



DEER LAKE NEWSLETTER

BOX 250, LOON LAKE, WA 99148

DEER LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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WWW.DLPOA.COM

Dedicated to the preservation and improvement of a beautiful lake for future generations

President's Message

By Ken Ring

Little did I know when I got involved with DLPOA how community-minded the privately owned resorts were on Deer Lake. Most of the owners volunteer or donate to our organization with little fanfare and even less recognition.

Sunrise Point supports the dock clean up every year by offering their beach for the site of the biggest demolition endeavor on the lake. West Bay supports the children's Fourth of July Parade and sponsors fishing trips for disabled veterans. With new ownership, West Bay has even made a large donation to the cold water survival gear program.

The Nazarene Pinelaw Park has helped with dock clean up also, as well as the fireworks display, and sponsors a Pig-out Potluck dinner for lake residents. The Salvation Army Camp helps with dock clean up, roadside cleanup, and donates a meeting room for DLPOA.

Deer Lake Resort gives us the staging area for the children's parade, and is a sponsor for the 2011 calendar. They are also donating the Eagle's Nest hall for our community New Year's Eve party, and plan to sponsor another dance in the spring. Kaniksu Ranch has roads assigned to them for the roadside cleanup, and have also sponsored the calendar.

If I missed any recognitions, please let me know, because I'd like to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU for getting involved and supporting our lake.

Boy Scout Troop 171

Last summer Boy Scout Troop 171 spent time and effort removing the 50-year old wire fence on the Kaniksu National Wildlife Reserve on the northeast part of Deer Lake. The fence was endangering the wildlife and people that visit the reserve. A picture taken of a fawn caught in the fence was heartbreaking. Thanks to the troop and their leaders, Leaf and Maggie Rice. They provided a much appreciated service to our community.

Lake Management District (LMD)

by Mike Phillips and the other guy

Over the last three years, DLPOA and Stevens County have used an Early Emergent Grant from the Department of Ecology to pay for the surveying and removal of Eurasian Milfoil from areas of Deer Lake. It helped us keep the milfoil under control until we could find another form for funding the work. That grant was for \$50,000.

We have used all that funding. After looking at the options to raise more money, we determined that an assessment of each property owner on and around the lake was the best way to accomplish this task.

The work that needs to be done on the lake will go on indefinitely (read: forever). There is no way to eradicate this invasive weed. I like to compare it to dandelions. We can control them by various means but they never go away completely, and if you don't do anything they will take over your yard. This situation is even worse with milfoil.

So, how does an organization like DLPOA assess the home owners on the lake? We can't, and we don't. It would be nice if we had all 800 home owners volunteer a can of cash every year for the cause, but begging on the street corner for funds does not guarantee a continuing source of enough money. We need something like \$28,000 a year to fund the eradication efforts. (The reason for the increase over previous years are: 2,4D cost, which is very expensive; the county takes \$4k/year for administrative expenses; and inflation.) And there do not seem to be any more grants available like the EEG that we got three years ago. The state money spigot is pretty well shut off, and the county's is capped and welded.

What you do NOT want to do is to ignore it. Let it go for a year or two and you end up like Loon Lake, who did just that, and now they are into over \$40,000 / year to deal with their issues and they have significant mats of the stuff floating around some areas of their lake. We are not to that condition yet, and we want to keep from getting into that condition.

So, what actually gets done? Where does the money go? First there is surveying by divers all around the perimeter of the lake. They go into every bay and ramp and piece of shoreline looking for this stuff, which really takes an expert to detect because we have a natural milfoil that is not a problem but looks similar to the bad stuff. So far milfoil has been found in several areas, including big chunks in Deer Lake Resort, the Narrows, and Julius Terrace. A map is available.

When they find it, they do one or more of three things. First, they bring in a barge with a big vacuum cleaner sucker thingy on it, and the diver takes the nozzle of this device into the water and plucks the milfoil stem out of the bottom of the lake and has the suction suck the weed into a tank on the barge. You do that so that you do not let any plant parts get loose, because they will just start more families.

