



# Upper Hay Lake Association

P.O. Box 769  
Pequot Lakes, Minnesota 56472

Summer Newsletter

July 2020

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## Greetings from Your President!

Upper Hay Lake had a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration! Thanks to all of you who participated in our fifth annual boat parade. A special thank you to Jean Ford and family who led our boat parade this year. Jean counted an amazing thirty-six entries. The decorations were festive in the spirit of red, white and blue. Although the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was different for some this year, the boat parade filled our beautiful lake with holiday spirit.

The Upper Hay Lake Association has experienced two significant changes this summer. Charlie Ford passed away on May 24, 2020 in Florida from a bike accident. He was doing what he loved. Charlie was the first resident that I met on Upper Hay Lake. Some of you know that I enjoy kayaking around the lake. My first summer kayaking on the lake, Charlie came out to meet me. Many of you know that Charlie was skilled in the art of conversation. I always enjoyed visiting with Charlie and yes, even sometimes, disagreeing with him. However, Charlie was always delightful and respectful in his approach with others. During the winter, I had the privilege of being a guest of Charlie and Jean's in Florida. He was known as "Sandbar Charlie" there and I was fortunate to experience getting stuck on a sandbar with him. We will miss having the delightful Charlie on our lake and in our community. Please keep Jean in your thoughts and prayers.

The other significant change is that Florence and Gene DeLong have sold their beautiful piece of property and are moving back to Iowa. Florence served as our Upper Hay Lake Association secretary for several years. Gene was an amazing steward of Upper Hay Lake. He tested our water for many years and faithfully bringing water samples in to be tested. Every spring, Gene could be counted on to put the loon nest out in the southeast corner of the lake. Gene also participated in a loon study with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He always said that he was just a "pig farmer from Iowa" but his commitment to our lake was second to none. Florence and Gene were the first to complete a beautiful shoreline restoration which was always full of beautiful flowers in the late summer. My thanks to both Florence and Gene for giving of their talents and knowledge to Upper Hay Lake. We will miss you!

If you have been at the public landing, you may have met Sam. She is our inspector who works on Saturday and Sunday. We have been granted 300 hours this year. If any of you are interested in volunteering to inspect, there will be training classes available next spring. Sam even has children at the landing helping to pick up trash or debris. She loves being at our lake and has been a great asset to us.

Thanks to Neil Beaverson who arranged for the porta-potty at the public landing. Sam reports that people have appreciated having it available for boaters and for her while she is working. Because there were several requests, the DNR did lower the dock at the landing for us in a prompt manner.

*Claire Steen*

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## July 4, 2020 Boat Parade

Thank you to all who participated in this year's boat parade. Each year it seems like we have increased the number of boats joining the parade. Let's keep the number increasing each year! There were some really "classy" decorations. Great job!! One thing the UHLA board would ask is **not** to throw water balloons on the lake. The fish and birds go after the debris from the balloons, choke and essentially it **kills them**. Let's keep our lake healthy. Throw all the water balloons you want on your yard. The water will help your grass especially during these very dry days and also help cool you off. Everyone appreciates your cooperation.

*Jan Marshall*

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## Celebrating 30 Years of Conservation Funding

2020 is the 30th anniversary of conservation funding from the MN State Lottery. This funding has made hundreds of clean water, parks, and conservation projects possible across Minnesota. Today, the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, created by voters and built with proceeds from the lottery, provides over \$60 million each year.

**Celebrating:** pg. 2

**Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow**

**Celebrating** (from page 1)

There is strong support for using lottery funds for a healthy environment. In a recent poll, 75 % of Minnesotans said they would vote to use lottery funds for conservation and environmental protection for the next 30 years.

**We May Need This Dog**

Invasive species such as zebra mussels are a big problem in lakes and rivers, but a former shelter dog named Puddles aims to make sure they don't take hold in Washington state's Columbia River, which is still free of the invasive mollusks.

