

# Upper Hay Lake Association

SPRING 2026 ISSUE / OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

*Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow.*

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Docks and lifts are being installed while an increasing number of boats take to Upper Hay Lake. I hope everyone had a good winter and are looking forward to an eventful summer. The Board of Directors held its first meeting on Monday, April 27, 2026. A number of topics were addressed during the discussion. The following points represent key highlights:

• The Year-end Financial Summary for 2025 was submitted by Brad Kaus this winter. This newsletter contains it. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- New Mailing Policy and Membership Cost / PAGE 1
- Jet Ski Survey Results from MLR / PAGE 3
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- Loons and Lakes Festival / PAGE 5
- Aquatic Invasive Species Article / PAGE 6

## NEW MAILING POLICY AND MEMBERSHIP COST

With the continued movement to using digital content in our newsletter and the reduced cost of delivering the three newsletters annually by email, we are changing our policy on newsletters delivered by the U.S. Mail. It currently costs about \$5.00 per newsletter to print and mail paper copies. We currently have 26 people requesting a US Mail copy of the newsletter. To receive the Upper Hay Lake Association newsletter in 2026, we will require that you pay an increased membership fee of \$40.00. This is to cover the cost of printing and mailing paper copies along with the \$25.00 annual membership. If we have not received your \$40.00, we will not be mailing the newsletter by U.S. Mail. If we have your email address, we will be sending you a copy by email. If you have questions on this, please email us at [UHLAMNOrg@gmail.com](mailto:UHLAMNOrg@gmail.com) or call 612-309-3584.





## GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT CONTINUED from Page 1:

The issue of weed remediation was discussed. Neil Beaverson and Greg Thomas checked the lake's southeast corner for milfoil this fall but found nothing. On a related item, Brad Schultz had a conversation with a representative from SOLitude this fall. A slide presentation produced by this company was shared at the August social gathering. The cost for a non-chemical treatment process, TryMarine would be \$40,000 for the area in the SW corner of the lake. The board has decided to table major weed remediation until invasive vegetation is present in the lake. However, further discussion was initiated by Chuck Hadley. He requested that the board explore harvesting weeds from the Hay Creek outlet in front of the veterans' bridge. A contractor will be contacted for cost estimates. After thoroughly reviewing the costs and project specifics, the proposal will be submitted to the membership for approval during the annual meeting. Weed remediation remains a challenging topic for our association.

Brad Kaus discussed the \$15.00 mailing fee for newsletters, and this issue will inform the 26 U.S. mailed newsletter recipients about the updated policy. Newsletters will be sent by email unless you include a US mailing fee with your membership. The updated application is available on the UHLA website. This policy will provide significant savings in printing and postage.

Greg Thomas provided a follow-up on supplemental fish stocking for Upper Hay Lake. He has contacted Mike Knapp, Area Fisheries Supervisor, with DNR. Mike mentioned that the project would receive a free permit. However, he did not recommend stocking larger fish than fry. The DNR releases 1.6 pounds of walleye fry, about 184,000 tiny fish with high mortality. Mr. Knapp stated that releasing fry is the most effective approach for increasing fish population. Further information will be presented at the annual meeting in June for the membership to consider before moving forward on supplemental walleye stocking.

Maddie Nelson has informed the UHLA Board that she will be stepping down from the board at the end of this term. Her efforts are highly valued, particularly with regard to the design and editing of the new UHLA newsletter. She served as an outstanding secretary for our association. If you want to join the board, contact any member before the annual meeting.

The calendar for this summer will include the annual boat parade set for July 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. The date for the August social event has not been determined yet.

The Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the Pequot Lakes American Legion at 5:00 p.m. Dennis Feltgen, retired meteorologist, and former Twin Cities TV personality, will be our speaker. He graduated from Florida State University with a BS in Meteorology, and was a broadcast meteorologist from 1974 to 2001, including more than eight years as the Chief Meteorologist at KSTP-TV5 in the Twin Cities. After TV, he spent 20 years with NOAA where he was the Communications and Public Affairs Officer at the National Hurricane Center in Miami before retiring in 2022. He lives in Upper Hay Lake and joined the Board of Directors during the previous summer. Dennis has volunteered to take over as secretary when officers are seated at the June 2026 Board Meeting. Everyone is invited to join this event.

