



Upper Hay Lake Association

P.O. Box 769

Pequot Lakes, Minnesota 56472

Winter Newsletter

January 2020

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Greetings From Your President!

It seems that winter has officially arrived. Today it was rather chilly which probably makes the people who enjoy ice fishing on Upper Hay Lake excited. Just be sure to save us enough pan fish to catch in the spring. To get out of the cold, I am heading to Arizona for a few weeks.

The proposed 2020 Crow Wing County AIS Prevention Plan is out for a 30-day comment period until Saturday January 18 at 5:00 PM. If you have any questions, contact Nicole Erickson, Environmental Services Specialist, at 218-824-1142 or email Nicole.Erickson@crowwing.us.

We have been very fortunate on Upper Hay Lake to get 300 hours of AIS inspection at our public landing.

On December 31, 2019, I attended the Crow Wing County Board public hearing on an ordinance that would license and regulate short-term rentals. The meeting lasted for more than three hours and speakers ranged from resort owners, vacation rental operators, concerned neighbors and other interested citizens. Dozens of people shared their opinions and suggestions on a proposed ordinance which outlines requirements for annual licensure along with regulations concerning septic systems and solid waste, occupancy, noise and parking. The overlying issue is how to balance property rights of those operating vacation rentals with neighbors impacted by the properties. The January 1, 2020 issue of the Brainerd Dispatch has a cover article on the hearing. The Crow Wing County Board decided to delay a decision on an ordinance until January 28, 2020. At that time commissioners may decide to vote on the draft ordinance or they could discuss potential changes to the ordinance. If you have questions or comments, you can email Bill Brekken at: Bill.brekken@crowwing.us.

The UHLA annual meeting will be held at the Jenkins VFW on Saturday May 16, 2020 at 8:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you. A new event that we are hosting is a Burger Night at the Jenkins VFW on Thursday August 6 at 5:00 in lieu of the annual picnic.

Now....for my annual question: Did you remember to include Upper Hay Lake on your list of New Year's

Resolutions? With a precious resource such as Upper Hay Lake, perhaps we can consider setting goals of improving our water quality or taking better care of our shorelines in the year 2020. I am committed to making improvements on our lake. How about you?

Claire Steen

MINNESOTA INVESTS IN PROTECTING POLLINATORS

The state now has an official state bee and official state bee program to help them and other pollinators thrive.

In 1988 MN Voters approved the creation of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund which is supported by 40 % of the MN State lottery's net proceeds. The other 60% is deposited in the state's general fund. The Trust Fund is required by law to be used on activities that protect, conserve, preserve and enhance the state's air, land, fish, wildlife and other natural resources.

Projects that receive money are recommended by the legislator/citizen commission on MN Resources and approved by the legislature and the governor. During the past legislative session, the MN Legislature approved about 64 million in funding for 65 projects.

One of the projects approved for trust fund support during the 2019 legislative session is Lawns to Legumes. The goal is to help residential and lake landowners convert traditional turf grass lawns to pollinator friendly lawns composed of native grasses, forbs and legumes. The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will partner with local conservation organizations on projects starting in the spring and summer of 2020.

Lawns to Legumes will help residents create new habitat for the federal endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee whose populations nationwide have dropped 87 % in the last 20 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimate that the Rusty Patched is present in just 0.1% of its historical range in MN. Many of the areas where the bee is likely to live are urban and suburban communities.

Richard "Whitey" Larson

Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow

1. Conservationist of the year is from Pequot Lakes

Ron Meyer of Pequot Lakes, MN was honored as the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Outstanding Conservationist at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), December 9-10, 2019 in Bloomington, Minn.

Since 2004, Ron has led the Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA), a nonprofit group whose main goal is to improve water quality. From 2008-2019, Ron Meyer and the PRWA partnered with the Cass County Farm Bureau to host 11 annual Harvest Dinners with over 1,650 people in attendance. Harvest Dinners connected ranchers and lakeshore owners through a sit-down local food meal. In 2016, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency identified Arvig Creek as an impaired stream. Ron took the initiative to build a relationship with a farmer adjacent to the stream. Now the farmer has fenced off the creek, began adaptive grazing techniques, and is working on implementing cover crops. In 2019, CW SWCD and PRWA hired two farmers to talk with landowners about conservation and cattle.

Each year the state's SWCDs recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. Ron was selected by SWCD for the county award and was also awarded The Area 8 (9 county area) Conservationist of the year by The MASWCD award committee. The Crow Wing SWCD is proud to support Ron's efforts in improving the soil, water, and habitat quality in Crow Wing County. The award program is conducted with support from The Farmer Magazine.

For information on the Pine River Watershed Alliance and the SWCD visit:
<https://crowwingswcd.org/> or <https://www.prwa.us/>

Ron has spent many hours personally working with the Upper Hay Lake Association on a myriad of projects. Congratulations to Ron.

