



Deer Lake Newsletter

Published three times a year by:

Deer Lake Property Owners' Association

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



President's Message

George Lynn

As we move closer to the Winter season and the changing weather settles over Deer Lake, I wanted to take a moment to extend warm wishes to all of you. A special thanks to everyone who helped with Fall cleanup and year-end maintenance. Your efforts keep our common areas, roads and lakefront in great condition for all to enjoy.

During this holiday season, it's a time to be thankful and appreciate our family. Life can get busy, but taking a moment to think about what we're grateful for can bring us happiness. Every laugh and memory we share brings us closer. This season is a great chance to show our appreciation to our loved ones and the support they give us. Use this time to reconnect, celebrate our moments together and make lasting memories that foster our special family bonds.

Approaching 2026, we will join the nation in celebrating America's 250th anniversary, a reminder of the continuing spirit of community and independence that we share here at Deer Lake. Let's carry that same pride and commitment into the year ahead. Wishing you all a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season. I look forward to seeing many of you when the snow melts and the next chapter of our beautiful lakeside community begins.

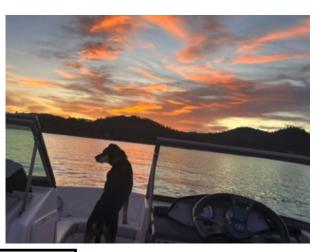


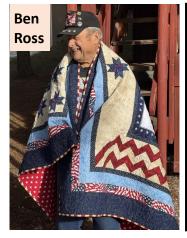


End-of-the-Year
Photos Inside!
From a sunrise
over the frozen
winter lake

To a dog who took the boat out to enjoy a summer sunset

Deer Lake has it covered!





Christina Richmond submitted these photos around Veterans Day to honor her neighbor Ben Ross, a longtime Deer Lake resident.

Deer Lake's Ginger Nieman is part of a group that makes valor quilts for Veterans. She is a Julius Terrace neighbor of Christina and Ben.

Ben served in the Air Force for 22 years—from July 1956 until June 1978. He was in the Strategic Air Command and was the maintenance scheduler for B-52's and KC – 135's.



Valor quilts for local veterans! Thank you for your service.

Hello Deer Lake Community,

It's that time of year once again—your support for the **Deer Lake Property Owners' Association (DLPOA)** makes all the difference! As a volunteer-driven nonprofit, we're committed to protecting the beauty and health of Deer Lake, hosting family-friendly events, and keeping residents informed about important lake updates.

Your Support Matters

Our success is built on community involvement. If you're interested in volunteering or helping plan an upcoming event, we'd love to have you join us. Every contribution of time and talent helps strengthen our lake community.



While many wonderful associations serve different areas around the lake, DLPOA is the only organization representing the entire lake community. We kindly ask for your support through a minimum annual membership of \$20. These dues help fund our events, communications, and

lake-wide initiatives. Members are also welcome to attend our monthly meetings, held the second Thursday of each month from February through November at 6 p.m. in the Pinelow Office Building.

Membership Update

Our newsletter currently reaches **828 households**, and we are reporting **355 paid members for 2025**. Paid members are down in 2025 relative to the recent years. With your help, we can continue to grow and increase our impact across the lake. If you just realized that you meant to, (but forgot!) to pay the 2025 dues, we will happily accept that amount included with the next year's amount, too!

Membership Drive

If you have new neighbors, please share about our active Deer Lake community group and encourage them to support our stewardship of the lake.

This newsletter has an envelope included— one way you can send in your dues for 2026.



Or, if you prefer, you could also go online to dlpoa.com and pay your dues there.

Questions? We're Here to Help

If you need more information or have any questions, please reach out to me directly at bill@haneyclan.com. Thank you for your continued support and for helping make Deer Lake an even more enjoyable place to live and visit.

Please consider sending your remittance in at your earliest convenience. Thank You!



The BUCK stops here!

Please help support events at Deer Lake by going above and beyond the \$20 annual dues.

If you add a minimum of another \$80 to that, you become a member of the Big Buck Club!

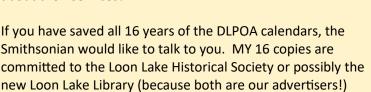
We will FAWN over you, and hold you DEERly in our hearts when you send us a total of 100 BUCKS of your hard-earned DOE. Don't keep it in your own pocket, where it might become STAGnant.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

The 2026 DLPOA calendar Ken Ring

There are 54 advertisers inside, covering 27 pages! Some people might think that's too many ads, but the

demand was there for sponsors to pay us so **YOU** will know about their services!