Read the articles in this issue. Then get ready for an enjoyable summer on Upper Hay Lake!

BRAD SCHULTZ

## UPPER HAY LAKE NEIGHBORS TO MEET ON THURSDAYS AT THE JENKINS VFW FOR BURGER NIGHT AND FELLOWSHIP

Join the fun with your Upper Hay Lake neighbors at the Jenkins VFW on Thursday nights. Greg Marolt, Lynn King, Steve and Susan Boulka, and Bob and Angie Faundeen rekindled the tradition on April 30. Come for Two-for-One Burger Night. We hope to see you there!





## 78% OF RESPONDENTS SURVEYED DO NOT SUPPORT LOWERING HOURS OF OPERATION FOR JET SKIS TO 8:00 AM

Dear Friend,

At the start of session MLR was asked by jet ski advocates if we would support legislation lowering the hours of operation for jet skis from the current time of 9:30am to 8:00am.

We attend over sixty lake association meetings across the state each year. I am also old enough to remember the heated debates around jet skis when they were first available. That fight left many Minnesotans with a bad taste, and there has been a deeply entrenched anti-jet ski bias ever since. It is very much like the wake surfing debate today.

I suspected that lake advocates would not support a change to the current jet ski regulations. We agreed to poll a sample of our members and sent a survey to about 2000 of you. An astonishing 33% responded. The results were clear - Minnesotans do not support expanding the hours of operation for jet skis.

About half of the respondents were homesteaded property owners and half seasonal owners. About 27% owned a jet ski. A whopping 91% used their personal water craft, PWC, from noon to 5:00pm.

In addition to the survey, we received dozens of emails on the issue. People were terribly concerned about the impact of jet skis on wildlife. A few commented that they had witnessed jet ski users chasing loons or seagulls with their PWC, running at high speed through narrows or crowded boating lanes, or through aquatic vegetation. We also received a few comments from rowing sports lovers saying that they liked having quieter mornings when they could row or paddle without the impact of motorized water sports.

Despite the improvements in PWC design, noise remains the primary area of concern among stakeholders.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on this issue and for your engagement and advocacy for our lakes and rivers.

So far, no actual legislation is moving that would make changes to the PWC hours of operation rules, so there is no action to be taken at this time.

It won't be long until water opens now. Hope to see you out on the lake.

Jeff Forester

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers

Executive Director

This letter was included in an email sent out to the UHLA by the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers organization on March 5, 2026:

## WAKE BOATING

In recent years, there has been growing discussion about the potential impacts of recreational boating on lake health. Particular attention has focused on wake boats—often referred to as wakeboard boats. These vessels typically range from 350 to 650 horsepower, compared to the 150 to 250 horsepower common in traditional runabout-style boats found on Minnesota lakes. Their V-shaped hulls are specifically designed to displace large volumes of water, creating sizable waves that allow individuals to surf behind the boat.

Since 2019, Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR) has partnered with lake associations, soil and water conservation districts, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, boat manufacturers, and marinas to identify strategies that reduce the impacts of enhanced wake activities on lake health.

Our mission is to protect water quality, support local lakeshore communities, improve water safety, and reduce user conflicts through responsible boating. We take a collaborative approach to civic organizing around science, education, and outreach to better understand and share information about wake boating impacts on shorelines, ecosystems, and other lake users—while promoting responsible boating practices that have become widely adopted across the community.

“Own Your Wake” Mapping Initiative

MLR member organizations can purchase a custom map designed to help boaters make informed decisions on the water. [UHLA IS CONSIDERING PURCHASING A MAP OF OUR LAKE.] These maps identify areas where enhanced wake activities—such as wake surfing—are recommended to occur, at least 500 feet from shore and in water deeper than 20 feet.