Second, if there are moderate (1000 sq. ft or less) areas of the stuff found, they put mats down over the area and suffocate the whole area. This takes most of the summer, and was done at Deer

Lake Resort swimming area, and some of the Narrows. It works pretty good if you can keep these mats down long enough.

If that does not work, then you bring out the big gun, 2,4-D. We used that only this last year, and only in an area of the Narrows that the divers could not reach. It appeared to do a good job, but it is expensive and politically unpopular.

So, if DLPOA cannot get the money to deal with this from its own resources, where do you go? While DLPOA cannot, the county can. The county can set up a Lake Management District, and it can assess (not tax; there is a legal difference) the home owners to get the money, and they contract with the eradication people and pay for the work to get done. DLPOA is totally out of it.

EXCEPT that somebody has to set this thing up, and that aint the county. So over the next year, and for much of this last year, DLPOA will be jumping through the hoops that are required to get this thing up and running. Fortunately, several other lakes in the area, Loon Lake being the closest one, have done this, so we have a roadmap to go with. And because of that, the county is familiar with the processes, and are encouraging us to proceed with this plan. One of the county commissioners, Larry Guenther, has attended many of our board meetings, and has paved the way with the county heads of departments to offer us all the help that they can.

So, what is an LMD? It is a specialized funding mechanism for lake area property owners that wish to fund specified management actions at a lake for a specific period of time. The process for forming an LMD is set out in state law chapter 36.61 RCW. Property owners and County officials both have key roles in LMD formation as defined by State law and County policy.

Property owners define the LMD proposal and initiate the LMD formation process by petition or by a consensus of the county commissioners. The proposal defines the proposed boundary, work program, budget, rates and duration of the LMD. A vote of the property owners is also conducted. The vote is of all property owners, not just those living in Stevens County, and for each dollar being assessed, the property owner gets one vote.

County Commissioners adopt resolutions, which initiate the LMD process and put the issue to a vote of property owners, provided they find that a proposed LMD meets State and County requirements.

County staff is responsible for legal notices, creating the roll of formal LMD charges and other aspects after the LMD is voted on and passes. If an LMD is formed, the County officials will ensure that LMD expenditures comply with requirements for public funds.

So, what is the time line? First DLPOA gets together a list of property owners. Fortunately the Stevens County tax rolls are on a computer, and we have been given access to them. They even differentiate between Frontage and Secondary lots on and near the lake.

Second, DLPOA formed a committee to decide what the LMD will do, what the assessments will be on whom, and to generate the formal assessment list. So far that committee has met three times (see the Boardnotes on the web) and has decided that each frontage property owner will be

assessed about \$39, and each secondary property owner will be assessed about \$19 (per year). Note that these are by parcel numbers. This will be a line item on your tax bill. We are not going by frontage foot, or by assessed value. Those methods are too complicated. Also, these LMDs have a defined lifetime, and we have decided to go for a five year LMD. (At the end of that time, a new LMD, with a new vote, will have to be done.)

Third, there has to be a public and well publicized meeting of all interested home owners. That meeting will be sometime in early March. We have not yet figured out just where to have it. Some County officials will be there and will take the temperature of the discussions. The Commissioners can then decide to have a vote of the home owners to create the LMD. (Or not, if it turns out that most home owners at the meeting think it is a bad idea.) DLPOA will give the County official in charge of voting a home owner's list, and he will send out the votes, probably in April. Each vote will indicate the assessment for that parcel, and therefore how many votes that parcel gets. You will have 30 days to mail your vote in. The county will count the votes.

If there is a plurality of votes in favor, the LMD will be created by County Ordinance quite soon thereafter. If the LMD is turned down, then DLPOA will have to eat the cost of the election and you might as well kiss your lake property values goodbye, because we know of no other way to deal with this. If the LMD is created, there will then be a 20 day period for individual home owners to appeal their assessment. This appeal will be to argue if you are or are not frontage, not to argue about being in the LMD itself. After that is all done, the proper documents are submitted to the tax guy for the county, and the assessments will start to be collected in April of 2012.

