



January 16, 2023
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Serpent Lake Association
P.O. Box 580
Deerwood, MN 56444

The next SLA Board meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2023, 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 everyone had a fun and safe holiday season! The past summer came and went so quickly as I am sure this winter will do the same. Winter is in full swing now and we need to get outside to enjoy the beauty of this season. Take in the quiet that winter brings and renew the spirit. Personally, I am looking forward to spending some time out ice fishing or skating if ice conditions are right on our lake. This winter should be like our past winter with lots of snow. When springs warmth comes and melts the snow, we hope it is plentiful enough to fill Serpent Lake from the drought this past fall.

Boat Ramps - Crosby:

This past fall we had some lake owners distressed when trying to pull out the longer wakeboard boats due to the shorter ramp with the longer trailers. Last year, we had the City of Crosby contract with a local company to have gravel dropped in to fill up the blow hole, which is positioned at the end of the ramp, which was a temporary fix. The blow hole is created by boaters driving hard up on to the boat trailers. This causes the gravel to blow/move away from the concrete pads forming a

large divot beyond the concrete pads. Larger boats with longer trailers need longer boat ramp with concrete pads. Without this fix, longer boat trailers may experience damage when attempting to get the longer trailer out of the divot onto the concrete pads. The City of Crosby is working with the DNR to get permits to install more concrete pads extending the landing to accommodate the longer trailers. Only one of the ramps will be extended and will be marked as to which ramp will work for the longer boats.

Ice Fishing Contest:

This coming February 4, 2023, the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber will be hosting the 19th Annual Ice Fishing and Scorpion Homecoming. Come out and see us on the lake. We hope to partner again with Roth RV to supply us an icehouse. We will be giving out free cups of hot cocoa and sending our message "Leave No Trace" and keep our Serpent Lake clean. The Chamber will help us promote our association with our business community and all who come out onto Serpent Lake.

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Spring CLP Weed Treatments:

Last spring, SLA secured \$1,500 DNR grants for both 2022 & 2023 seasons. Unfortunately, the treatment cost our association \$20,000 last spring due to the increase treatment costs and larger areas to be treated. We hope the treatments from last season will reduce the areas needing to be treated and therefore reduce cost for this upcoming season. The treatment company, PLM, has been very effective in removing the weeds and not killing our good lake weeds. The DNR grants help offset a small portion of the costs for inspections and treatments, but the majority is covered by our memberships and donations. Thank you for your continued support.

Boat Inspector / Inspections:

We contracted with Crow Wing County for additional inspector hours at the Deerwood Boat Landing last season. We could not find anyone wanting the position. The position is funded in partnership with Crow Wing County and SLA will be responsible for some additional charges. Again, if anyone is interested or knows someone interested in working part or full time @ \$15.00 per hour, please contact Crow Wing County 218-822-7030 or online www.crowwing.us/careers. Tell them you want to work at the Deerwood Boat Landing on Serpent Lake.

Annual Meeting June 2023

Mark your calendars for the Annual State of The Lake meeting which has been scheduled for:

When: Saturday, June 3th

Where: Deerwood at Salem Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall.

Time: 8:00 AM with Registration & Social with coffee and donuts from MacDaddy's Donut Garage.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Meeting. Guest speakers and report out on the health of the lake.

Last year we had a larger raffle with many items donated by our local business community. Thanks to Jane Busche for collecting so many items last spring.

New SLA Website - <http://serpentlake.org/>

Our new website is now up and running. Take some time this winter and have a look around. We have lots of information that can be found with only a few clicks away. With the new website comes the ability to make donations, renew memberships, etc. No more writing checks and mailing in with stamped envelopes. The website provides quicker and easier ways to renew memberships and make donations. But don't worry, we will also be appreciative and able to receive donations and memberships by check, too.

