

## Delavan Lake Improvement Association

### Summer Newsletter – July 2019

A big thank you for all who attended our DLIA Spring Event on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker, Dr. Dale Robertson, presented the USGS analysis of data from regular monitoring of Delavan Lake. This was a unique occasion for us to learn what goes on behind the scenes as we enjoy the recreational aspects of the lake.

Dale's findings and recommendations for lake health are exactly what the DLIA has promoted over the past several years: Cover crop in the watershed and other conservation farming practices will reduce agricultural run-off into the water and slow sediment seepage toward the lake. This is an ongoing mission and each farmer needs to be educated to understand the benefits to their soil with continued practice.

**CURRENTLY LOCAL FARMERS ARE EXPERIENCING CHALLENGES IN PLANTING DUE TO THE INTENSE AND CONTINUAL RAINFALL. THE DLIA HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH "NEW" FARMERS WHO DID NOT PLANT DUE TO WET WEATHER. AT THIS POINT THEIR LAND IS IN DIRT WHICH WILL CERTAINLY RUN OFF THIS SUMMER WITHOUT SOMETHING TO HOLD IT IN PLACE. THESE ARE FARM OPERATORS WHO HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE BENEFITS OF COVERCROP. EDUCATING NEW FARMERS ALLOWS US TO INITIATE IMPORTANT LONG-TERM PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION AND INTRODUCE OTHER RELATED FARM PRACTICES YIELDING LOWER NUTRIENT REQUIREMENTS.**

THE DLIA WAS APPROACHED BY OUR PARTNER AT WALWORTH COUNTY CONSERVATION, BRIAN SMETANA, AND ASKED TO FINANCIALLY ASSIST SOME OF THE FARMERS.

WITH A 26,000 ACRE WATERSHED WE NEED TO ADDRESS THIS POINT SOURCE OF PHOSPHOROUS AND HELP WHERE WE CAN TO EDUCATE & ASSIST THE FARMERS.

WE HAVE A SMALL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY SINCE MORE RAIN HITTING THESE MUD FIELDS WILL DISLODGE THE NUTRIENT RICH SEDIMENT AND SEND IT MOVING THROUGH THE WATERSHED.

***WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT THRU  
ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND / OR MONETARY  
DONATIONS.***

AS DR. ROBERTSON CONCLUDED IN HIS PRESENTATION, THE WATERSHED IS THE RIGHT PLACE TO CONCENTRATE & EXPAND OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE DELAVAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION. WE ARE A VOLUNTEER GROUP THAT WORKS WITH TOWN OF DELAVAN & THE DELAVAN LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT TO ADVOCATE FOR LAKE WATER HEALTH.**

THE DLIA IS 501 (c) 3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. YOUR DONATION & DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

**FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE DELAVAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ANYTIME. OUR  
EMAIL IS: [info@delavan-lake.org](mailto:info@delavan-lake.org).**