Which leaves 2011 with no funding, not from the EEG (money is gone), not from the LMD (no money till 2012). And leaves DLPOA holding the bag for any work to be done. The DLPOA board will vote on whether DLPOA will fund the 2011 eradication efforts itself at a Board meeting after the formal LMD vote. We have enough money in the till to take care of 2011, but not enough to do many years after that. We will probably solicit special donations as we do for fireworks.

The DLPOA board is firmly in line with these efforts. DLPOA will initiate an Educational Campaign right after the first of the year to fully advertize the public meeting, and to try to explain why we think this is a very important thing to fund.

Every lake in the area has this milfoil. And now other little weeds and animals are creeping into our area too. If you do not deal with it, your lake becomes unusable. A lady died this year swimming in milfoil at Ponderay lake. Boats get bogged down in it. Your property values tank (worse than they already have). If we don't deal with this, nobody else will. The county will not be proactive on this, although they totally support our efforts to get the LMD going.

The good news is, DLPOA has been looking for this, had the ducks in a row to quickly go get the EEG, and is pushing hard to get the LMD to keep this stuff from getting out of hand. Had there not been DLPOA people being proactive, we would be up to our ears in the stuff in a very short time. We got there fustest with the mostest. We can beat it.

2011 Calendar

By Ken Ring

You may have noticed that the cover of your newsletter looked a little different this time. We decided to put together a Deer Lake Property Owner's Association calendar. Just take out the newsletter (after you've thoroughly read it, of course!) and save the calendar for next year's use. We had several local businesses sponsor this endeavor, and their business cards are on the inside cover. This will be handy when you need to refer to their phone numbers and addresses when you need their services.

If you look through the coming months, you'll see that several of the dates of our DLPOA events are printed, as well as the opening day for fishing, or the free fishing weekend. There are dates for community potlucks and reminders to take your boat to the middle of the lake to meet friends for a summer social hour on Saturdays.

The 2011 calendar is our first attempt (treasure it; it could just be a collector's item some day!). If people find it useful, maybe we can add more events, insert color pictures, etc. Please give us your feedback.

North Deer Lake Road Sign

by Brian Humphrey

Welcome to Deer Lake! Visitors and residents traveling to the lake via North Deer Lake Road are now greeted by a beautiful new sign. The new sign is located at the intersection of West Bay and North Deer Lake Road. This move was made possible by Dave Watkins, Cage Cross, Matt Humphrey, Ken Ring and Brian Humphrey. Also, thank you to those who participated in the improvements made at the East Deer Lake Road location as well. Both signs look great!

In addition, there are further improvements planned at the North Road location to be done sometime in the future. If you have not seen the refurbished signs, it is worth the drive to check them out.

Roadside Cleanup

by Mike Phillips

In September a few (very few) helpful souls came out to clean the roads around our lake. We collected about 900 lbs. Due to the lack of volunteers, it took longer than it should have. Next year the people from Kaniksu said they are going to help. Thank you in advance.

If you and your family come out, you could enjoy fresh air and see all the different things people throw out their windows or leave in the back of their pickups to blow out as they go blindly down the road. Please come out next spring and fall.

Fish Report

by Jim Santora

On October 14th Jim received his new batch of Rainbow trout. They were a little larger than normal. There were 15,012 fish, and were 18 per lb. with total weight of 834 lbs. of fish. Jim's great grandson Tony Santora brought up his aqua culture class from City School to witness the event. They also learned how to weigh and measure the fish as part of their curriculum. This batch of fish should be between 7 and 9 inches when they are released this spring. Jim is starting his 21st year of raising fish. This is a fun project and if anyone else is interested in raising fish there are a couple of extra pens. We are trying to get Eastern Brook Trout for the next winter batch.

Ken Ring got 25,900 Silvers (Kokanee) 3" long. He plans to feed them 2000 lbs. of fish food from October to April.

Silvers won't grow as fast as the rainbow trout. The trade off will be a resupply of a land lock salmon with great tasting meat.

By raising the silvers in a pen instead of releasing the small fry directly into the lake they have a better chance of growing to a size where they can escape the small mouth bass and mackinaws that feed on them.



