

# LAKE DELHI VOICE

Newsletter of the Lake Delhi Taxing District and Community—July/August, 2015

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## Message From the Lake District Trustees

### Full Steam Ahead!! We are making up time.

We hope you're enjoying your summer. We are pleased to inform you that even though we had a set back with the temporary wall a few weeks ago, the contractors are making up some time and if we have good weather going forward we have the potential to be filling up the lake in the next 90-120 days!

### This means we need your help now:

Trees in the Lake Bed: Any remaining Trees and Debris need to be removed ASAP. On **Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** is a volunteer lake bed hand cutting day (see more on page 5 in this newsletter). If you're unable to join us on August 1<sup>st</sup>, please volunteer your time on another day to take out trees. It doesn't have to be an organized effort to help. We just need everyone to pitch in to get the job done. We don't want to be in a position that we have trees growing in the middle of recreational boating areas.

Get your Dock Permits from Iowa DNR before water is below your docks. (Information can be found at the following link: [www.iowadnr.gov/boatdocks](http://www.iowadnr.gov/boatdocks)).

Get your permit to dredge around your docks/lifts (See last month's newsletter for details on our webpage).

If you received a letter from the Delaware County Sanitation Department in regards to your septic system and have not responded, please do so now. They are

working with each property owner that communicates with them. Those who fail to respond to the County Sanitation Office could be subject to earlier enforcement. Please contact Dennis Lyons, Delaware County Sanitation Office at 563-927-5925 for more information. **Also, as a reminder to all**, if you haven't had your tanks pumped in the last few years, it is highly recommended you do so. Clogging of your Leach Lines could occur.

Make final donations/ful-fill your pledge to the Community Fund to Rebuild Lake Delhi. The permanent Wall of Recognition is in the planning stages and initial ideas for the Wall's location is on the south side of the Dam over-looking the spillway. This area will be a major tourist destination and this is will be your opportunity to be forever-recognized as one of those who helped bring back Lake Delhi. Please note that you will be recognized to the level of your financial contribution.

Let us know if you have interest in volunteering as we move forward. We know we asked for volunteers early in 2011, but we need to update and confirm those who are still willing to help. Examples of areas where we need volunteers include: Lake Bed clean-up, Dam Operations and Maintenance, Water Quality Management, Fund Raising, Fish Stocking/Improvements, Ski Club Initiatives, Community Events, Beach Restoration planning, Public Recreational Area maintenance/enhancements, winter activities, etc. Send us an email at [LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org](mailto:LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org) and let us know how you would like to help.

Lastly, we would like to recognize Mary Kray for her contributions to the Trustee board over the last few years. Mary decided not to run again this year. The election was held Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> and we wish to congratulate Larry Burger and Doug Herman who were elected to fill the two open positions.



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## *The Lake Delhi Combined Recreational Facility and Water Quality District Trustee's:*

Steve Leonard: President, Trustee  
Larry Burger: VP, Trustee  
Laurie Kramer: Treasurer, Trustee  
Mary Kray: Secretary, Trustee  
Pat Colgan: Trustee  
Lamont Davidson: Trustee  
Todd Gifford: Trustee  
Doug Herman: Trustee—Newly Elected (As of 8/1/15, will replace Mary Kray's seat)

### Contact us:

Website: [www.LakeDelhi.org](http://www.LakeDelhi.org)  
Email: [LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org](mailto:LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org)  
Lake Delhi VOICE Editor: Todd Gifford

## Lake Delhi Fish and Fish Habitat

**DAN KIRBY - Natural Resources Biologist  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

Many folks are anxiously awaiting upcoming recreational opportunities on Lake Delhi as the return of the lake draws near! For some people this means they have fishing on their mind. Members of the Lake Delhi Fish and Game Club have consulted with Iowa DNR Fisheries biologists regarding the restocking of the lake and a restocking plan was formulated that will include the introduction of bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass, and white bass to the lake basin. The Iowa DNR will also continue the stocking of northern pike and walleye in the Maquoketa River above Lake Delhi and many of these fish will migrate into Lake Delhi. It is also expected that channel catfish and smallmouth bass will reestablish in Lake Delhi through movement and growth of existing naturally reproducing populations in the Maquoketa River. Other nongame species of fish that populate the upper Maquoketa River such as suckers and shiners will also repopulate Lake Delhi over a period of a few years.