This article is taken from the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers website: <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/wakeboating/#>





## WAKE SURFING BOAT EFFECTS

Boaters all want to enjoy the lake. However, according to a recent letter to the editor by Steve Lindow from Ponsford, MN, in the magazine, *Outdoor News*: “The massive wakes generated by wake-surfing boats are not just a safety issue for all of us and other water recreationalists; they also cause real, observable harm to fish habitats, shoreline stability, and water quality.” “We need to be stewards of delicate fish habitat.

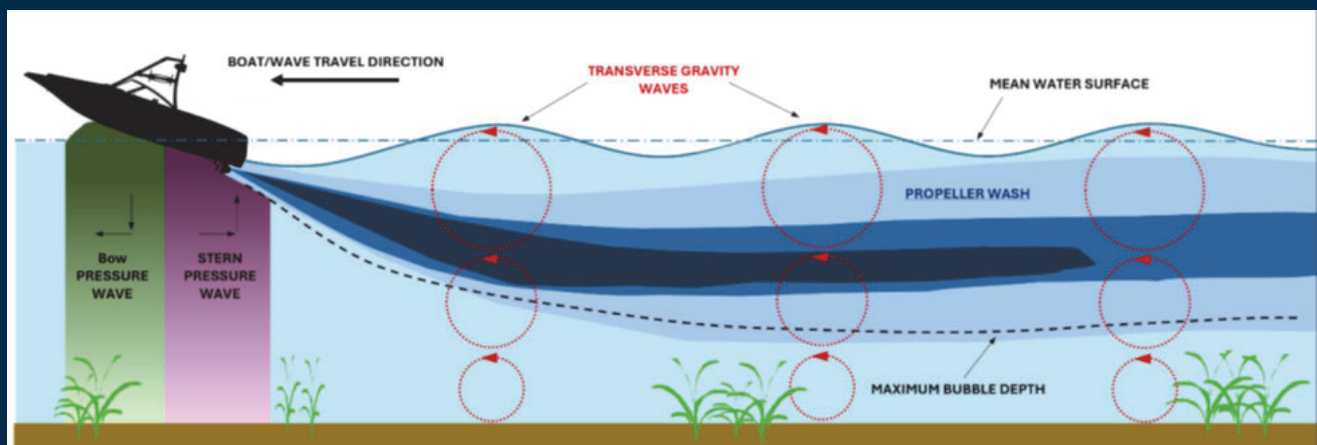
Lindow goes on to state, “The powerful prop wash from wake-surfing churns up bottom sediments down to at least 20 feet, releases dormant nutrients into the water column, uproots native vegetation, clouds the water and smothers panfish and walleye eggs and destroys spawning beds. Later in his letter he writes, “The repeated pounding of massive wakes on the shoreline erodes soil into the water smothering and destroying near-shore fish habitat.” He points out that the increased run-off leads to additional levels of phosphorus that degrades water quality by promoting algal growth.

These effects were also mentioned in the article, “Environmental Study Examines Wake Surfing Impact” in the November/December 2025 issue of “*BoatU.S.*” magazine on page 22. It includes the rocking of other boats and erosion from wake-surfing, but it also points out “the dramatic damage that slow passes over shallow water does to a lakebed and water quality.” The “*BoatU.S.*” article states: “A field Study of Recreational Powerboat Hydro dynamics and their Impacts on the Water Column and Lakebed by research staff at the University of Minnesota’s St. Anthony Falls Laboratory identified three hydrodynamic phenomena produced by recreational powerboats that impact the water column and lakebed: bow and stern pressure waves, transverse waves, and propeller wash. These forces collectively stir up and suspend sediment, including phosphorous, a primary fuel for algae blooms, and can shear or uproot submerged aquatic vegetation.”

The article states that “the study concludes with recommendations that traditional powerboats should operate in 10 feet of water or greater when planing, or in displacement mode, to minimize impacts on the lakebed – but wake boats in semi displacement mode (surfing) should operate in 20 feet or greater depth.” The study is found at [conservancy.umn.edu](https://conservancy.umn.edu) by searching for “powerboat.” You can watch the videos of the research on the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory’s YouTube channel (@umnSAFL).