Someday, after Deer Lake has evaporated and is turned into a golf course, your grandchildren will see one of the old calendars and say, "Is it true the lake actually froze solid on December 15th in 2008 and 2009? On July 4th, did you guys really have parades on the land AND sea?" Why, yes, to both!



Information from the DLPOA Board Meeting regarding Membership dues

Ken Ring

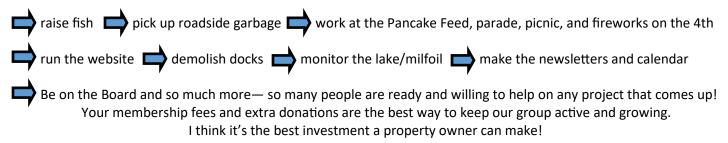
Sadly, inflation has visited Deer Lake Property Owners' Association. In 2024, 2025, and (projected) 2026, we will end up spending more money than we take in.

Our reserve funds have been used in the past, and will be have to be tapped in the future to make up the difference. The price of our insurance, postage, fireworks, fish pens, and other expenses have all been going up.

Our February 2026 Board meeting agenda will include a discussion about our financial situation. It's probable that our membership dues of \$20 will need to be increased the FOLLOWING year—in 2027. We have tried to keep our dues low for so many years, and charge a nominal fee at the Pancake feed, and host other events for free.

If you can attend our February 12th meeting, it's at the Pinelow office, at 6 pm. We welcome your input. If you can't attend, but have any suggestions, please contact any Board Member.

We are fortunate to have what could be thousands of dollars donated to us in the form of all our **volunteer hours!**We are **SO LUCKY** to have so many homeowners who volunteer to:



Cougar Sightings are Increasing

Ken Ring

If you're on Nextdoor or Facebook, I'm sure you've noticed that there have been several cougar sightings around the lake recently. How can you keep them away from your place?

Mainly, it's important that you deter other wildlife such as deer or turkeys from coming to your property. Do not feed or offer shelter to them; you are inviting carnivores, like cougars. Did you

know that since May 2025, it is illegal to feed wildlife? Chronic Wasting disease to deer and elk has been linked to humans feeding them. Another deterrent is to use motion detectors or leave outdoor lights on. Lights tend to make wildlife nervous.

Relatively few people will ever catch a glimpse of a cougar, much less confront one. If you come face to face with a cougar, here are some things to remember – because they are dangerous!

- Stop moving, pick up small children immediately, but don't run. Running may trigger an attack. At close range, a cougar's instinct is to chase.
- Face the cougar, talk firmly to it while slowly backing away. <u>Leave the animal an escape route.</u>
- Try to appear larger than the cougar. Get above it (step onto a rock or stump) or hold open your jacket to increase your apparent size. If you have a group, stand shoulder-to-shoulder to appear intimidating.
- Do not take your eyes off the cougar or turn your back. Do not crouch down or try to hide.
- Never approach the cougar, and never offer it food.
- If the cougar does not flee, be more assertive. If it shows signs of aggression (crouches with ears back, teeth bared, hissing, tail twitching, and hind feet pumping in preparation to jump), then shout, wave your arms and throw anything you have available (water bottle, book, backpack). The idea is to convince the cougar that you are not prey, but a potential danger.
- If the cougar attacks, fight back. Be aggressive and try to stay on your feet. Cougars have been driven away by people who have fought back using sticks, rocks, even their bare hands. If you are aggressive enough, a cougar will flee, realizing it has made a mistake by underestimating YOU.

(Some people also think it's a bad idea to wear WSU clothing or to display Cougar flags.)

The Department of Fish and Wildlife want your sightings reported as soon as possible. To report a concern, call 360-2936 Option 1, or go to their website at web@wdfw.wa.gov.