Missing Fishing Boat

A 12' aluminum silver color boat went missing from West Bay Resort on Monday Nov. 15. The boat was securely tied down and was carrying tools and two red colored oars. Please Call Marion at 233-3010 if you see it.

Maybe this is a warning to watch for strangers roaming the lake?

Fireworks

by Ken ring

Every year DLPOA sponsors a 30 minute fireworks display, usually on the night before the Fourth of July. The cost is generally in the \$6,000 range and is paid for by individual donations. Last year, 120 different people donated enough to cover the fireworks show.

This last summer, Arlen Garlich repaired some derelict docks and donated 100% of the income from the dock's sales (\$380) to start this next year's funds. Thanks to Arlen for getting us on our way to a fabulous Fourth!

Membership

by Bill Meulink

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Bill Meulink and I have been a member of DLPOA for the past three years. My wife Betty and I bought property on the lake in 2004 and built a house in 2006. We have two grown children, Jacob and Amy, and in the short time that we have been part of the lake community, we have already shared many memories of warm summer days and wintery nights.

We came upon Deer Lake after spending nearly three years searching for the perfect place to build a lake house. My motives were selfish: one day my children will have their own children, and I wanted a special place that would always draw them back. I was captivated by the rural setting of the lake, and also by the overall clarity of the water. After hearing about DLPOA from one of my neighbors, I went on-line and read some of the board notes. I was intrigued by the fact that there was this group of people so willing to spend their precious free time to help protect this place that we call "The Lake". The twenty dollar membership fee seemed like a small price to pay for their stewardship, so I joined. Now that I am a board member, I would like to reach out to the members of our community, and express the importance of continued membership for the preservation of our lake.

For years DLPOA has been an active participant in our community by providing services such as roadside clean up, dock demolition, water quality monitoring, raising fish, fireworks and the annual pancake feed. We have been replacing the aging Deer Lake signs, and working to secure and purchase cold water rescue gear for the Emergency Services Personnel that serve both Deer and Loon Lake. The board meetings present an important forum for our elected officials to reach out to the owners of the approximately 800 homes surrounding Deer Lake. As a community service, we have made the Newsletters available to everyone that has property around the lake, not just the members of DLPOA.

If you are not currently a member of DLPOA, I would like to formally extend an invitation to you to join. If you have any questions about membership, just give me a call at 413-2100. Also, the board meetings are open to the public, and you are always welcome to attend. Finally, I would like to say thank you to all of the 300 DLPOA members in our community for your continued support in helping us preserve the natural beauty of our lake for generations to come.

Emergency Services Update by Skip Wells

When we speak of emergency services we generally include law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical needs. In these columns we will touch on all of these items as they fit the seasonal needs of owners and residents of Deer Lake. Obviously we are entering late fall and early winter so we need to think in terms of security winter problems and health concerns.

All of us need to remember that Dead Bolts on doors work. They work especially when used in combination with windows and sliding glass door versions of security. Devices placed along the bottom of doors and windows can keep them from being opened easily. Check your window version and see what works best for you.

Be sure to post your address so you can be found. Please use the full address and not just the mileage number. Good examples include 4994-68 or 2826-A. These would be considered full addresses. A bad example is 4994. Remember, there can be many address ranges within the "mileage number". You also need to use contrasting colors on the building post or mail box. Correct posting will save valuable time for any time of emergency service when trying to find your cabin or home, especially in the dark.

Lots of us have wood stoves or fireplaces that get used regularly. We need to remember that ashes placed outside on the deck or on the wood pile can have drastic results. Ashes can start a fire from the time they are placed on the wood or vinyl surface and for a period of four to six days. Place the ashes in a metal container that has a metal lid.

Have you checked your electric cords? Be sure to include those that are serving heat tapes. Over time the wiring will start to fail. These out of sight, out of mind items need a little help when trying to do the 24 hour service that they do in the winter season.