She is trained to sniff them out on boat bottoms so they can be eradicated before populating waterways and damaging the ecology. Trained mussel-detecting dogs can save states millions of dollars in cleanup. Puddles, who was trained as a mussel-detection dog by Mussel Dogs in Oakdale, Calif., is employed by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

**Lost a Great Neighbor and Friend**

Charlie Ford passed away suddenly on May 24th, 2020. Charlie and Jean were married for 65 years and lived on Upper Hay for 40 years. Charlie lost his life doing what he loved, riding his bicycle.

Charlie had a great smile and loved talking with people. He always made my day a little brighter and will really be missed! The good news is that we still have a great neighbor: Jean Ford. If you get a chance, stop by and visit with her.

Whitey Larson

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**Vacation Rental Licenses Required in 2021**

The Crow Wing County Board has finally adopted a new ordinance concerning property owners who operate short-term vacation rentals. Vacation Rental By Owner, (VRBO) has been discussed for nearly a decade and will now have new regulations and licensure requirements beginning in 2021.

The new ordinance outlines the responsibilities of operators to abide by rules concerning septic systems and solid waste, occupancy, noise, parking and conformity with existing county and state requirements. There will be penalties and fines associated with it.

An annual license will be required for "any home, cabin, condominium or similar building that is advertised as, or held out to be, a place where sleeping quarters are furnished to the public on a nightly, weekly, or for less than a 30-day time period and is not a bed and breakfast, resort, hotel or motel."

The ordinance goes on to state, "It is the purpose and intent of this ordinance to regulate short term rentals within Crow Wing County to continue the allowed use of short term rental units, but also mitigate possible adverse impacts to the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of surrounding properties, as well as water and environmental quality, through the establishment of a licensing program for the review and approval of short-term rental unit operations."

License fees will not be officially approved until December, but if it follows current fees it would be \$200 for a two-bedroom property, \$300 for three & four bedrooms, \$400 for five bedrooms, and \$500 for six or more bedrooms.

One of the commissioners said, "We require hotels, campgrounds and everybody else to be licensed and carry their load in terms of licensure process, I think it's only fair that this group, who competes against them, has to bear the same burden."

You may read the full text of the draft ordinance at:  
<https://www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/17048/Draft-Ordinance---Locked?bidId=>

Ken Meyer

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**Black-capped Chickadees**

One of my favorite things to do is to watch our birdfeeders as the Chickadees swoop in, grab a sunflower seed and zoom up to a branch to "dine". But this year there are very few at my feeders. No Nuthatches either. I've searched the internet for possible answers to the population decline but nothing obvious pops up. This happened a few years ago and a neighbor said there was a hawk nest in the area and apparently that scared off the Chickadees. The next year they were back. I sure hope they return next year.

Here's a short primer on our little buddies.

The Black-capped Chickadee is a permanent resident. They typically don't migrate other than a very short distance. They are omnivores, which means they feed on insects, spiders, seeds, and berries gleaned from foliage

**Chickadees: pg. 3**

**Chickadees** (from pg. 2)

or feeders. They nest in tree cavities, often self-excavated in a natural cavity; occasionally a nest box or a cavity excavated by a woodpecker. They usually lay 6-8 eggs, sometimes more or fewer. The eggs are white, with fine dots of reddish brown often concentrated around larger end. Incubation is by female only, 12-13 days. The female covers eggs with nest material when leaving nest. The male often brings food to female during incubation. Young: Female remains with young most of time at first, while male brings food; later, both parents bring food. Young leave nest at about 16 days. There is normally one brood per year.

If you are interested in building a Chickadee nest box, here is what you need to know. The box should be 5 1/2" square and 8" high. Drill a hole in the center of one side 1 1/8" in diameter. Place the box from 5 to 15 feet above the ground and have the hole facing away from prevailing winds. The Chickadee likes an open route to the hole, keep the box away from branches. Line the box with about a 1" layer of wood shavings. If you are putting up several, keep them a long ways apart. They recommend 650 foot spacing.

Go to <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/birds/black-capped-chickadee/>

**Local Farmers Markets**

Who doesn't like fresh produce? Below is a list of the local Farmer's Markets in the area.