DLPOA Committee and Project Assignments for 2026 First person listed is the Chairperson of that Committee

Fourth of July Week:

Fireworks display and Dock Positioning: Mike Egan, Bob Schwartz, Independence Day Parade: Bobby Williams, Sharon Crump

Boat Parade: Paul Ross

Pancake Feed: Mike Nixon, Dave Greco

Dock Demolition: Open

Road Safety and Maintenance: Open

Emergency Services (includes water safety, buoys, crime prevention): Skip Wells, Jerry Rasley, Kevin Schroeder, Ron Watson,

Bob Schwartz, Bill Haney, Sally Lamson

Fire Danger Signs: Mike Nixon, Fire Department

Fisheries and Fish Pens: Ken Santora, Kevin Santora, Tony Santora

Website: Nathan Brown, Bill Haney, Tim Earlandsen

Membership and Data Base updating: Bill Haney, Pam Horner

Volunteer List: Bill Haney

Big Buck Club: Ken Ring

Road Side Cleanup: George Lynn (West), Jerry Rasley, Dave Greco (East)

Reader Boards: Mike Nixon

Banners: Ron Watson (West), Jerry Rasley (East)

Water Quality, Lake Levels: Mike Phillips, Ken Santora

Lake Management Steering Committee: Mike Phillips, Kevin Schroeder, Ken Ring,

Skip Wells, Greg Presley, Mike Egan, Jerry Rasley, Mark Turney, Bill Haney

Calendar: Cheryl Ring (set up), Ken Ring (ads), Mary Turney, Pam Horner, Phil Bray

Deer Lake Apparel: Kerri Anderson

DLPOA Newsletter: Cheryl Ring

Wood Cutting and Tree Maintenance Advisor: Jerry Rasley

By-Laws: Bob Schwartz

Deer Lake NextDoor: Bob and Cheryl Schwartz

DLPOA Facebook: Cheryl Ring

Historian: Mike Phillips, Mike Nixon

Coordinator at Fire Station: Jerry Rasley, Skip Wells

Election Facilitator at Annual Meeting: Bill Haney

Hospitality: Sharon Crump

Veterans' Fishing Day: Greg and Karen Presley

Chipper Days: Skip Wells, Jerry Rasley, Dave Greco

Representative to Little Pend Oreille Game Wild Life Refuge: Mike Nixon

Loon Lake Historical Society: Mark Turney, Mike Nixon, Mike Phillips



DLPOA OFFICERS:

George Lynn - President Bill Haney - Vice President Phil Bray - Treasurer Sharon Crump - Secretary

DLPOA BOARD MEMBERS:

Ken Ring
Jerry Rasley
Skip Wells
Ken Santora
Bob Schwartz
Greg Presley
Nathan Brown
Pam Horner
Mike Nixon
Bobby Williams
Dave Greco
Tim Erlandsen



Southwood Shores Road Safety and Maintenance Committee

Mike Larson

This last summer saw no dust from this road on the foliage, no dust cloud over the water, no dirt on cabins and vehicles. Healthier air to breathe for all!

Stevens County Public Works has full responsibility for maintenance. Last winter, the snow plowing showed better driving results. The County Road Foreman continues to monitor continuing needs. The success of this project is due to over 100 residents who contributed time and money over 20 years.

Let's continue to make our lake beautiful from litter and use only safe fireworks.

Emergency Services winter report

Skip Wells



By now it is hoped that you guys that are leaving your seasonal lake homes have properly secured your places, including any trailers parked there for the winter. There has been a slight uptick in burglaries so be sure to recheck security measures.



Has your water been shut off, and did you get a water valve installed in your place? Stevens County PUD 1 highly recommends this and there is still time to get this work completed.

Not as good as the Boat parade—but still entertaining!

Ken Ring

Last year, on March 20th, it was a sight to see—an armada of rogue docks floating past our home in the Narrows,

heading for the toolies. Even after a mild winter, and a slow ice melt, the docks broke loose. High water probably lifted the anchors right off the lake bottom and freed all those docks!



Secure your dock with an extra rope so it doesn't go wandering when the ice breaks up next Spring.

I've heard it cost one person \$300 to hire a company to tow a dock back to its home, and re-anchor it in place. An extra rope attached to your

dock before Winter comes is around \$20—you decide. The parade should wait until the 4th of July!



2025 Fish Delivery a Success

Kevin Santora

The 2025 fish delivery was completed successfully, marking another great year for our Trout-rearing program. This season, we received 45,000 Trout, which were placed into three rearing net pens. We were originally scheduled to receive an additional 15,000 fish, however, because our fourth pen did not

yet have a suitable location, those fish were released directly into the lake.

As a friendly reminder, please avoid fishing near the net pens. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has provided updated signage outlining the required distance for anglers. These signs will be posted in November.