2. Impaired waters

It is obvious that pristine lakes are Minnesota's most revered resources. The tourism industry is huge in our state. For that reason, we monitor our lakes constantly. The bad news is that many of our lakes are becoming impaired. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the DNR work together to do everything possible to protect these valuable resources. The following appeared in the Brainerd Dispatch in December:

"MPCA to hold public meetings on substandard waterways

Written By: Matthew Guerry, Brainerd Daily Dispatch | Dec 4th 2019 - 10am.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will hold a series of public meetings on tentative additions to its list of streams and lakes that fail to meet state water quality standards.

The agency is proposing the addition of nearly 730 new entries to the list, which would bring the total number of known water quality cases to 5,774. A total of 3,416 bodies of water are included on the list.

A review of the Minnesota's 80 watersheds major watersheds turned up previously unknown water quality issues in the Minnesota River Basin that could affect aquatic life, recreation and fish consumption. Among the basin's affected watersheds are the Blue Earth, Chippewa, Cottonwood and Le Sueur river watersheds, as well as the Minnesota-Yellow Medicine, Pomme de Terre and Redwood river watersheds."

The above explains why the Upper Hay Lake Association is so involved in water quality testing and constantly promoting policies and practices that protect our lake. We enjoy the fact that our only inlet comes from nearby farmland and not other lakes that may be impaired and have a negative impact on ours. Our major problems can only come from the public access and our own properties. We must constantly think about what impact our actions may have on Upper Hay.

3. Grant Money for Forest Plans and Land Management Activities

Do you want to know more about your woodlands? Do you want to manage your property for wildlife? **Are you interested in lower tax rates, conserving your land for the future, or improving soil and water quality on your property?**

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, have 20+ acres of contiguous property and are interested in learning more about funding possibilities, contact the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Have a Minnesota certified plan writer walk your property with you and help you improve your land! *"After the 2015 storm about 1/3 of our woods were devastated. This spring, with the help of Clayton and the SWCD, they planted 1,000 trees. Our future generations will be able to enjoy the woods like we have."* - Rhoda Drake

Funding deadlines are coming up and funding is limited, so contact the Crow Wing SWCD today!

For more information contact Clayton Lenk, District Forester, Email: clayton.lenk@crowwingswcd.org or by phone at 218-828-6197.

4. Radon Is Persistent Health Risk In Minnesota

Radon is something I'm sure most of us do not dwell on; BUT, it is in the environment and is a health hazard. It is something for which we would be wise to consider testing.

Crow Wing County Land Services Department will offer free radon testing kits to area residents. Every hour, one person in the US dies from radon-related lung cancer. It is the largest environmental cancer risk and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Fortunately, the risk is largely preventable. Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommend that all homes in Minnesota be tested for radon. It's the only way to know if your home has an elevated level of radon, which can cause lung cancer. Radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils and can enter homes through cracks and openings in basement or foundation floors and walls.

To obtain a test kit, contact the Land Services Department at 218-824-1125 or visit the office at 322 Laurel Street Suite 14 Brainerd MN 56401. Land Services Department may also be contacted by email at environmental.services@crowwing.us.

MDH estimates that one in three existing Minnesota homes have radon levels that pose a large health risk over many years of exposure.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and more than 21,000 deaths are attributed to radon each year. Radon exposure, however, is largely preventable. First, test your home to see if you have elevated radon levels. Testing is easy, inexpensive and only takes 3-5 days. In homes with levels over 4.0 pCi/L, homeowners should consider verification testing and possibly installing a mitigation system, which will remove radon from your home. The final step is to encourage friends, family, and coworkers to test their own homes for radon.

For more information on radon testing and mitigation visit www.health.state.mn.us/radon or call the Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601 or 1-800-798-9050.

Bruce Ohland

Treasurer's Report

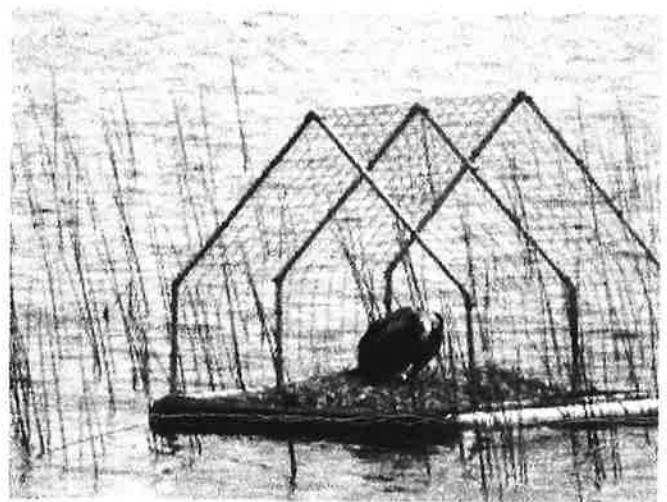
The fiscal year for our association runs with the calendar year and on December 31, 2019 our total bank balance was \$39,658.29. We had \$4,354.54 in checking, \$10,303.75 in savings, and \$25,000.00 in a CD.

