



# Upper Hay Lake Association

P.O. Box 769  
Pequot Lakes, Minnesota 56472

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*Summer Newsletter*

*July 2015*

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## **Greetings From Your President!**

What a wonderful 4th of July celebration we had! The parade in Pequot Lakes was fun and festive. As the sun set, it was spectacular to watch fireworks around Upper Hay Lake. I feel fortunate to be a resident of Upper Hay Lake.

Our application for Shoreline Restoration grant monies was not accepted this year. I would recommend if you are interested in applying for some assistance next year, that you send a copy of your proposal to a UHLA board member before April 2016. If we receive some requests, we can submit a grant application in the spring. Having some designs or proposals will greatly increase our chances of getting Shoreline Restoration grant approval. I still believe that, in the long term, shoreline restoration with native plants will greatly enhance the quality of our lake and reduce the phosphorous levels in our water.

While kayaking around the lake, I have noticed that many of you are working on your shorelines. I know that some of you feel defeated with the amount of work and sweat labor that has been required. Bre Bauerly from Minnesota Native Landscapes and Darren Mayers with the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District have resources available to assist you in determining a plan for your shoreline. Also – I urge you to read Phil Hunsiker’s article on Ice Ridges in the newsletter. Phil is an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Planner with the DNR. He presents another point of view that is worth considering.

Today in my kayaking, I stopped by the public landing and had the opportunity to visit with Diane who has been doing the majority of the AIS inspection. She remarked about how some boaters have been somewhat skeptical but all have been cooperative. These inspections are important to keep aquatic invasive species out of our beautiful

lake. Diane commented that she loves Upper Hay Lake!

Please remind your guests to watch for the loons as they boat on Upper Hay Lake. We need to be especially careful to take care of our “baby” loon.

We look forward to seeing you at the Upper Hay Lake Annual Picnic on Saturday, August 1st at Noon. As always, there will be plenty of food to share, games for all “young at heart” to play and lively conversation. In order for us to have enough meat for everyone, it would be helpful if you would RSVP to me at [Claire.steen@charter.net](mailto:Claire.steen@charter.net) by July 29 to let us know how many of your friends or family are coming. Thank you. Take time to enjoy the amazing sunsets for the remainder of the summer.

*Claire Steen, President*

## **Zebra Mussel Veliger Testing**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the DNR found three zebra mussel veligers in Upper Hay last year at a couple test locations. Crow Wing Country has contracted with RMB Labs to provide testing for the microscopic zebra mussel offspring beginning here in July. The Board of Directors voted to purchase a special sampling net that costs about \$182. Greg Murphy volunteered to attend the training required to properly conduct the testing. We owe Greg a huge “Thanks!” Obviously we are hoping to find nothing, but it is always better to “act” rather than “react”. The earlier you find these things, the better your chances of dealing with them.

## **Public Access Monitors**

Grants were made available from the State Legislature to pay for monitors to work at the public accesses on the Whitefish Chain to watch for the transport of Invasive Species. These folks are specifically trained to inspect boats and trailers as they enter and leave a lake to help prevent the

spread of AIS. Upper Hay was allocated 400 hours of support for our access at various times most days of the week with special emphasis on the weekends. This program is vital to stopping the spread of AIS. As you know, Jim Fleming spent hours over there but was unable to find others to volunteer time. Therefore this program is just superb for our lake.

### **Public Access Counter**

The Board of Directors also voted to buy and install a counter that keeps track of each boat entering and leaving Upper Hay. Using this data, we can better schedule the monitor personnel mentioned in the paragraph above. Counter data has been uploaded and is available online at [www.trafx.net](http://www.trafx.net) with the login [mitch.brinks@crowwing.us](mailto:mitch.brinks@crowwing.us), password 1234 ... then go to the Analyze tab. The data gathered so far is kind of interesting. Check it out.

### **Annual Membership Meeting**

The Annual Membership Breakfast and Meeting was held on May 16 at the Jenkins VFW. Darren Mayers of the Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District gave a very informative presentation dealing with shoreline restoration. Bre Bauerly from Minnesota Native Landscapes talked about plants suitable for such projects.

Attendance was not what we had hoped for with only 42 people present. Some are wondering if there is a better time of year for the meeting so more folks can attend. Our lake is the only reason we live here so it's well being is a concern for all of us. The only way to know what is going on and to learn some neat things from our presenters is to attend. We will be asking folks for their ideas at the picnic and, of course, you can call any board member and make a suggestion.

New Board members were elected. Karen Bowman resigned from her position as our secretary. We would like to thank her for her service. Nick Nikodym volunteered to fill her final year as a Board Member. Claire Steen, Ken Meyer, and Joanne Audette finished their three-year term and were up for reelection. Claire Steen and Ken Meyer agreed to serve for another three years and Joanne Audette chose not to run. Jan Marshall volunteered

to serve the three-year term replacing Joanne. Our thanks to Joanne for her service and to Jan for volunteering to serve. At the Board meeting following the membership meeting, Jan was selected to serve as our secretary. A complete list of the new Directors is enclosed.