**Pine River Market Square**

Fridays, 2:30-5:30pm  
Pine River Information Center

**Brainerd Lakes Area Farmers Markets**

Tuesdays, 8am-12:30pm

Franklin Arts Center

Brainerd

Nisswa

Thursdays, 8am-12:30pm

Nisswa American Legion

Baxter

Fridays, 8am-12:30pm

Viking Land Harley Davidson

**Pequot Lakes Farmers Market**

Wednesday, 9am-1pm

It's a Wing Ding Thing parking lot

**Ideal Green Farmers Market**

Saturdays, 9am-1pm

Ideal Green Market Cooperative

Ideal Corners

**National Loon Center broadcasting live Loon Cam footage above and under water**

This past spring the National Loon Center began broadcasting a 24/7 live Loon Cam that featured a state of the art camera system that captures both above and underwater footage of a nest claimed by a pair of loons. The nest and camera system was launched in the Brainerd Lakes Area and was live through the entirety of the nesting season. The Pelican Lakes Association, Pelican Lakes Conservation Club, and Axis Communications have generously provided funds and donated equipment for this to be accomplished and we are so excited to share this footage with the rest of Minnesota and people across the nation. It took a few days to get the nest launched this year as it was very windy on the lake but we were able to get it in on Friday, April 17th. Within 10 minutes of the nest being established the pair of loons were already checking it out which was a cool site to see! Within 24 hours the loon pair had mated in the nest and had warded off a flock of geese looking to invade the nest. The National Loon Center is being built in Crosslake and should be completed in 2022. In the meantime this Loon cam should be running in the mating season, around April-May. Check it out next year at [nationallooncenter.org](http://nationallooncenter.org) and go to "take a peek"! For more interesting info on the upcoming loon center go to <https://www.nationallooncenter.org/#purpose> and check it out.

**We are Grandparents!!!**

(That's all of us on Upper Hay!)



Sue Johnson captured our own Upper Hay Loon parents and their 2 little ones. They came from the nest near the outlet to Lower Hay. Great job! Thanks Sue & Neil!



Submitted by Bruce Ohland



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**Upper Hay Lake Association**  
**Board of Directors 2020/2021**

				<u>Term Ends</u>
Beaverson, Neil	(33904 N. Oak Drive) 417 Bear Ave. S. Vadnais Heights, MN 55127	651-429-6672	<a href="mailto:nmbeaverson@comcast.net">nmbeaverson@comcast.net</a>	2021
Larson, Whitey	33061 W Shady Beach Ln	218-568-5831	<a href="mailto:whiteylar@me.com">whiteylar@me.com</a>	2023
Marshall, Jan <i>Secretary</i>	4309 Acorn Lane	218-568-4738 763-486-5484 Cell	<a href="mailto:jhmarshall40@gmail.com">jhmarshall40@gmail.com</a>	2022
Meyer, Ken <i>Treasurer</i>	4345 Acorn Lane	218-568-5414 218-820-7683 Cell	<a href="mailto:kenmeyer@tds.net">kenmeyer@tds.net</a>	2022
Murphy, Judy <i>Vice-President</i>	33424 S. Oak Drive	218-330-1890 Cell	<a href="mailto:jamurphy61.jm@gmail.com">jamurphy61.jm@gmail.com</a>	2021
Perwien, Mickey	33546 N. Oak Drive	612-386-4858 Cell	<a href="mailto:mperwien@gmail.com">mperwien@gmail.com</a>	2023
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>	2022
Schultz, Brad	33143 Osprey Circle	218-568-1070	<a href="mailto:nlonglaker@gmail.com">nlonglaker@gmail.com</a>	2021
Braun, Bob	(4875 Popple Trail) 1262 Wilderness Curve Eagan, MN 55123	651-587-5596 Cell	<a href="mailto:rhbraun@comcast.net">rhbraun@comcast.net</a>	2023

Notes:

1. Unless listed otherwise, all addresses are Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
2. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the absence of an Annual Meeting, all terms were extended one year.