We are also looking for new volunteers to help with fish-rearing activities. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to DLPOA or the Santora Family. Contact Kevin Santora at KJSantora1975@hotmail.com.

Your support helps ensure the continued success of this program.

Baby trout come to Deer Lake in October and are protected and fed until late Spring.



Their winter vacation spot is kept aerated so it doesn't freeze over.



Remember that you can fish year round now.

How's the ice fishing, Larry Cameron?



Cookie Decorating Day at Edgewater Studio

Join Us for Winter Wishes at the Lake!



Deer Lake neighbors—get ready for one of the sweetest days of the season!

On Saturday, December 20th, from 10 am—4pm, we're inviting the entire community to Edgewater Studio for our annual Cookie Decorating Day; raising money for Winter Wishes at the Lake.

Our Winter Wishes fundraiser is made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of local businesses who care deeply about this community, including Moonlight Bakery and a handful of other sponsors. Their support helps us provide supplies, cookies, decorations, and the warmth that makes this event so magical.

It will be easy and fun this year making holiday cookies! Just bring family and friends, then choose how many cookies you would like to decorate, because everything else is provided! When you are finished, you take your cookies home, and hopefully leave a nice donation for the Winter Wishes fund.

This cheerful event is all about connection, generosity, and holiday fun. Expect hot cocoa, music, festive energy, and a full day of decorating cookies. Your donation will go directly toward supporting local families through our Adopt-A-Family program. Every dime we collect will either go to the chosen family in cash or towards their Christmas wish list.

Whether you're five or eighty-five, you are welcome — come as you are and join in the joy.

This year, Cookie Decorating Day is extra special because it also serves as an introduction to Edgewater Studio, Deer Lake's newest creative gathering space. Tucked right here in the heart of our lakeside community, Edgewater Studio is a warm, inspiring environment built for retreats, workshops, art gatherings, and community events. If you've been curious about what's happening behind those doors, this is your chance to come inside, meet your neighbors, and experience the space for yourself.

Event Highlights:

- Cookie decorating stations for all ages
- Hot cocoa and music
- Holiday fun for the whole family
- A chance to support a local family in need
- A warm welcome and open house at Edgewater Studio

Edgewater Studio is at: 47253 East Deer Lake Way

Bring your creativity, your holiday spirit, and a willingness to sprinkle a little joy into the world. Together, we can make the season brighter for families right here at Deer Lake. We can't wait to spend this festive day with you.

Fireworks on Independence Day

Mike Egan

Our nation's 250th birthday will be celebrated in style on Deer Lake this coming July! Plans are already being made, but, unfortunately, the cost of our annual Fireworks display has increased by \$2,000.

We would like to continue to have the same quality program that we have had in the past, so we are

requesting that when you send in your \$20 membership dues for 2026, that you please earmark any extra donation to go towards the Fireworks display. If there are any corporate sponsors, this would be a nice charitable donation.

We have MANY homeowners that do spectacular shows from their own docks, and they put a lot of effort and expense into it. Would any of you consider reallocating the money from your home's fireworks' budget and donating that amount to OUR Fireworks Fund instead? Then, you could relax, kick back with a cold beverage and just be a spectator.

You could skip the hassle of setting up all the fireworks, you won't have to worry about your neighbors, or anyone in your family getting hurt. Another plus—there will be no clean up afterwards, either!

Contact Mike Egan if you would like to discuss any ideas you have at: 509-710-8681 or deerlakemike@gmail.com.





Real Estate Sales this past year at Deer Lake

Patrick McHenry-Kroetch, Broker-Team Manager

2024/2025—Year over year notes:

- ♦ The total number of transactions at Deer Lake were down in 2025 (year over year) compared to 2024 (30 sales in 2024 compared to 19 sales in 2025)
- ♦ But, the actual 2025 dollar volume remained almost even (\$11.6 million, while it was \$11.4 million in 2025).
- ♦ The price per frontage footage stayed roughly the same from 2024 to 2025 (2024 averaged \$5,600.00 and 2025 averaged \$5,500.00).
- ♦ Eight waterfront homes sold from between \$485,000 and \$1,525,000. Total volume was \$7,459,000 (up \$3 million from the previous year).
- Nine secondary homes sold from between \$81,000 and \$920,000. Total volume was \$3,639,000 (down \$3 million from the previous year)
- ◆ Three waterfront lots sold this year for a combined total of \$640,000 (no waterfront lots sold in 2024)
- One secondary lot sold for \$89,000 this year (down from 2024...5 lots were sold, totaling \$525,000)