It takes some time to rebuild populations of fish, but it is expected based on past experience in other lake systems that good fishing should return to Lake Delhi within a period of about 3 years. For example, it only takes about 3 years for a largemouth bass to grow from a couple inches long to about 12 inches long and it takes a fingerling walleye in the Maquoketa River about 3 years to grow from 2 inches to a length of 15 inches.

### How Can You Help the Fish Habitat?

With the return of fishing to Lake Delhi some residents have questions about fish habitat. Is there anything they need to do to for fish habitat? The answer is yes, but the means towards better fish habitat may not be obvious to everyone. Lake Delhi naturally contains good fish habitat including limestone bluffs that extend into the lake, overhanging trees and logs, deep holes, and quiet backwaters. However, the most important fish habitat is good water quality. Good water quality for Iowa gamefish means: 1) the water is relatively clear; 2) the water does not contain excessive nutrients including phosphorus and nitrogen; 3) the water does not carry excessive sediment; 4) the water contains adequate oxygen; and 5) the water is free of pollutants harmful to aquatic life such as ammonia. Everyone can contribute to better fish habitat on Lake Delhi through support of water quality initiatives for the Maquoketa River and Lake Delhi, and landowners in particular can contribute to better water quality through "lake-friendly" land management. "Lake-friendly" land management practices include plantings of deep-rooted perennial vegetation near the lake shore and in upland areas, installing sediment retention structures and practices when disturbing land or during construction projects, and stormwater management practices that slow water delivery to the lake and mitigate or repair gullies.

Several landowners and anglers have asked about adding fishing structure to the lake in the form of rock piles, sunken snags, or manmade fish cribs. It is important to keep in mind that these structures are desirable for fishing because they attract fish and provide places to concentrate fishing effort, but they will not increase the overall abundance of fish in Lake Delhi.

***The overall abundance of fish in Lake Delhi over the long-term will be driven by lake water quality, the composition of natural habitat in the lake, and the composition of the fish community.*** However, if you want to add fishing structure to the lake it may improve fishing success and it is something that fisheries biologists promote. There are a few general rules to keep in mind: 1) fish habitat can only be added with permission of the landowner, so the landowner of the

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area of lake where the fishing structure will be placed needs to be identified and aware of the fishing structure placement; 2) fish structures should not conflict with other recreational uses including boating and swimming; 3) fishing structures must be properly permitted prior to placement of the structures in the lake by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Iowa DNR through the Joint Application process. If you are a landowner that wants to add fishing structure to the lake, or if you are working with a landowner that wants to add fishing structure to the lake, please consider contacting the fisheries management biologists at the Manchester Fish Hatchery and they will provide technical assistance regarding the construction, permitting, and placement of fishing structure. The Manchester Fish Hatchery phone number is (563) 927-3276.

## Dam Construction Progress Update from Pat Colgan

### Phase 1 Work Status as of the middle of July 2015:

Phase 1 Contractor Lunda is nearly done with its contract work. They will be demobilizing in the next few weeks. All three new flood gates have been installed including the gate lifting equipment fully erected and properly functioning. All contract structural work tasks have been also completed.



Lunda began work on Phase 1 in April 2014. They have continuously worked, except for two weeks at Christmas, for 15 months in a very efficient manner that has resulted in a superior project with the latest and greatest flood gates within their budget. First picture above is an up-stream view that shows the three new automated spillway gates and lifting equipment installed. In this picture, middle gate #2 is open 7 feet and outside two gates are both open 20 feet which is maximum open. The 2nd Picture above is a close-up back side view of gate #2 in the open position and with outside gates each lowered. Each flood gate weighs 27,000 pounds and is operated with two 6 inch stainless steel augers that are connected to an electric motor in the center (near the top of the ladder in this picture). There will be amazing precision in operating these new flood gates to meet river flow condition and maintaining acceptable lake levels for the users of Lake Delhi. When all three flood gates are fully open, the total spillway capacity including the new labyrinth overflow spillway provided in Phase 2 work will be 69,000 cfs. The flood that overtopped the old dam in 2010 was 25,000 cfs to 30,000 cfs. The new spillway capacity will be more than double the old spillway capacity.