Email Addresses:

We currently have an estimated 280 home / cabins on Serpent Lake. We are trying to get email contacts for every homeowner. Why? We are working on making our communications easier and

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faster to reach ALL property owners on Serpent Lake. We are also using Mailchimp to send out our email communications. When sending out emails, you will not see a listing of all the email addresses, we are keeping all the addresses private. We also encourage everyone who has Facebook to LIKE our page. E-mail and Facebook will be the keyways we broadcast most of our communications. We want to keep members and homeowners updated on any SLA events/Socials, missing items found around the lake or other important news items. We will continue to print and mail our Water Watch Newsletters until we receive critical mass of e-mail contacts. In this issue of Water Watch, if you see a **blue** check mark near your name, we are looking for your email address. If you have a blue check mark, go to the top of our website page and hit "CONTACT", then click on info@serpentlake.org and send us your email address. Thanks!!!

Membership Dues:

Our membership in 2021-2022 set a record for our association at 75%. We are currently trailing behind last year's renewal rate for 2022-2023. Please consider sending in a check or going online to our website for your renewal. The new fiscal year will start on June 1, 2023, and ends May 31, 2024. Please keep your membership up to date. \$35 is a small price to pay to help with the expenses that comes along with keeping our waters clean and healthy. In this issue of Water Watch, 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 check slash** on your address label, it indicates we have

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not yet received your membership dues for the 2022-2023 year (our fiscal year runs June 1st to May 31st). Thank you!

Why are the membership dues so important? We need your help and financial resources to manage the needs of our lake. We work to be as efficient as possible with the use of the association budget. All board members, water testers, road clean-up crews and buoy maintainers are all unpaid volunteers. Our main 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, CLP. The consequence of not treating this weed every year would be unnavigable waters caused by weed-mats and loss of property values around the lake. We are also now checking for a new invasive that is in 21 of our Minnesota Lakes and in Thunder Lake, just up the road in Cass County. It is called Starry Stonewort and it too can develop into a thick mat and cause unnavigable waters. We will be steadfast in our testing for this new invasive weed.

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 make a contribution to the preservation fund to keep our lake healthy and clean.

Why be a member of the Serpent Lake Association?

Besides the efforts made to support Serpent Lake, we have partnered with many local businesses that host our many fun socials. By attending the socials you are supporting our advertisers and building fun, lasting relationships with our fellow lake neighbors.

Adopt a Buoy Donations

We have most of our Buoys adopted. Lake owners step up and donate the \$150 for buoy naming rights. Again at this year's annual meeting, we will have our large lake map board that members can donate and name their buoy. We have only 10 buoys left available for adoption. Send in your donation and name your buoy for the upcoming season!

We still have available copies of our 2021 directory:

Any new memberships that pay dues will receive our 2021 directory with membership. Please talk with any new lake neighbors and ask them to join. Be sure to continue supporting all of our local supporting business advertising in the directory. Our socials have been planned to meet at our sponsor business locations to return the favor. The extra copies are available for purchase for only \$10 each. Keep one at your home and others for your cabin or on your watercraft. It is easy to look up your old and new friends on the lake.

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Serpent Lake Association Marketplace:

Look to Red Threads to help with your SLA promotional membership items that promote our association. They have many more items not pictured on our page for printing and embroidering. Our digital marketplace can be located on the Serpent lake website <http://serpentlake.org/>. Look under "MEMBERS" drop down to "SLA Apparel". Look for Mandi's Red Threads shop while in Crosby to see all the items she has available. She is turning orders now in two weeks.

Interested in getting involved?

Looking for something new to get involved with? Come and join our Board of Directors! We will be looking for 2-3 new members in June to fill in for the members who have timed out of their 3-year term. We have ~8 Board of Director meetings and the Annual meeting in June. Please contact me if interested and learn more about board membership.

Jerry Hartl 651-260-0145.

Thank you to all who support the Serpent Lake Association.

See you on the lake and 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 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 2022-2023 SLA membership is not current if you have a red checkmark on your address label. Dues run from June 2022-May 2023. 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 \$ _____