- ♦ Higher interest rates continued to be a major factor in driving down the volume of transactions in 2025.
- Prices are still historically high...but buyers are looking for deals and typically offering under-asking price or expecting seller concessions.
- Intelligent pricing is critical in this market (finding the pricing "sweet-spot" is a must).
- Multiple offers and bidding wars will be rare in this market.
- Leveling or downward price adjustment is becoming a reality. Be prepared to negotiate.
- Curb appeal, marketing, staging and experienced/knowledgeable representation is the best way to gain an edge in this market.
- In this market, the first offer is often the best offer.

If you would like a complete market sales data in a spreadsheet format, contact us at: Patrick.kroetch@gmail.com or 509-999-6354.

You can keep up on Deer Lake properties currently for sale on our website: www.LakeCountryUSA.com or have listings emailed to you.

We are looking forward to a great 2026!

Jake Turley, Managing Broker/Owner LakeCountryUSA.com "The Recognized Authority" (509) 999-6354

Call us for a FREE MARKET APPRAISAL Now is the time to start planning for the Spring!

All data as of 11-08-2025 compiled from Stevens County public records and the local Eastern WA. Multiple Listing Service (MLS).



Chipper Day Fall 2025

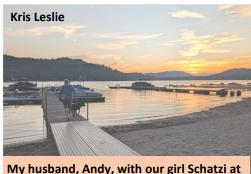
Skip Wells

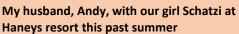
We had a successful Fall Chipper Day on October 4, 2025. Once again, vehicles with long trailers were the big players in the event. We had 43 loads of material and lots of volunteers to help out. Our share of the proceeds was \$376.00. This amount, combined with the Spring event gave us a total of \$836.00.

At the DLPOA Annual meeting last August, the members present voted to provide donations as follows. Pinelow Park—50 %. The Loon Lake Pantry and Camp Gifford each will receive 25% of the proceeds.

Folks participating in the trailer unloading operation included Jerry Rasley, George Craig, and Skip Wells from Deer Lake. Loon Lake was represented by Lee Evans, Scott McDougall, and Henry and Daryl Howe. In addition, we had Samantha McCloud from Springdale and the Omsteds from Clayton. Stevens County Waste Management provided Matt Smith to drive the frontend loader.

Thanks to all who participated!



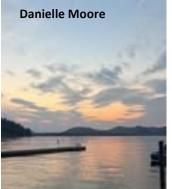
















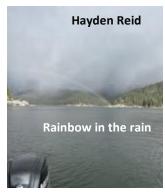






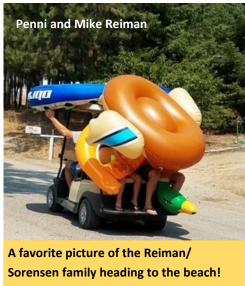














What a beautiful place we all share at Deer Lake!



Fifty years and three generations at Deer Lake. We all come together for the Fourth of July— which is always the best weekend at the lake.



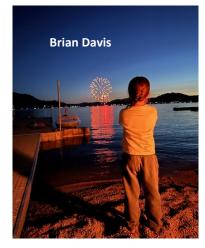


Allison James sent in photos of the James Gang in Tamarack Bay

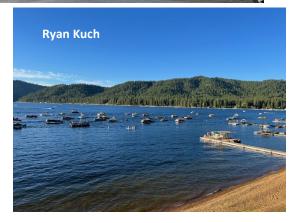












The Importance of Monitoring Deer Lake's Water Quality

Mike Phillips, Mark Turney

Deer Lake's water quality is an important element for both human health and the lake's ecosystem. It can identify threats like excessive nutrient and contaminant runoff from surrounding land use. This can possibly trigger harmful algal blooms and overall lake degradation. not to mention harm to the lake's vibrant fishery and ecological balance.

Keeping a record of water quality parameters is very helpful for a safe and healthy Deer Lake for generations to come.

DLPOA's Proactive Approach to Lake Stewardship:

Beyond immediate public health and ecological concerns, consistent monitoring is beneficial for **long-term lake stewardship**. Collecting data over time helps to discover subtle negative trends (for instance, a gradual decline in water clarity or a rise in specific contaminants) in their early stages.

