenneth G. Karol as part of a statewide study to assess the distribution and diversity of native and non-native macro algae. Funding for this research was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

The DNR Invasive Species Program, local governments, lake associations and private contractors often work

together on initial responses and any ongoing management actions. Funds are available for an immediate response at Bowen and Turtle River Lakes that could include hand pulling, herbicide applications and other methods as appropriate.

Starry stonewort has never been eradicated from any U.S. lake or river, but treatment or careful removal can help reduce the risk of spread and alleviate nuisance impacts on water-related recreational activities. Early detection is key to effective management.

Starry stonewort has now been confirmed in 21 water bodies in Minnesota. It was first confirmed in Minnesota in 2015.

In late summer and early fall, starry stonewort's small white star-shaped bulbils become more visible, making it easier to distinguish from other aquatic plants. Information on how to identify starry stonewort can be found on the [DNR's website](#). If people think they have found starry stonewort or any other invasive species new to a lake or river, they should report it to the DNR by contacting their [area invasive species specialist](#).

Starry stonewort is an alga that looks similar to native aquatic plants and can form dense mats, which can interfere with lake use and compete with native plants. It is most likely spread when fragments have not been properly cleaned from trailered boats, personal watercraft, docks, boatlifts, anchors or other water-related equipment.

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- **Clean** watercraft, trailers and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.

Water Watch – Page 3

- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Never release** bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- **Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days** before moving them from one water body to another.
- **Spray** with high-pressure water or **rinse** with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- **Dry** watercraft and equipment for at least five days before using in another water body.



Dave Smith and I have been trained to identify and conduct inspections across our lake with focus at the Serpent Lake's boat landings for this invasive weed. We are happy to report that none has been found to date.

Thank you to all who support the Serpent Lake Association.

See you on the lake or at one of our next socials!

Jerry Hartl
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651 260 0145
jerry.hartl@comcast.net

Our Fall Roadside Cleanup

Our association's roadside cleanup will be on October 8, 2022, after our monthly board meeting. Volunteers are needed and appreciated! Safety vests and garbage bags will be provided.

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 218-534-9274 or 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

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 dues 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 \$ _____
