



# Upper Hay Lake Association

P.O. Box 769

Pequot Lakes, Minnesota 56472

Summer Newsletter

July 2021

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## Greetings from your President

Upper Hay Lake had a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration! Thanks to all who participated in our Sixth Annual Boat Parade. A special thank you goes out to Cindy Rieck who led the parade with a very festive pontoon. Cindy has been an outstanding steward of our lake. We counted twenty-nine entries. An extra special touch was having residents and guests squirting water cannons along the shore line. The good news was that, to my knowledge, no one threw water balloons. Thanks again for contributing to the holiday spirit on Upper Hay Lake!

The UHLA Board has met and determined that we would like to offer a variety of social events so that we can get to know our Upper Hay Lake neighbors. Since we have several new residents on the lake and the pandemic is improving, we see it as a need to "get together". On August 5<sup>th</sup>, we plan to have a Slider Night at the Jenkins VFW with the social hour beginning at 5:30 PM. The association will pay for the sliders. Nicole Erickson from the Crow Wing County Land Service will do a presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species. You can text or call either Judy Murphy or myself by Tuesday, July 25, if you plan to attend. Please bring your neighbor and any questions or concerns that you may have about UHLA.

We are pleased that we still have two baby loons that have survived - so far. They are getting quite large in size so I hope they make it. How many adult loons have you seen on our lake? We usually have five, but I have only seen two adults this year. Be sure to remind your guests or renters to be careful and give our loons space while boating.

A special welcome to Lori Engel who is our new UHLA Board member. Lori and her husband Tim have been residents of our lake for eighteen years. Lori comes to us with great enthusiasm and will be a tremendous asset to Upper Hay Lake Association.

There have been concerns about burning fires around our lake. We recommend that you check the fire danger at the time. If you are going to have a fire, be sure to properly extinguish it. Thank you to the Upper Hay Lake residents who opted not to have fireworks this year

due to the dry conditions. It seemed to be the appropriate decision to make.

Recently I visited with Sam who is our inspector at the public landing on Saturdays and Sundays. She says there has been less boat traffic this year. Her "boaters" have been courteous and very helpful to each other. A concern of Sam's is that she has found inappropriate "contra band" at the landing. She asked me if we should consider installing a wood, bear or deer cam. Any suggestions regarding this are welcome. Sam says that we should be proud of our lake because people are more respectful than she finds at the other ramps. Sam considers Upper Hay Lake to be her "little haven". Thanks to Sam!

Remember to reach out to your neighbor and enjoy the summer on Upper Hay Lake.

—Claire Steen

## Submitted by Board Member Whitey Larson

**Great news! - MAISRC receives funding from Omnibus bill**, by Nicholas Phelps, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

We have some great news to share... Earlier this week, Governor Walz signed the Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus bill that included funding for MAISRC and our work to find solutions to the AIS issues facing our state.

Funding for MAISRC within the final bill came from two sources:

A four-year, \$3,750,000 grant from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

\$910,000 per year in the biennium from the State of Minnesota.

This is a good outcome for MAISRC and for the future of AIS research. Continued funding means that our work will not lapse, new projects can be launched, and outreach about findings and best practices can be shared with resource managers, residents, and local governments across the state.

**Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow**

In addition, we are grateful for the support and confidence from the Minnesota legislature, in particular, the Environment and Natural Resource Committee Chairs Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen and Representative Rick Hansen.

This summer, our research teams are back—out on the water and in the lab—in full force. From White Bear Lake, where one team is mapping the lake bottom with multibeam sonar to see if the technology can differentiate between native and zebra mussel populations, to the MAISRC containment lab, where researchers are studying the herbicide resistance of hybrid watermilfoil—we're making waves and getting closer to AIS solutions.

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### **I recently received the following from Jeff Forester of MN Lakes & Rivers (MLR):**

I wanted to let you know about a new program that will help your Lake Association protect Minnesota's iconic loons.

Get the Lead Out is a program at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency under a cooperative agreement with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. The mission of GTLO is to protect and restore the population of common loons in Minnesota by reducing their exposure to lead-based fishing tackle. This is done through education, outreach, and advocacy/intervention activities that promote the use of lead-free fishing tackle. In the past, we've done tackle exchanges, set up display stands of lead-free tackle at shops, and education/outreach at sports shows.