### Phase 2 Work status as of the middle of July 2015:

General Constructors Inc, the successful Phase 2 contractor, began work on April 1, 2015. Phase 2 work will take place on the south side of the river. The main scope of



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Phase 2 work is to rebuild the earthen dike as well as construct a new state of the art overflow “labyrinth” concrete spillway. Phase 2 work is to be complete in the fall of 2015 at which time the dam would be complete to allow refilling of Lake Delhi. On June 14, 2015, after the temporary main construction cofferdam was installed but not fully attached to the concrete wing wall of the existing concrete dam, the temporary structure gave way at this intersection causing the construction site to flood with river flow that had risen due to high rainfalls. It took several weeks for the river flow to recede sufficiently for the cofferdam to be repaired and the work area restored. This happened the week of July 6 allowing contract work to resume. Of the 15 dewatering wells, only two were damaged and these have been repaired. The dewatering system was reestablished a week ago and has dewatered the site again.



The first picture shows shows restored cofferdam in the area that had given way on June 14, 2015. The replaced steel sheets are now connected to the concrete wing wall with a substantial steel angle bolted into the concrete, much higher large rip rap both inside and out, a poured concrete seal between steel sheets and concrete, as well as caulking all sheets joints to help eliminate leakage into the work area. Picture below shows work going on inside the cofferdam. Large backhoe on right is removing bedrock in the area of the new concrete stilling basin. Large backhoe on right is removing river sand from work area. Both rigs are working on contract tasks. A current estimate of completion date for Phase 2 is based on GCI plan of four months to do remaining work less any improvements due to working two crews once concrete works starts. Schedule improvements could be up to one month due to two crews. Therefore, at this point, a reasonable estimate to complete Phase 2 work to begin filling lake would be between mid October and mid November 2015. The temporary cofferdam should now withstand flood flows of 8000 plus cfs.

## **Take This Fun Lake Delhi Survey** ***and be entered in the drawing for a Free*** ***COMPLETE SET OF LAKE DELHI*** ***APPAREL***

Send in your answers to this Survey and we will draw from all the people who submit their answers for a “Complete Set” of Lake Delhi Apparel (a Sweatshirt, a T-Shirt, a Hat, a Jacket, and Polo Style Shirt — **you get one of each of your size if you win**). **We Want Your Feedback!!**

### **Survey Questions:**

1. What is the first thing you are going to do when Lake Delhi is back full of water?
2. What are the top 3 things you feel Lake Delhi needs most as we move closer to the Lake being restored or shortly after it has been restored?
3. What is your favorite single thing about Lake Delhi?
4. What do you think is the one most important thing someone can do to make Lake Delhi an even better place than it is?

Just send your Survey answers (in the same order as listed above #1-#4) to:

[LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org](mailto:LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org), use a Subject of “*SURVEY Answers*”, and provide your contact information. Thank you for providing us your feedback!

## **Winner of the Where In The** **World Is It? CONTEST**

from the last VOICE Newsletter issue is:

**Rob Phillips from Solon, IA**

(answer was: “Snake Alley / Burlington, IA”).

Congrats to Rob and he earned himself some nice Lake Delhi apparel!!!

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## **We need Volunteers on August 1st, 2015!!!**

As you know, we are preparing Lake Delhi to be filled with water in the near future. One aspect of preparation for that monumental event is to ensure that the lake bed is clear of trees that are growing above or near the water surface upon lake refill.

We have been actively working on lake bed tree mitigation/cutting, addressing a number of tree-infested areas for several years. In addition, many property owners have been making a concerted effort to keep the lake bed tree growth cut down over the past 4-5 years. But there are still a number of remaining tree-infested areas. We are now in the home stretch approaching the lake refill date. We need to ensure that all key areas of the lake bed are free of trees and debris that can impact lake recreation.

We have been using some heavy machine cutting equipment to very effectively cut down trees growing in many of the lake bed areas. However, there are certain areas we cannot get to with the large equipment, and we need to take care of those areas by hand-cutting.

**>>>On August 1st, 2015, we will be holding a Volunteer Hand-Cutting Event that we hope many volunteers will attend and help prepare Lake Delhi for its return.<<<**

We need volunteers who can do the following:

Walk the lake bed in selected/targeted areas and cut down trees that have a trunk diameter between approx ½” – 3” using either a chain saw, battery operated reciprocating saw, or any type of saw or clipper/chopper designed to easily cut through trees of the ½” – 3” diameter. Work Gloves are recommended.

If you are able to cut smaller diameter ½” – 1.5” trees with the tools that you have, that is OK too (we can have people following you with a cutting tool that can take care of the larger diameter trees).

We welcome any volunteers who are equipped and able to cut.