For example, historical monitoring at Deer Lake has already guided successful **remediation projects**, such as septic system upgrades and control of invasive species like Eurasian Milfoil. This proactive approach supports informed decision-making and protects the lake's natural beauty.

DLPOA Announces the Purchase of Dedicated Water Quality Equipment:

In the past, DLPOA and the Lake Management District relied on **borrowed electronic test equipment** on a rotating five-year testing program. As part of our continuing efforts to keep Deer Lake water clean and healthy, DLPOA is pleased to announce we have purchased our own dedicated water quality test equipment. This allows testing to be done at will as often as desired.

The purchased test equipment (pictured on the right) is the "HANNA INSTRUMENTS HI98194"



A Primer of the Key Testing Measurements for Lake Health:

For those interested, here is a very brief overview of some key elements our new testing equipment can reveal:

pH (Acidity/Alkalinity): Indicates acidity or alkalinity. A neutral value is 7; lower values indicate acidity, and higher values indicate alkalinity.

ORP (Oxidation-Reduction Potential): Measures the water's natural ability to **purify itself** and break down waste materials like contaminants and dead organic matter. Higher positive values generally indicate better water quality.

<u>Conductivity:</u> Measures the water's ability to pass an electrical current, which is directly related to the concentration of **contaminant ions** (like heavy metals and salts). An increase in conductivity signals a decrease in water quality.

<u>Dissolved Oxygen (DO)</u>: The oxygen gas dissolved in the water that **aquatic life requires to survive**. Freshwater fish need a minimum of 5 to 6 parts per million (ppm) to thrive.

<u>Temperature Trends at Depth:</u> Crucial for lake dynamics, as it affects oxygen availability, nutrient distribution, species

survival, and overall ecosystem health.

This duck apparently doesn't know that this is a swan that's supposed to be WORKING right now—keeping messy waterfowl off the beach. No rides allowed!







Water level Mike Phillips

On April 16th, 2025, Deer Lake's water level was totally FULL. The last time this happened was in 2018. By October 24th, the water level had dropped 3 feet! It is recorded as the largest water drop in 17 years (during this time period).

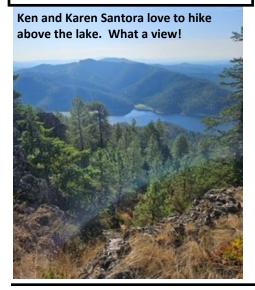
The least amount of loss was 15 inches in 2010. The average loss for those years where we didn't overfill to start was 25 inches.

The cause of the variation from year to year that impacts how much we lose is mostly weather related and how much snowpack we get.

Mother Nature dictates what will happen. This lake does



not have a dam to regulate levels.





The Fight Against Milfoil Continues

Mike Phillips

The Lake Management District (LMD) Committee continues to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil with the help of Ace Diving, Kevin Schroeder and the residents of Deer Lake.

Homeowner Kevin Schroeder does our treatment with the help of a couple of volunteers.

The Ace diving crew is led by Andy and a couple of others. We changed the timing of the survey and the pull and treatment process this year. The diving crew now goes out one week before the 4th of July. Depending on what they find, they work with Kevin to map out the spots to treat after the 4th.





After Labor Day. the dive crew does a very detailed survey and pull (two weeks). They not only pull plants, but check on the completeness of the earlier treatment. Then they work with Kevin again to map areas to treat as needed.

Financially, we are spending close to the same amount as we take in through the LMD assessments. At the end of 2026, the Deer Lake property owners will be voting to continue the assessments for another 5 years. Stevens County runs the voting process. If anyone has a question regarding this work, please email me —

Mike Phillips at 1945skipper@gmail.com.

Remember to join our two social media sites, if you haven't done so already

Joining both these social sites is a great way to stay in touch with events happening at the lake, such as items for sale, lost and found postings, and alerts. To join Nextdoor, send an email to Bob Schwartz at rismt@hotmail.com, and he will mail you an invitation link to submit to Nextdoor directly. (You must own property here to join Nextdoor).

We also have a Deer Lake Property Owners Facebook page. Just send a "friend" request and, you too, could be one of our over 2,100 members. This is also the place where many photos are posted showing the good times that are had at the lake, as well as all the important news that is passed along to our members.



Memories from a longtime Deer Lake neighbor—Bill Twitchell. He was interviewed in 1990 when he was around 80 years old. His family's property is just north of the Deer Lake Resort. (Edited with permission from Loon Lake School House archives).