Lead poisoning is a leading cause of death for loons. The current national estimate is that 25% of loon deaths are caused by lead poisoning. Loons:

- Consume fish with lead tackle attached. The fish can either still be on the line or broke off with tackle attached.
- Loons pick up pebbles at bottom of lakes to store in their gizzards to help them grind up and digest their food. Sometimes, loons pick up lead tackle at the bottom of a lake and swallow them.
- Strike at fishing tackle being retrieved.

### **Solutions/Strategy:**

These collection kits will allow organizations to take in lead tackle to be disposed of and recycled properly at household hazardous waste facilities, and will also have

lead-free tackle to distribute. In short, the kits will help to make sure that there is more lead-free tackle out there, and less lead tackle. This is especially crucial for lake associations and lake residents, as they have a direct connection with lakes and the loons that may be present on them.

### **Solutions and things people can do:**

- Buy & use lead-free tackle.
- Share about the dangers of lead.
- Encourage others to use lead-free tackle.
- Ask retailers to carry lead-free tackle.
- Dispose of lead tackle properly.
- Make your voice heard to your elected officials.
- Protect yourself from lead when fishing and hunting by washing your hands before eating and drinking.

If you/your association would like to collect and dispose of lead tackle to protect common loons, eagles, and other wildlife, please fill out this 4 question form:

[https://bit.ly/GTLO\\_Kit\\_InterestForm](https://bit.ly/GTLO_Kit_InterestForm), to request a free lead tackle collection kit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Get the Lead Out program. More information and pictures can be found on the form. If you have any questions, please visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/leadout](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/leadout) or contact [leadout@state.mn.us](mailto:leadout@state.mn.us)

Together we can ensure that our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will know the magic of hearing the loons call across the waters as the sun goes down.

—Jeff

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### **The One Watershed One Plan process presents a remarkable opportunity for Minnesota's Lake Associations**

by Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

In 2008 Minnesotans voted overwhelmingly (+60%) for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment which created a three-eighths of one cent sales tax for twenty five years. This was a remarkable achievement for Minnesotans in a year when anti-tax politics were in ascendance. Minnesotans voted our shared values and created a remarkable opportunity for our state.

One-third of revenues raised will fund the arts and state parks. One-third will fund grants to permanently protect wildlife habitat, most typically through Conservation

Easements. The final one-third will fund projects to protect and rehabilitate our public waters. This “clean water” portion of the Legacy Fund is directed by the Clean Water Council, a group of citizens and legislators.

Their work began with an almost complete survey of Minnesota’s lakes and rivers to see which were impaired and which were still relatively pristine. The results were alarming. Fifty six percent of Minnesota’s surface waters were listed as impaired by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MPCA.

Aquatic systems are far more complex and difficult to restore than terrestrial environments. In fact, many push back on the idea that “restoration” of an aquatic ecosystem is even possible, and point to goals like rehabilitation, or resilience.

Two facts further complicate rehabilitation and resilience efforts; all waters are connected, and water flows across political boundaries. One source of pollution will contaminate all the waters downstream. In Minnesota that is a big deal. Minnesota is one of only two places *in the world* where three continental-sized water basins originate; the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, the Red River flowing north through the vast Canadian wetlands to the Arctic Sea, and down the face of the Laurentian Divide into the Great Lakes and east to the North Atlantic.

In order to address the fifty-six percent impairment of our surface water, the Clean Water Council created the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process through the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR). 1W1P supports partnerships of local governments in developing prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans for each of the fifty-four watersheds in the state. These watersheds include multiple political entities, townships, counties, watershed districts, and cities.

The 1W1P process requires all of these disparate groups to partner, identify areas of concern, pool resources, coordinate efforts and work together towards solutions. The Clean Water Council funds an initial planning process. Once the plan is approved by BWSR, the Clean Water Council makes funding available for implementation.

During the initial planning phase the Clean Water Council encourages significant outreach, engagement and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. Lake Association leaders are intimately familiar with water issues in their jurisdiction. By committing to this process, they can help ensure that the focus of the final Comprehensive Plan includes their issues.

During the implementation phase, there is also a significant role for lake associations. Over the course of the 1W1P process hundreds of millions of dollars will go towards water projects. It is an unprecedented opportunity to protect, rehabilitate or increase the resiliency of our shared water resources.

Last year, the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates hosted a webinar with Julie Westerlund, Executive Director of 1W1P. Ms. Westerlund outlined how lake associations can get involved in developing these ten-year plans to protect local water resources, and have a real jurisdiction in the implementation. Lake associations and local communities have an important role to play in providing input and in helping implement the plans once they are approved.