So How'se your heart doin? There is no need to rush when moving the amounts of snow we get up here. Sit down and take a break. Have a cup of warm beverage. Then go back to work. How are the soles of your boots and shoes? Yes we do get ice up here. We cannot always see it but it is there. Stop by anyone of a dozen stores that carry slap on ice chains and pick up several pairs. They cost as little as \$5.95 a pair up to \$20.00 for the fancy ones. What can they save you ask? How about a broken wrist, elbow, or major rotor cuff shoulder damage or maybe even a broken hip. These are some of the types of injuries which have occurred up at the lake during the most unseemly times of late fall, winter, or early spring.

Where is your closest fire hydrant? Is it accessible for the fire crews to find in the snow or plowed snow berm? Please adopt the closest fire hydrant near your place and keep it cleared out for fire department use.

Snow on the roof? How are the trusses or rafters under the roof covering on your cabin or home? Find out what the snow load capability of your roof is before the stuff gets piled high. Remember to use extreme caution when removing snow. Safety harnesses are pretty cheap when you consider the fact that the fall can result in a cracked skull, broken back, or worse. Snow

rakes are now showing up in stores and are pretty reasonable.

As always a little common sense can go a long way. You probably have other items which might need to be attended to. Share those items with your neighbors and friends. They may not have gone through a “real winter” up here.

Cold Water Rescue Gear

Mike Bucy, the new Fire Chief of Steven’s County, was a guest speaker at the September DLPOA meeting. He gave a presentation about the fire district and we asked him for a wish list of any equipment that the firemen needed that would be useful for our local area. On the list was a cold water rescue gear package that includes a rescue sled, two all-weather dry suits, and life vests. The cost for the total package is approximately \$6,100.

The Board has designated the purchase of this gear to be a fundraising project for our group, and have pledged \$1,000 from last year’s pancake feed towards that goal. Chief Bucy says we can purchase this gear separately, so we will get started with the dry suits immediately and buy the rest as funds come in. The gear will be located at the Loon Lake Fire Department, so that both lakes can benefit from it. Hopefully we can help save people who venture out on the ice and end up accidentally in the freezing lake, or possibly dogs, deer, or even moose!

As soon as Marion and Sandy Ballard, the new managers of West Bay Resort, heard about this need they contacted the new owner of West Bay, Tom Kaljiam, and Tom sent a check for \$500. This generous gift will help put us on a fast path to reach our goal.



New Year's Eve Dance at the Deer Lake Resort

By Cheryl Ring

If you like to hang out with your lake neighbors in the summer, but miss seeing them during the winter months, then, do we have a deal for you! The owners of the Deer Lake Resort, Dean and Sharon Crump, have graciously offered the use of their beautiful building, the Eagle's Nest, for a dance party to ring in the New Year. You may invite as many guests as you'd like (over 21 years old please). Here are the details:

- Date:** December 31, 2010 It's a Friday night!
Time: 8:00 pm – Midnight-ish
Place: Eagle's Nest building at Deer Lake Resort
Bring: Whatever you'd like to drink (keep at own table, we have a liquor permit) and an appetizer to share at the Hors d'oeuvre Buffet
Dress: Cocktail attire
Cost: \$5 a person RSVP earlier, but pay at the door

Michelle Reid has generously donated her sound system for the evening. If you'd like to help us, we need volunteers for:

Dec. 30th at 10 am Decorating and set up (If you have an artificial tree with just lights on it that we can borrow, please let us know)

Jan. 1st at 10 am Clean Up (Many hands make light work)

We hope to make this an annual community event; so please mark your calendar, and invite friends to join you! **Please RSVP** soon!

Cheryl Ring 499-3148 Sharon Crump 233-8062 Michelle Reid 953-1476

Speaking of Cocktail Attire --

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO GET THAT SPECIAL GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS;
Order your Deer Lake Apparel. Shirts, Sweat Shirts and Hats.
If ordered before December 15th you can have your order to put under the Christmas Tree.
Contact Bill Bajadali 509 999-7487 or e-mail: bajie04(at)comcast.net .
Our web site will soon have a catalog of items that you can order.

DLPOA Board Meeting

Note that the next Board Meeting will not be till Thursday March 10th. All meetings are held at the Salvation Army Camp at 6PM. All are invited.