Last year nine properties applied for shoreline restoration grants. At this time, seven have been completed. Projects were completed at the Murphy, Meyer, Ford, Larson, Fleming, Rieck and Ohland properties. As you "cruise the lake", check out the work and see what can be done to protect your shoreline. Also check out DeLong's shoreline as their restoration project has been in place a few years and you can see how beautiful the final results can be. We applied for grants again this year, but were turned down as we had no applicants requesting grants. If you are considering a restoration project, you must let our President, Claire Steen, know about it.

### **Summer Picnic**

The annual picnic is scheduled at Hay Lake Lodge for Saturday, August 1 beginning at Noon. Rain "backup date" is August 8. Set this date aside and join us. We always have a great time and superb food. All you need to bring is a side dish to share and a lawn chair if you wish. Burgers and brats are provided. If you have guests in during that weekend, bring them along. The more the better.

### **Upper Hay Loons**

Once again, Gene and Florence DeLong are "grandparents" to a baby loon. The little critter is incredibly cute. They hang out on the South shore. Please give them a WIDE berth, especially when pulling folks behind your boats. One of the greatest causes for baby loon mortality is being struck by boats.

Ken Meyer wrote the following message on Nextdoor:

"Hi everyone! I don't know if you read the article in the article in the newspaper on the health of our loons and the BP oil spill. This was certainly not a good year for our loon family. First of all, it took them a whole month to lay their first egg. Then it didn't hatch! I knew it was way

overdue when we left on vacation, but didn't have the heart to deal with it at the time. When we returned after the 4th it had been seven weeks. I went out to the platform and dealt with a very angry loon ... once I was able to reach the one egg that was left, I found that it was very light and actually rattled when I shook it. I tossed it away in the water and it floated. I then brought the platform in and put it away. I certainly hope the loon pair doesn't try to nest again this year as it is way too late.

Is it possible that our loons have been affected by the oil spill? I certainly hope not. We will have to see what happens next year. I'm really glad that the baby loon that hatched on Gene DeLong's platform is healthy. Congratulations Gene."

The following article is paraphrased from the July 8 edition of the Minneapolis Star Tribune:

**“Minnesota’s loons could benefit from BP Gulf payout”** Minnesota could receive as much as \$39 million over the next 15 years. There is a proposal to preserve and create critical nesting sites on Minnesota’s lakes, as well as a program to encourage anglers to stop using lead weights and jigs. Loons from MN migrate to the Gulf in the winter. In the Gulf they will often dive over 100 feet, all the way to the contaminated bottom. Testing of dead loons or abandoned eggs show 36 of 142 were contaminated with carcinogens from petroleum.

The complete article can be found at <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-s-loons-could-benefit-from-bp-gulf-payout/312330021/>

Here on Upper Hay, when they forage on the bottom, they ingest the lead sinkers. About 10% of loons die from lead poisoning. A note to our fishermen: please help our lake “mascots” by eliminating the lead from your tackle boxes.

### **AIS Trailer Decal Legislation**

The following is from the MN DNR website, <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2015/06/22/dnr-aquatic-invasive-species-training-and-trailer-decal-repealed-affirmation-passed/>.

### **DNR aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal repealed; affirmation passed**

*(Released June 22, 2015)*

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources aquatic invasive species (AIS) training and trailer decal program, which was due to launch this year, was repealed by the Minnesota Legislature during its recently completed special session.

In its place, the Legislature added an AIS affirmation provision to some licenses. The affirmation will be added to new watercraft and nonresident fishing licenses beginning in 2016, so no immediate actions are required under the new law.

“We appreciate the aquatic invasive species affirmation passed by the Legislature,” said Ann Pierce, Section Manager for the DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division. “We will continue to use all educational and outreach tools available to reach out to Minnesotans and visitors to help keep our lakes and rivers healthy.”

Starting in 2016, all newly issued watercraft licenses will have an AIS affirmation section. All nonresident fishing licenses will also include the AIS affirmation section beginning in March 2016. License applicants after these dates will receive a summary of AIS laws and will be required to affirm that they have read and understand the summary in order to receive their license. No fees are associated with the affirmation.

The repealed law applied to anyone trailering a boat or water-related equipment, such as docks and lifts, in Minnesota. It would have required these individuals to take aquatic invasive species training and display a decal on their trailer starting July 15.

*Bruce Ohland, Board Member*

### **From Your Treasurer**

As of July 13, 2015 we have 92 paid-up members in our association. We have received \$2,190.00 in annual dues, \$1,780.00 in extra donations, \$918.28 from Thrivent Financial, \$350.00 in permit applications, and \$70.00 for cookbook sales; or a total income of \$5,308.28. Our expenses to date are \$1,790.91. We have increased our treasury by \$3,517.37.

*Ken Meyer*

**DNR Fish Report - Sample Year 2014  
June 29, 2015**

The concern last year for the excessive amount of small Northerns in Upper Hay Lake is perhaps unfounded. They did get 120 Northern from 15 to 29 inches but that is not much of an increase from 2008.

The Black Crappie and Bluegill Population looks great compared to past fish surveys. My first look goes back to 1987. Giant Schools of Yellow Perch in the lake back in the good old days. Also looking good are Walleyes and Largemouth Bass. Yellow Perch are down to only 10 fish caught (food for Northerns, Bass and Walleye).

Number of fish sampled in 2014:

- Black Crappie..... 43
- Bluegill..... 125
- Largemouth Bass..... 8
- Northern Pike ..... 120
- Walleye..... 17
- Yellow Perch..... 10

Nine of the Walleye trapped were 15-19 inches, a good eating size.

Good Luck Fishing this Summer.

*Mickey Perwien, Board Member*

The following article was written by Phil Hunsicker and published in the LARA newsletter. We are reprinting here with Phil's permission.

**A Best Management Practice: Do Nothing**

Many of us experienced ice ridges this winter like never before. Ice that froze, thawed and froze again, pushed against the shoreline and created mountains of sand that were close to becoming the highest elevations in Minnesota. For many of us, our first impulse was to get out there with a shovel or a contractor and show that ice and sand just who was boss. And just to show Mother Nature that we wouldn't take this kind of behavior lying down, we threw a ton or two of rip-rap down, too.

Take that! We bought ourselves one year of feeling superior until next winter when the ice and sand says, "You really think you're the one in charge? Watch me move these expensive boulders around like they're marbles."

Here's an idea that our parents, teachers and guidance counselors never told us: do nothing. Leave the ice ridge alone. Let nature have her way while we sit back in a comfortable chair, sip ice tea, watch the ballgame, and spend that rip-rap money on things like college funds for our grandchildren. That ice ridge, which may not fit into our current vision of what a desirable shoreline should look like, provides a natural barrier that protects the lake from runoff coming off our lawns. Our lawns. There's another expensive time-consumer we should talk about. Maybe next time. This time, I want to recommend that instead of attacking our ice ridges, why not embrace the low maintenance appeal of a sand dune in our very own yard. Why is it that a sand dune found on Cape Cod or along the shores of Lake Michigan is viewed as a beautiful wonder of nature, but here on our lakes, it is viewed as the enemy?

Nowadays, a full glass of ice tea is my enemy, and I will annihilate it any chance I can get. And I don't care if an unattended ice ridge sees me do it.

If you have any other low-maintenance or no-maintenance best management practices to share, let us know and we'll compile a list for those of us who no longer have the time or the energy to fight Mother Nature. I'll share them with you... unless I'm busy sipping my tea.



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**Upper Hay Lake Association**  
**Board of Directors 2015/2016**

					<u>Term Ends</u>
Larson, Whitey	33061 W Shady Beach Ln	218-568-5831	<a href="mailto:whiteylar@me.com">whiteylar@me.com</a>	2016	
Meyer, Ken <i>Treasurer</i>	4345 Acorn Lane	218-568-5414	<a href="mailto:kenmeyer@tds.net">kenmeyer@tds.net</a>	2018	
Marshall, Jan <i>Secretary</i>	4309 Acorn Lane	218-568-4738 763-486-5484 Cell	<a href="mailto:janet.marshall@charter.net">janet.marshall@charter.net</a>	2018	
Murphy, Judy	33424 S. Oak Drive	218-330-1890 Cell	<a href="mailto:gwmurphy64@gmail.com">gwmurphy64@gmail.com</a>	2017	
Nikodym, Nick	34331 Birch Trail 512 Greenview Court Sartell, MN 56377	218-568-6963 320-253-3020 320-291-4065 Cell	<a href="mailto:suenick2@live.com">suenick2@live.com</a>	2016	
Ohland, Bruce	33181 S. Upper Hay Dr.	218-568-5356 480-313-0565 Cell	<a href="mailto:bruce_ohland@yahoo.com">bruce_ohland@yahoo.com</a>	2017	
Perwien, Mickey	33546 N. Oak Drive	612-386-4858 Cell	<a href="mailto:mperwien@gmail.com">mperwien@gmail.com</a>	2016	
Scarborough, Steve <i>Vice-President</i>	33121 Osprey Circle	218-568-6152	<a href="mailto:scarboroughsteven2@gmail.com">scarboroughsteven2@gmail.com</a>	2017	
Steen, Claire <i>President</i>	33161 Osprey Circle 29 Kingwood Street Brainerd, MN 56401	218-330-7059 Cell 218-829-3757	<a href="mailto:claire.steen@charter.net">claire.steen@charter.net</a>	2018	