This information on the impacts of wake surfing cautions lake enthusiasts to boat responsibly.

By Brad Schultz with quotes from “*Outdoor News*” and “*BoatU.S. Magazine*” and <https://conservancy.umn.edu/search?spc.page=1&query=powerboat>

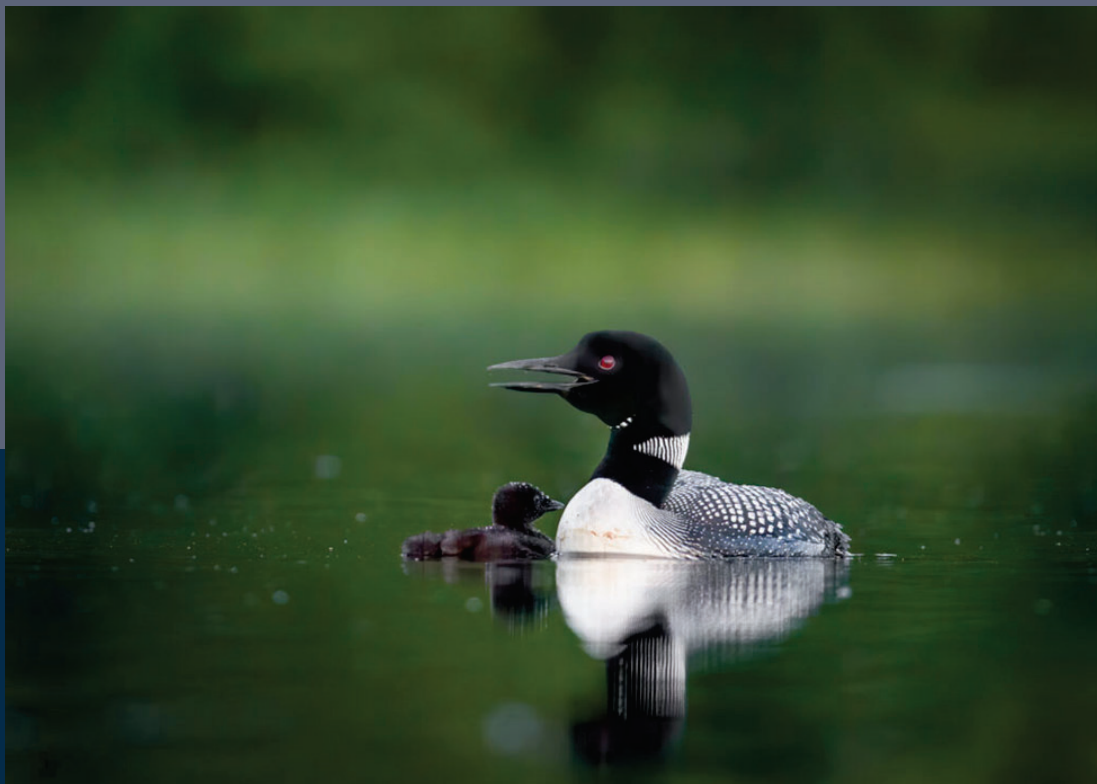


Conceptual illustration of the three hydrodynamic phenomena formed during displacement and semi-displacement modes of operation when transverse waves are present, that produce orbital movement in the water column. The figure represents the first ~10 seconds of time following a boat in forward motion. The arrows in the green bow and purple stern regions represent the direction that the water is moving as it is being displaced by the boat’s hull.



### **THIRD ANNUAL LOONS AND LAKES FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 26 & 27!**

Join the National Loon Center in celebrating Minnesota's treasured loons and lakes with a weekend of fun, free events in Crosslake! Beginning on Friday, June 26, join the National Loon Center for a Lake Day with guided paddle excursions and educational loon-watching pontoon tours. The next day, head over to the Crosslake Town Square to check out the Loon Fair – a social gathering of vendors and exhibitors featuring an art market, presentations, and food trucks. The Town Square will feature family activities throughout the day, and live music in the gazebo to send off the night! We hope to see you there!





## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DNR INFORMATION

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants, animals, or pathogens that live primarily in water and thrive in their new environment, often out-competing native species. Well known AIS include zebra mussels, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny waterflea, and starry stonewort. AIS management has quickly become one of the County's biggest challenges. Although the scenario varies by lake and by species, it is clear that the easiest and most cost-effective method is prevention.

- DNR Volunteer Program
  - Did you know about this program? Here is more information: [Aquatic Invasive Species | Minnesota DNR](#)
- Spread the word!!
  - Please help spread the word about our program and inspector job positions by sharing the attached flyer and this link: [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) | Crow Wing County, MN - Official Website](#)

2026 invasive species calendar

Learn about invasive species management success stories and key invasive species.

[Check out the calendar \(PDF\).](#)





## READ THE MINNESOTA LAKES & RIVERS ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Go to: <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/> and click on "Read the 2025 Annual Report" at the bottom of the webpage. It is full of information on lake stewardship!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UHLA Annual Meeting.....Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the Pequot Lakes American Legion at 5:00 P.M.

UHLA Boat Parade.....Friday, July 3, 2026; Gather at the boat landing at 2:45 P.M. for a 3:00 P.M. start; Decorate your watercraft and docks in patriotic style. No water balloons please!



### VEGETATION PHOTOS AT THE HAY CREEK OUTLET TAKEN THIS MAY

The UHLA Board is exploring possible removal of vegetation at the Hay Creek outlet. A report will be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2026.



Join us for the 10th Annual

# WAPOA AIS Roundtable

## 10th Annual WAPOA AIS Roundtable

- Saturday, June 6, 2026
- 8:30 AM 12:00 PM
- Immaculate Heart Catholic Church 35208 County Road 37 Crosslake, MN, 56442 United States ([map](#)).
- [Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)

Sponsored by WAPOA and LARA, the 10th Annual AIS Roundtable will feature presentations and updates from MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) on the latest advancements in aquatic invasive species research and lake protection efforts.

This free educational event is designed for lake property owners, lake association members, and community members interested in helping protect Minnesota waters from aquatic invasive species.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about current AIS research, prevention strategies, and emerging solutions that support long-term lake health throughout the Whitefish Chain region.

Register at the WAPOA Website: <https://z.umn.edu/registrationWAPOA>



**UPPER HAY LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**Year-end Financial Summary 2025**  
**Submitted by Brad Kaus**

Association Checking Account Balance 1/1/2025	\$5,134.88
Association Saving Account Balance 1/1/2025	\$5,316.86
13 Mo. CD @ MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union Mature Jan. 15, 2027	\$28,348.26
13 Mo. CD @ MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union Mature Feb. 6, 2027	<u>\$10,812.34</u>
<b>Total Assets as of 1/1/2025</b>	<b>\$49,612.34</b>