**LUNCH (and many high fives) WILL BE PROVIDED FREE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS.**

**When:** Saturday, August 1st, 2015 (if it is going to rain a lot that day, we may move the hand cutting day to the next day (Sunday)--- we would notify you early Saturday morning if moving to Sunday via the Website or email if you RSVP)

**Time:** 9:00 AM through approximately 1:30 pm (We will be Serving Lunch to Conclude this Event)

**Where:** Meet at Hartwick Marina for a Review of the Cutting Plan, assignment of teams to specific areas, and review of safety tips

RSVP --- If possible, if you think you may attend (even if you are not 100% sure, we will not hold you to it) please send an email to [LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org](mailto:LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org), use a Subject “Hand Cutting Day RSVP”, and let us know you may be able to attend and how many in your party to volunteer. This will help us determine how much food and drink we need for Lunch.

If you have any questions, go ahead and either send an email to [LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org](mailto:LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org), use a Subject of “Hand Cutting Day Question”, or you can call me directly at 319-651-6688.

Be a part of bringing back Lake Delhi history. We look forward to your help and hope to have a very productive volunteer lake bed preparation day on August 1st.

Todd Gifford – Lake Delhi District Trustee



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## Lake Delhi FEATURE FAMILY STORY

### The Ray and Julie Hainstock Family

Ray and I had owned a boat for most of our married lives. We went to Minnesota every summer for 12 years and boated on the Maquoketa River by Maquoketa. We were ready to stop packing and unpacking. We weren't looking to buy a cabin it just happened. Our Lake Delhi cabin life began in 1993. The only time we had been to the lake was a couple of times to visit Cliff and Sandy Dirks whose cabin was at Linden Acres. One Sunday we were reading the newspaper and noticed an ad for a cabin for sale. We contacted Conrad Dunn and set up a meeting with him to look at one. He told us this cabin, in his opinion, had the best view on the lake. The rest is 22 years of our history on the lake and looking forward to having our cabin in the family for many more years.

We soon realized having a cabin is really all about the kids. Our children Josh (Rosa) live in Minnesota and Chelsea (Adam) Sheppard live outside of Monticello. Chelsea and Adam have two boys, Cruz and Cash. Josh and Chelsea were only 13 and 11 when we purchased the cabin. Our kids, our families' kids and all their friends, are the ones who will have the memories of "growing up on the lake." Some of the memories we know about some we don't want to know about! If it wasn't for the kids, the cabin would be an awfully quiet place. Now we can't wait for our grandchildren to get to see the lake and make their own memories. At first our families would come for the weekend and stay. They are the ones who put in a lot of work to make our cabin the way it is today.

Building walls and decks, working on boats and all the other water toys. Then my brother, Jim Cleary and his wife Darlene, bought their cabin across from us eventually tearing that cabin down and building their home in the same spot. We're hoping the rest of our family will have summer homes on the lake in the future. Outside of working on the cabin we did do a lot of boating. Taking the kids for endless boat rides, tube rides and water skiing. Adults and children learned along the way how to ski, where to ski, barefoot ski, ski at midnight, best time to be on the lake as well as when to be off the lake. Almost everyone got to experience "Injun Joe". The kids and adults were pretty proud of themselves after they jumped off. Some jumped many times, some — once was enough. A couple of the adults had a ritual of having to slalom ski at least one time during the summer. As they got older that wasn't so easy. So many things happened at the cabin but a few events do stand out. Our daughter and Adam getting married at the cabin, the day was perfect the night was perfect and it was beautiful. Winning the raffle for the pontoon! So surprised, was not expecting to win and so happy since the flood took ours. Now we need to get it back in the lake. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July's at Lake Delhi are the best, along with X-mas on the river. Can't wait for both to happen again. The little weekly things that would happen were also a part of cabin life. Walking back and forth between the cabins in the dark and the kids not getting scared or the adults scaring each other. Also sitting at the campfire at the end of the summer listening to the kids talk about starting back to school. Then the kid's weren't around as much.

Every Labor Day we ended the summer by going to the Pizza Place, and then the cabin would be locked up until the next summer. Now we've had a big 5 – 6 year rest and we can't wait for the water to be back. When the water comes back, the kids will be back and more memories will be made.





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Some Truly Spectacular Photos of the Construction Process of the Dam at Lake Delhi (taken in Fall of 2014)





## Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart:

### The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value:

#### Protect It and Inspect It:

##### Do:

- Have your system inspected (in general) every three years by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.