**View the Recording *HERE*:**

<http://www.anymeeting.com/PI>

**More information about One Watershed, One Plan is available at:**

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan>.

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### **From our Roving Reporter, Bruce Ohland**

#### **Zebra mussels confirmed in South Long Lake**

Written By: Brainerd Dispatch, Jun. 1, 2021

A lake property owner found adult zebra mussels while fishing on the east side of South Long Lake. DNR staff confirmed a broad distribution of zebra mussels in the lake. They found no zebra mussels upstream or downstream of the lake and will continue to monitor waters connected to the lake.

Whether or not a lake is listed for any invasive species, Minnesota law requires boaters and anglers to: Clean watercraft and trailers of aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.

Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the public water access. To remove or kill them, the DNR recommends taking one or more of the following precautions before moving to another water body:

Spray with high-pressure water.

Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).

Dry for at least five days.

**Crow Wing County to open AIS decontamination stations**

Written By: Brainerd Dispatch, May 25, 2021

Watercraft decontamination consists of a very hot water rinse used to kill zebra mussels and, if needed, a high-pressure spray to remove material from boats, motors, trailers and personal gear. No soaps, bleaches, or chemicals are used during the process.

The Crow Wing County aquatic invasive species decontamination stations open for the season Friday, May 28, to help stop the spread of AIS.

The county has a permanent decontamination unit located at the Crosslake Joint Highway Maintenance Facility off County Highway 3 at 13870 Whipple Drive. This location is fully staffed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.

A mobile decontamination unit will be located at different public accesses throughout the county. It will be open and fully staffed, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. To get the location of the mobile unit, call 218-824-1055 or text CWCDECON to 72345.

Decontaminations are available to boaters free of charge, with priority given to boaters who have been referred for decontamination by watercraft inspectors or law enforcement present on area landings. Under DNR guidelines, boaters will be referred for decontamination when AIS or other unknown items or materials are discovered, the watercraft has been in the water for more than 24 hours, the watercraft is being transported to a new water body within 24 hours, or if undrainable or unverifiable water is present.

Watercraft decontamination consists of a very hot water rinse used to kill zebra mussels and, if needed, a high-pressure spray to remove material from boats, motors, trailers and personal gear. No soaps, bleaches, or chemicals are used during the process. The station is operated by DNR-trained and certified inspectors who ensure the process effectively and safely removes or kills AIS, a news release stated.

“The decontamination stations provide a useful service to boaters,” stated Jessica Shea, Crow Wing County business manager, in the release. “The entire process takes a short time and is a valuable tool for limiting the spread of AIS in our lakes and rivers.”

Information about Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts can be found at [crowwing.us/AIS](http://crowwing.us/AIS).

**9<sup>th</sup> Native Plant Photo Contest Sponsored by Crow Wing County SWCD**

Join photographers of all ages and abilities to find pollinators on native plants in the Brainerd Lakes Area. The 2021 Crow Wing SWCD Photo Contest focuses on pollinators and native plants. Try to find Minnesota’s new state bee: The Rusty Patched bumblebee, which is an endangered species that you might be able to see in your backyard.

According to Beth Hippert, District Technician “This is a great opportunity for people to discover, explore, and learn about native plants that grow around the Brainerd Lakes Area and photograph the progression of plants and trees from spring to fall.”

Melissa Barrick, District Manager, “All the entries will be featured on SWCD [Facebook](#), website, and potentially other educational or promotional items for the SWCD. The 2021 Crow Wing County Fair will display the 1<sup>st</sup> place canvas and give away canvas through a drawing!

Top Three Winners will receive:

1. 16 x 20 Canvas with photographer name
2. 11 x 17 Canvas with photographer name
3. 8 x 10 Canvas with photographer name

The Crow Wing SWCD is currently featuring past photo contest images in our 2019 and 2021 Crow Wing County Plat Books. Please share your native plant photos through the summer on our Facebook page [#NativePlantsSWCD](#)

**Contest Rules**

- **Feature a plant species that is native to Crow Wing or surrounding counties.**
- Original work that is property of the person who submits the photo.
- **Label each entry with your name, phone #, name of the plant/tree, and what city/town photo was taken.**
- One entry per species, limit of five entries per person.
- Submit photo by email in **digital format**, must be a **minimum resolution of 300 dpi** and in .jpg format.
- Trademarks, commercial names, or advertisements may not appear in the photos.
- Extra points are given for pollinators on a native plant.
- Entry will imply consent to use photos for SWCD educational and promotional activities.
- Credit will be placed on each photo for all photographers.