We came to Deer Lake in 1914; there was only one place that had any boats—called Barrow's Landing (what is now Haney's Resort). Mr. Barrows was a relative of Spokane's former mayor, James Chase. Access to it was on Short Road from Deer Park. The shoreline on the eastside of the lake up to the Narrows was pristine and accessible by boat only. Across the Narrows, at the head of the valley, facing the lake was the Gardner Ranch. Old Tom Gardner was the very picture of the Old West, handle-bar mustache and all. They had a big garden, gathered the hay from the inlet meadow and maintained a few cows and horses. Their lifestyle was one of total independence. Their son, Roy, was the pioneer of the roadway around the east side of the lake. Other son, Sam and his family settled at Tule Lake (when you go down the slope and first see the lake on North Deer Lake Road).

On the westside of the lake, there was just a logging road, and when I was around 8 years old, we kids would take our hikes along this road and could follow the shoreline all the way from Long Point to Tule Lake. The water was so clear and pristine and there was a beautiful gravel beach. Deer Park Pine had logged the back country and floated logs down the lake. Many had sunk, so the lake full of deadheads. From the road we could see HUGE Large Mouth Bass; we could count 30 or 40 of them! One of the most prominent deadheads was called the **SNAG**—it became a popular spot for still fishermen waiting out a big Mackinaw or a bragging size Rainbow.

Mackinaw Point was a favorite spot, too. The beaver, ever on guard, would greet any intruder into the bay with a resounding "SMACK" and then all would be quiet and serene. In the mid 1930's, there were usually fifty or so rented boats from Haneys, Andersons, and Snyder's Resorts out on the water. People not only fished, but were <u>catching fish</u>!

There was always a resort by the Nazarene Camp (Pinelow area). I can remember it being operated by Jack Snyder, then Mr. Edgett, then Mr. Houdak. Just up the road from me, Pearl Ray Resort later came into being (it is Zak's Shacks today). West Bay area was previously Styman's Resort, and before that it was Anderson's Resort, and they rented out their characteristic 75 blue and white boats. There was also The Springs Resort, in the big bay this side of the Narrows, right at the inlet. Fishermen stayed at all the other resorts on the lake, but the Springs was more sophisticated and had pretty nice cabins, it was more like a hotel.

In 1929, my father bought land from Long Point (the point that sticks out pretty much across the neck of the Narrows (westside) and the government lots 2 and 3 which went back into the hill 1,000 feet or so. In 1931, he bought the big meadow and built Mac's Landing Resort, named after my grandfather, Mac Williams. (It's now the Deer Lake Resort.)

On the 4th of July, every one of these resorts would be full, and often times the boats would be rented two or three times a day. It was not uncommon to see as many as 250 boats out there during the day. The popularity of Deer Lake increased as the roads got better. In the early days, the road in here wasn't all that good—Loon Lake was more accessible because there was a railroad into there. They would have weekend dances there, running a special commuter train from Spokane to Morgan Park. Deer Lake sported a Dance Hall in this bay right up here and it was still there in 1938 when my father started construction for Mac's Landing. He tore it all down and used the lumber to build cabins and whatnot. It was a pretty good sized thing.

Dad operated the resort until the 1950's when he sold to a fellow who had big ideas: a housing and recreational area with 400 homes going half the way up Lookout Mountain, a golf course, a gondola ski lift, a marina, etc. He sold all the properties as

PRINTED TROLL FOR MACKS

STILL

STILL

STILL

FISH

PRAGI

PROLL FOR MACKS

FISH

PROLL

FISH

FISH

FISH

FISH

STILL

FISH

PROLL

FISH

FIS

"shares" without being able to give a title to any lot. The County got involved, environmental impact studies were started, and soon the project went bust. The property was taken back by creditors, and the place was eventually sold to Dean and Sharon Crump who turned it into the Deer Lake Resort.

More and more cabins were appearing around the shoreline, and outhouses along with oil-drum plumbing became most evident. World War 2 brought a brief hiatus to development, but after the war, it was open season. From the Narrows to Haney's, lots were sold and cabins built. Southwood Shore was spawned and a roadway was carved out of the mountain all along the south side of the lake. Houses also sprung up along the west side of the lake.

The old timers are mostly gone and a new generation is in charge. How they will treat the lake remains to be seen. It is going to take some strong and determined action to preserve this jewel of Nature: **DEER LAKE.**