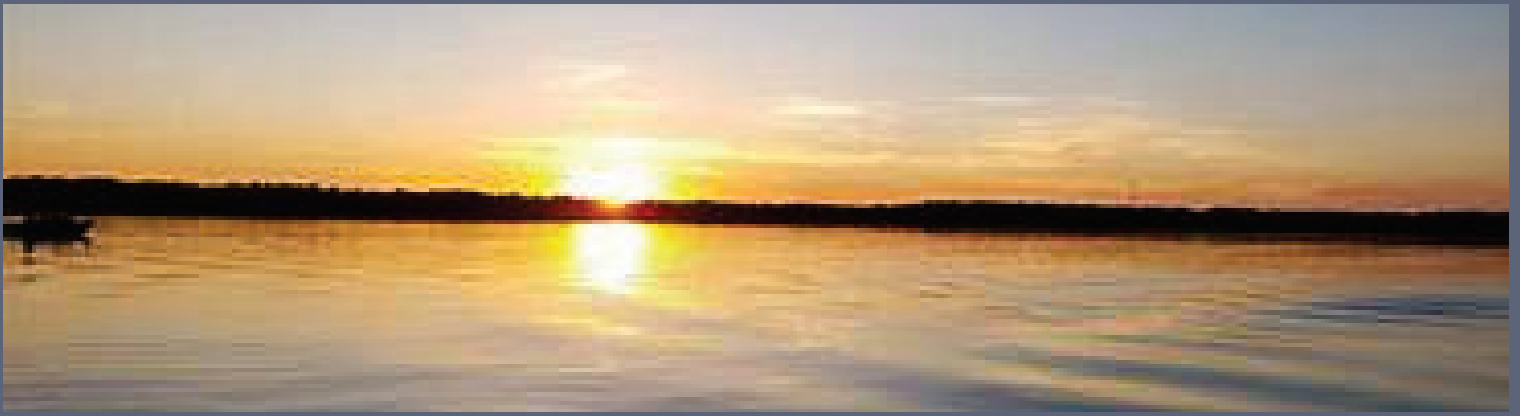
Association Checking Account Balance 12/31 /2025	\$6,145.32
Association Saving Account Balance 12/31/2025	\$5,319.55
13 Mo. CD @ MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union Mature Jan. 15, 2027	\$29,410.58
13 Mo. CD @ MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union Mature Feb. 6, 2027	<u>\$11,223.10</u>
<b>Total Assets as of 12/31/2025</b>	<b>\$52,098.55</b>

**Revenues and Expenses for 2025**

Income Membership Dues	\$1,865.00
General Donations	\$840.00
Savings Interest	\$2.69
CD Interest	<u>\$1,473.08</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,180.77</b>

**Expenses**

Dues other Assoc.	\$595.00
Insurance	\$446.00
P.O. Box	\$120.00
Newsletter - printing & postage	\$466.56
Miscellaneous	\$67.00
Subtotal	\$1,694.56
Total Assets 1/1/2025	\$49,612.34
Plus Income	\$4,180.77
Less Expenses	<u>-\$1,694.56</u>
<b>Year-To-Date Total</b>	<b>\$52,098.55</b>



## **UHLA Treasurer's Report**

Fiscal year end financials on December 31, 2025 were as follows:

- Checking                      \$6,145.32
- Savings                        \$5,319.55
- CDs                              \$40,633.68
- Total                             \$52,098.55

We had 79 paid members in 2025. This is down from 95 in 2024 where we had a 2 year for one payment push at year end. We received an additional \$840.00 in non-dues contributions in 2025. Our association contributed to WAPOA, Crow River Watershed, and MN Lakes and Rivers in 2025.



# Upper Hay Lake Association

P.O. Box 769

Pequot Lakes, Minnesota 56472

**UHLAMNOrg@gmail.com**

## 2026 Membership Application

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive Newsletters etc. by e-mail rather than US mail? \*Yes \_\_\_\_\_

\* Receiving the Newsletter by US Mail requires an additional \$15.00 be paid with your annual membership

Summer Mailing Address (if different than lake address)	Winter Mailing Address (if different than summer address)

Fees – Be sure to include your check to cover

\_\_\_\_\_ Tax-deductible membership dues of \$25.

\_\_\_\_\_ US Mail costs \$15.

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of UHLA’s mission to promote environmental stewardship throughout the Upper Hay Lake area.

I am particularly interested in seeing the Lake Association do the following:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to participate in the following committees:

\_\_\_\_\_ AIS Monitoring

\_\_\_\_\_ Shoreline Restoration

\_\_\_\_\_ Public Access

\_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising / Grant Writing

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Committee (Picnic / Breakfast)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my name placed on the ballot for a Board of Directors position.

Make check payable to Upper Hay Lake Association and mail to:

Upper Hay Lake Association

P.O. Box 769

Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Questions or Communication – send email to **UHLAMNOrg@gmail.com**

**Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow**