



Upper Hay Lake Association

P.O. Box 769

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Fall Newsletter

October 2020

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Greetings from your President

What an amazing fall it has been! I have managed to get one last kayak ride in to enjoy the crystal-like water and beautiful colors. It is a bittersweet time of the year as everyone is busy bringing in their boats and docks. We had a windy yet beautiful summer to create many memories on Upper Hay Lake. I am always a little sad to see it come to an end but am thankful that I can share the lake with you.

As of September 18th, three hundred hours of AIS inspection were completed at the public landing. "Hats Off" to Sam for doing a fantastic job monitoring our lake access. She reported that we had a larger number of boats coming to our lake than in the past. There will be AIS training available in early spring for volunteers. It would be a benefit to have volunteer inspectors at the landing in the early evening hours during the week.

Crow Wing County is hosting a 2020 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention and wrap-up presentation on October 28th starting at 9:00 AM. This presentation will summarize the watercraft inspection season and AIS prevention completed in 2020. This meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to virtually attend this meeting, call into +1 218-302-1725. Conference ID: 903 754 753#. I can forward you additional information if you are interested.

Shoreline restoration continues to be a priority for the UHLA Board. Residents can apply for money from the UHLA to be used for shoreline restoration provided that you present a plan to the UHLA Board and use native plants. Grant money cannot be used toward rip rap. There needs to be a minimum of three years between approved applications to receive \$600 for shoreline restoration. We still maintain that shoreline restoration is an effective way to help reduce the amount of phosphorus in our lake. Our UHLA Board members have had extensive discussions on this concern. As property owners, I urge you to consider if you are going to have rip rap, to have at least twenty percent of your lakeshore in native plants.

If you have a new neighbor move in, we would appreciate if you notify one of us on the UHLA Board.

There has been a significant change of residents on our lake and we would like to be able to keep our lake map current. Remember that Upper Hay Lake Association will continue to be successful if we have a strong and interested membership. Thank you for your commitment.

—Claire Steen

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Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates have been busy in 2020 with our state legislature. During the 2020 Legislative session MLR lobbyists and members worked to:

- Increase penalties for violating aquatic invasive species laws from \$250 to \$1000.
- Introduce "Don't Sell Our Water" legislation to prevent the export of Minnesota's water out of state through a pipeline, train car or tanker truck. In the last year a number of proposals have emerged to ship Minnesota's water to the increasingly arid Southwestern states.
- Advance "Sustainable Shoreline Incentive Act" legislation to help owners voluntarily protect and restore their shorelines to improve water quality and fish habitat.
- Create a watercraft safety operators certification and rigorous training course for safety, AIS prevention, and minimizing both quality of life impacts and ecological impacts of boat wakes and prop wash, which can erode shoreline, kill loon chicks, churn up sediments and destroy aquatic plants as well as destroy docks, lifts and other shoreline infrastructure.
- Fund research by the St. Anthony Falls Fluid Dynamics Lab into prop wash and wake impacts on lake ecology so we can provide best practices to boaters.
- Prevent a shift of State General Tax onto cabins and advance private property protections as the legislature grapples with vacation home rental properties.
- Continue and expand the funding for "No Child Left Inside" legislation to connect local school students with aquatic science education. People

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