**How to Participate:**

E-mail your photos to [tasha@cwswcd.org](mailto:tasha@cwswcd.org).  
Mail digital photos to Crow Wing SWCD, 322 Laurel  
St. Suite 22, Brainerd, MN 56401.  
Questions? Call CW SWCD at 218-828-619.

**Deadline: Saturday, October 29, 2021**

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**Crow Wing County 2021 Plat Book**

Who owns land in Crow Wing County?  
Thousands of people have a piece of it, and they are listed in the 2021 Crow Wing County Plat Book published by Mapping Solutions and the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (CW SWCD). The 2021 Plat book features local photographs. This year, the cover page is from Jennifer Quam's stunning purple coneflower with the monarch and a bee. The 2020 Native Plant Photo Contest Winner. Buy your book today.

**What is a Plat Book?**

Plat books illustrate land ownership in a visual map format. Each plat book includes parcel boundaries, acreage data, ownership information for parcels greater than five acres, section lines, parcels within townships and municipal boundaries, and landowner index. This book includes aerial view maps and the landownership map pages.

**Additional Items in the Plat Book:**

- Lake Maps with Lake Contours
- Explanation of Land Survey Terms
- CW SWCD Programs and Supervisors District Map
- County School District Maps
- Cuyuna Bike Trail Map

According to Melissa Barrick District Manager, "The book showcases the vast amount of recreational activities, public lands available for hunting and fishing, unique landowner ownership, public boat accesses and truly how rich this county is with plentiful lakes."

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**Nisswa: City's recycling site may move to Lower Roy Lake Road gravel pit**

Room is needed for more recycling bins, especially after other Crow Wing County recycling sites closed and Nisswa's recycling site has become even more popular  
Written By: Nancy Vogt | 5:00 am, May 28, 2021

Nisswa's recycling site may move from behind the fire hall downtown to the city's gravel pit off Lower Roy Lake Road, near the wastewater treatment plant.

The Nisswa City Council on Tuesday, May 18, agreed to pay Widseth engineering firm \$4,500 to prepare a concept drawing of the layout of the potential new recycling site.

The Public Works Committee had recommended 4-1 that the council take this action.

The purpose of a concept drawing is so the various committees can discuss the pros and cons of the concept and suggest changes before any extensive engineering is completed.

Included in the proposed recycling center will be a police impound lot with lighting, security and fencing with a controlled entrance.

Though the city has had issues at its drop-off recycling facility over the years, the council wanted to keep offering recycling services to its residents when Crow Wing County dropped to just two recycling sites - in Ideal Township and at the county landfill east of Brainerd.

Tom Blomer, public works director, said via email a main reason to move the site is because the city needs more room for recycling bins.

"With the closing of other sites in and around us, our site has grown in popularity and needs more volume. Second, at the current site we are unable to close the site when necessary because the emergency vehicles from the fire hall need unobstructed access to the parking lot," Blomer wrote.

The new site would be fenced in and would likely have restricted access to prevent abuse and possibly allow the city to charge for the service to help cover the cost to operate the site, if necessary.

The new site is closer to the city's maintenance buildings and equipment and allows more security and efficiency maintaining the site.

Finally, the site would be a little more screened from view and would improve the aesthetics around the city park and fire hall.

"With the access that Lower Roy Lake Road provides, it will be nearly as convenient for residents, maybe more so, because we already accept brush and leaf debris at the gravel pit that will be the new site," Blomer said.



## **Upper Hay Lake Association**

Please join us for our Annual Upper Hay Lake Association Meeting  
August 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

Jenkins VFW at 5:30 PM

Due to Covid, we had to postpone our Annual meeting in May, and we would like all of you to join us for Sliders at the VFW.

Our Association will provide the Sliders!

Nicole Erickson from the Crow Wing County Land Service will do a presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species.

The VFW needs a headcount, please RSVP:  
Either text or call Claire Steen at: 218-330-7059

or

Judy Murphy: Reply to this E-mail or call or text at: 218-330-1890

Our lake is very important to all of us and we would like to hear any of your concerns, new ideas or if you would like to join the Board.

Reach out to new neighbors and invite them to join us!