#### Think at the Sink

##### Don't:

- Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
- Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
- Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

##### Do:

- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
- Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
- Put grease in a container to harden before discarding in the trash.

#### Don't Overload the Commode

##### Don't:

- Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals.

##### Do:

- Dispose of these items in the trash can!

#### Shield Your Field

##### Don't:

- Park or drive on your drainfield. The weight can damage the drain lines.
- Plant trees or shrubs too close to your drainfield, roots can grow into your system and clog it.

##### Do:

- Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on your septic tank location.

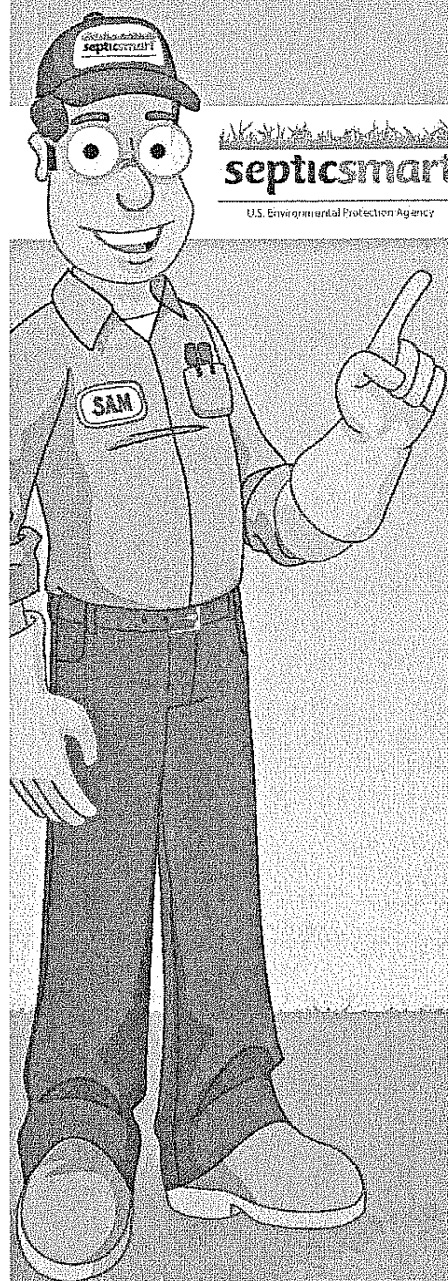
#### Don't Strain Your Drain

##### Don't

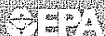
- Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine, and toilet at the same time. All that extra water can really strain your septic system.

##### Do:

- Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful especially if your system has not been pumped in a long time.
- Become more water efficient by fixing plumbing leaks and consider installing bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators and water-efficient products.



For more SepticSmart tips, visit [www.epa.gov/septicSMART](http://www.epa.gov/septicSMART)



832-R-13-002 • September 2012



# Lake Delhi Shirt/Apparel Order Form

All Proceeds Go to: The Community Fund to Rebuild Lake Delhi



Item	Color	Price	Size	Order Qty	Ext \$ Amount
Lake Delhi Hooded Sweatshirt ( <i>with zipper</i> )		\$30			
Lake Delhi Hooded Sweatshirt 2XL+ ( <i>with zipper</i> )		\$35			
Lake Delhi Regular Sweatshirt		\$20			
Lake Delhi Regular Sweatshirt 2XL+		\$25			
Lake Delhi Ladies White T-Shirt	White	\$15			
Lake Delhi Ladies Heather T-Shirt	Heather	\$15			
<i>I Gave a DAM</i> T-Shirt or <i>Dam-Just Build It</i> T-Shirt – White	White	\$15			
<i>I Gave a DAM</i> T-Shirt or <i>Dam-Just Build It</i> T-Shirt – Gray	Gray	\$15			
Lake Delhi Polo Shirt – Ladies Style	Yellow	\$30			
Lake Delhi Polo Shirt – Reg Style	Navy	\$30			
Lake Delhi Fleece Jacket	Black	\$40			
Lake Delhi Cap	Gold/Black	\$15			
Lake Delhi Cap	Navy/White	\$15			
Lake Delhi Cap	Royal Blue	\$15			
Lake Delhi <i>Visor</i>		\$10			
				<b>Total \$:</b>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Form and Check Payment to:**  
**Community Fund to Rebuild Lake Delhi**  
**712A Third St.**  
**Delhi, IA 52223**

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Kramer at (563) 920-9863 or Todd Gifford at 319-651-6688