We had 97 paid members again this year. We received \$2,315.00 in dues; \$1,689.94 in extra individual donations and \$100.00 Vanguard Redemption Check/Clean Water program, plus \$800.00 from Thrivent Financial. That total is \$4,904.94.

Everyone will be receiving their 2020 Membership Application with this newsletter. The Association is no longer participating in the Aquatic Vegetation Permit process. You will need to work directly with the DNR on permits. If you have worked with PLM Lake and Land Management in the past, or wish to this year, you can call Kristy Hoge at 218-270-3338 Ext 3003 or email her at mnadmin@plmcorp.net.

You can also email me: mailto:kenmeyer@tds.net and I will email you a copy of their contract with pricing.

Ken Meyer





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Upper Hay Lake Association
Board of Directors 2018/2019

				<u>Term Ends</u>
Beaverson, Neil	417 Bear Ave. S. Vadnais Heights, MN 55127	651-429-6672	nmbeaverson@comcast.net	2020
Larson, Whitey	33061 W Shady Beach Ln	218-568-5831	whiteylar@me.com	2019
Marshall, Jan <i>Secretary</i>	4309 Acorn Lane	218-568-4738 763-486-5484 Cell	jhmarshall40@gmail.com	2021
Meyer, Ken <i>Treasurer</i>	4345 Acorn Lane	218-568-5414 218-820-7683 Cell	kenmeyer@tds.net	2021
Murphy, Judy <i>Vice-President</i>	33424 S. Oak Drive	218-330-1890 Cell	jamurphy61_jm@gmail.com	2020
Perwien, Mickey	33546 N. Oak Drive	612-386-4858 Cell	mperwien@gmail.com	2019
Steen, Claire <i>President</i>	33161 Osprey Circle 29 Kingwood Street Brainerd, MN 56401	218-330-7059 Cell 218-829-3757	claire.steen@charter.net	2021
Schultz, Brad	33143 Osprey Circle	218-568-1070	nlonglaker@gmail.com	2020
OPEN				2019

Note: Unless listed otherwise, all addresses are Pequot Lakes, MN 56472



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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

Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow

care about what they understand, and protecting lakes will mean a commitment from the next generation.

- Improve the safety and AIS infrastructure of public boat ramps.
- Push MN Pollution Control Agency efforts to "Get the Lead Out" of our lakes to protect loons, swans and other waterfowl that ingest lead tackle and die.
- Support efforts by local farmers to switch to practices meant to protect water quality by reducing chemical use, and reduce runoff erosion.
- Hold the line on property tax increases.

I know you have heard this before, but it definitely needs repeating: You can help protect our lakes from types of AIS which include, but not limited to: Zebra Mussels, Spiny Waterflea, and Starry Stonewort. We can stop this by taking these 3 steps every time you leave a lake or river:

- Clean all aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other AIS from boats, trailers, and water-related equipment.
- Drain water from your boat, ballast tanks, motor, live well and bait container. Remove drain plug and keep it out while transporting equipment.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. To keep live bait, drain the water and refill the bait container with bottles or tap water.

Dock and Lift Removal is an important time to check for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

The DNR recommends these steps for lake property owners:

- Look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged for a period of time.
- Hire DNR-permitted lake service provider businesses to remove boats, docks, lifts and other water-related equipment. They have been trained on Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws and have experience identifying and removing invasive species.
- Contact an area DNR aquatic invasive species specialist if an invasive species is discovered in a waterbody that has not already been confirmed in that water.

—Richard "Whitey" Larson

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Treasurer's Report

Although COVID-19 made a huge change in our lives this past year, it has been a good year for our lake association in some ways. Even though we couldn't have our Annual Meeting in May and socializing certainly wasn't what it should be, our paid-up membership is very close to our all time high! We are closing out the year with a total of 101. My records show an all time high of 102 memberships in 2013, but we usually have a tough time getting into the 3-digit numbers.

Financially we are doing well. In paid memberships we received \$2,415.00 and an additional \$1,570.00 in extra donations for a total of \$3,985.00. I will have a complete financial report at our annual meeting on May 22, 2021. Am I being too optimistic believing we will be over the Corona Virus restrictions by that time?

At our last UHLA Board of Directors meeting it was suggested that I publish a list of other associations that our association supports, or is a member of.

1. Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) is one we work very closely with, especially in the areas of water quality testing and AIS testing.
2. Conservation Minnesota (previously Minnesota Waters) - is a state-wide organization focused on preserving the lakes and land of Minnesota. We use them for our website hosting, linking us with many other lake associations throughout the state.
3. Pine River Watershed Alliance - is currently instrumental in the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) for Crow Wing and Cass Counties. We are part of this large watershed and the Alliance works on many restoration and protection projects that affect our lake.
4. Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA) - represents the interests of over twenty dues-paying lake and river associations in Crow Wing County to the county, regional, state, and federal levels of government.
5. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) - is an advocacy group solely focused on protecting Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates and policy makers. They have a full time lobbyist working for us at the State Capitol. (See Whitey's article)

—Ken Meyer