



May 10, 2023
Volume 22, Issue 2

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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, July 8, 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 good winter even with the record setting snow around our area. We found our property to look like a cyclone had hit it with all the down limbs and trees. Our white pine trees dropped a huge amount of pine cones and many large limbs. We have taken many trailer loads of yard debris from our property. The large amount of snow has melted and the lake levels are back to full again. The dock and lifts are showing up and so soon will the boats & pontoons. As we begin our boating season, please remember to wear a life jacket and be safe while on the water.

Boat Ramp - Crosby:

Good news! The concrete pad issue at the Crosby ramp will be addressed. When the City of Crosby informed me that they had no funds to make the needed repairs, I reached out to Dani McNeal, Assistant Area Supervisor Parks & Trails Division DN. She was instrumental in developing a plan between the City of Crosby and the DNR to fix and maintain the landing. Matthew Hill, City of Crosby Administrator, applied and received DNR approval to increase one of the cement landings by 15 feet.

Once the plan is approved by the MN DNR, the DNR will repair the blow hole by installing the additional cement planks and connectors at the end of one of the existing ramps. Through the cooperative agreement between DNR and City of Crosby, the DNR would purchase, deliver, and install planks and connectors with no expectation of reimbursement from the City of Crosby. This will increase the length of the ramp and hopefully get the boats out into deeper water to be launched. In addition, the agreement will have a 4 year term to maintain the landing.

The project is planned to be addressed in July or August. In the interim, the current higher water levels should help drop in boats for the beginning of the season. The repairs will be made so when we have lower water in the fall, the larger boats can be removed without difficulty.

It is a win for all of us: lake owners, lake users, the City of Crosby, and the MN DNR.

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Spring Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) Treatments:

With the heavy snow cover combined with late ice out, the curlyleaf pondweed will be slower growing due to lack of getting sunlight and having a shorter growing period. Our selected partner, Freshwater Scientific Services, will be out by the end of May checking and mapping the beds for treatments. This information will then be sent to PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation who comes out and treats the curlyleaf pondweeds beds identified. Spring of 2022, SLA secured two \$1,500 DNR grant for the 2022 & 2023 season. When the mapping is finished, we will receive the cost for treatments. The 2022 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 and the shorter growing season will reduce the areas needing to be treated and therefore reduce cost to our association. 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 again with Crow Wing County for additional inspector hours at the Deerwood Boat Landing last season. We could not find anyone to work. 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 who knows

someone interested in working part or full time @ \$17.00 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!

City Docks in Crosby:

We are working towards making this dream a reality. The Cuyuna Lakes Chamber will be working to raise funds from our areas businesses. We have pricing from Oars and Mines to use Flow docks. We need to ensure the docking system is safe and stable for all ages to use when docking. We are planning to schedule a meeting with the City of Crosby to get final approval and location of docks. We will be voting at the June 3rd Annual Meeting regarding to support a matching fund of \$10,000 from our Lake Association. Basically we will matching dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. This will get the ball rolling in the funding process. We will be looking for any property owners who are willing to help with the funding to please donate. I don't know if we can make the timing for this boating season but plans are in the works. We will have other funding options that will be looking into for additional funding help.

Many Minnesota lakes have city docks for property owners to dock and gain access to the towns for food, drinks, shopping, and entertainment.

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Mailing address updates:

We have had a number of new owners who have purchase or built new homes on Serpent Lake. We like to collect the new owners' names, address and emails to get our records in order. You can reach out to the following email address. info@serpentlake.org

Help keep our Serpent Lake clean and clear:

Some easy ways to keep up our properties looking nice and saving our lake.

- When cutting lawns please do not mow lawn clippings directly into the lake.
- Keep fires away for the lake shore, the ash is bad for our waters.
- Rake leaves in the fall away from the lake.

Plant flowers, leave 20 feet of no mowing area at the lake shore. By not cutting the grass within a few years you will make a nice buffer to take up phosphorus keeping it out of the lake.

Remember: Just one pound of phosphorus is enough to fuel the growth of 500 pounds of weeds and algae.

More tips: Copy link into browser.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/smart_soils_what_you_can_do_to_reduce_phosphorus

May 10, 2023

Annual Meeting set for June 3rd 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.

We will be contacting our area business for donations to our raffle. If any member has items to donate for our raffle that would be most appreciated.

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

Our new website is now up and running. We hope you had 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 290 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 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 dues for the 2023-2024 fiscal year will be coming due again on June 1st

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. Our goal is to get everyone on the lake to have a membership. 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. Look at your name label on the Water Watch, if there is **no red slash** on your address label, we thank you for your membership

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contribution and support! **If there is a red check 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). 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.

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Why become 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. We receive very positive feedback on the benefits of our Socials. So join and keep making new friends!

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 a few buoys left. Come to our annual meeting, donate, then sign your name onto the buoy you adopted.

Extra 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 please join us. Be sure to continue supporting all of our local supporting business who advertising in the directory. Our socials have been planned to meet at our sponsor business locations to return the favor. We have also supported some new businesses who we hope to add into our future directories. 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 to find your old and new friends on the lake. We are talking about working on a new updated directory for the 2024 season.

4th of July Boat Parade:

Start planning your decorations for the Serpent Lake Boat Parade. Bring out your boats, pontoons, wake board boats, row boats, kayaks, or canoes decorated or not. Meet at the Crosby Fishing Pier starting at 3:45PM for the judges to judge and take photos. Make sure you are close to the pier and stop for a couple pictures. The boats will all line up and go counter clockwise around the lake at a speed that will take roughly one hour to circle. Use your horn to let property owners know we are coming. The winners will have for one year the coveted "Traveling Paddle" The winner will have their names added to the paddle and pictures taken for the local paper and the Serpent Lake Association website and Facebook page. Last year 2022 the winners were the Tessmer – Tuck family!



Serpent Lake Association Marketplace:

Look to Red Threads for your SLA promotional membership items that in turn, help promote our association. They have many more items not pictured on our page for image transfer and embroidering. Our digital marketplace is located on the Serpent lake website <http://serpentlake.org/>. Top of page look under "MEMBERS" drop down to "SLA Apparel". Look for Mandi's Red Threads digital shop. Or go in and see the wide selection.

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Interested in getting involved?

Looking for something new to get involved with? Look no further than your own back yard. Our association has two roadside clean up days, one in spring and other in fall. We have Summerfest booth in August to teach others about our lake. We get the word out about keeping our lake clean at the ice fishing contest in February. We are looking for volunteers who like to join the board who bring forward more ideas. We are looking for additional volunteers to help us with water testing and taking with local business to donate item for our annual meeting or to purchase ads when we update the directory. Are your creative? Interested in developing a new digital newsletter with picture and fun details about our lake and community? We like to transition to digital newsletters to send out via email, post on our website and on Facebook page. We have three lake association members who have volunteered to join our board of directors. We will be voting for them to join the board at our June 3rd Annual meeting. The new members will replace the members who have served their three year terms. We hold ~ 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



EST. 1910

**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 \$ _____