

Upper Hay Lake Association

SUMMER 2026 ISSUE / OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Now that Independence Day has passed, we can focus on being good stewards of Upper Hay Lake. Here are several topics I'd like to bring to your attention:

First, the annual meeting on June 4th was productive. Thirty-one people attended the event. Dennis Feltgen gave an interesting presentation on his years as a meteorologist. We had a lively discussion on the pros and cons of clearing the weeds in front of the bridge at the Hay Creek outlet. It was agreed that more information would be gathered before a final decision was made. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Checking for AIS / PAGE 1
- Social at Shiners Aug 6/ PAGE 2
- Shoreline Restoration / PAGES 3 & 4
- Own Your Own Wake / PAGE 5
- Light Pollution / PAGES 6 & 7
- Algae Blooms / PAGE 8
- Fish Stocking / PAGE 9

NEIL BEAVERSON CHECKS UPPER HAY LAKE FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS

On June 2, 2026, Neil Beaverson inspected Upper Hay Lake for aquatic invasive plants, including starry stonewort and Eurasian watermilfoil. On a calm morning, he and Brad Schultz traveled by pontoon to shallow water near the public landing and inlet. Using the double-toothed ends of two garden rakes tied to a rope, along with a three-ring binder of DNR plant photos, Neil collected and identified each plant pulled from the water. Fortunately, he found no invasive species. Trained by the Minnesota DNR, Neil has conducted these inspections for several years.

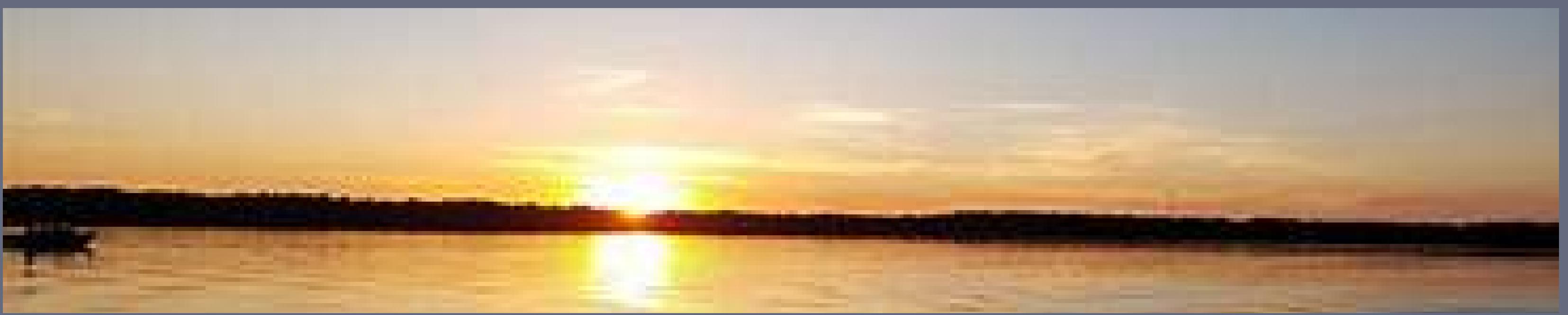
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INFORMATION

Use these links to learn more about aquatic invasive species and what you can do to prevent the spread of AIS in Minnesota lakes, especially Upper Hay Lake.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/index.html>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/preventspread.html>





GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT CONTINUED from Page 1:

Since then, the board has completed its research and remains opposed to the project. However, lake resident Chuck Hadley feels strongly about pursuing weed remediation. He has agreed to take the lead in gathering additional information and specific cost estimates. He will then present those findings to the Board for consideration.

At the annual meeting, members discussed ways to encourage greater involvement in lake activities. One idea was to organize youth boat races later in July or August, featuring nonmotorized vehicles such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. To gauge interest, Brad Kaus sent out an email asking about participation, ages, preferred activities, and possible timing. However, there was only one response to the survey. The couple that responded indicated that they had boats they would loan for the event, but they would be unable to participate in the actual races. Due to a lack of interest, this event has been tabled for this summer. However, the survey response time has been extended so we can plan for next year. **Please email back your responses SOON!**

Second, the boat parade took place as planned on July 3, though fewer watercraft participated than in previous years. The canoeist showed impressive strength and endurance, and I appreciate his participation. It was also fun to watch boats engage in friendly squirt-gun battles. Next year, please encourage your neighbors to join the parade.

Third, the social gathering will be held at Shiners on August 6th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Members may order subs and beverages from the menu at their own expense.

Fourth, as of June 22, there were 53 paid members—22 of which reside at the Hay Lake Townhome Association. This number is down from the 100 members in previous years. Reminders have been sent out to 2025 members that have not paid so far in 2026. We need to initiate a campaign to encourage more Upper Hay Lake property owners to join our organization.

Fifth, the board moved to have the board meeting minutes posted on the UHLA website.

Sixth, Judy Murphy reported that when she and Greg recently cleaned up the landing, it was in very good condition. Thank you to the volunteers who continue to keep the public landing free of trash.

Seventh, Claire Steen reported that no one has contacted her about shoreline restoration. I have included an article in this newsletter highlighting why we encourage shoreline restoration.

Eighth, the board has decided not to purchase an “Own Your Wake” link, but information regarding the link for purchase is provided in this newsletter. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers member organizations can purchase a custom PDF map designed to help boaters make informed decisions on the water. 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.

Ninth, the membership approved spending up to \$2,500.00 to stock with lake with walleye larger than fry at the annual meeting.

I hope these nine topics provide helpful updates on our association’s efforts to enhance Upper Hay Lake and our enjoyment of its waters. Take care and see you on the lake!

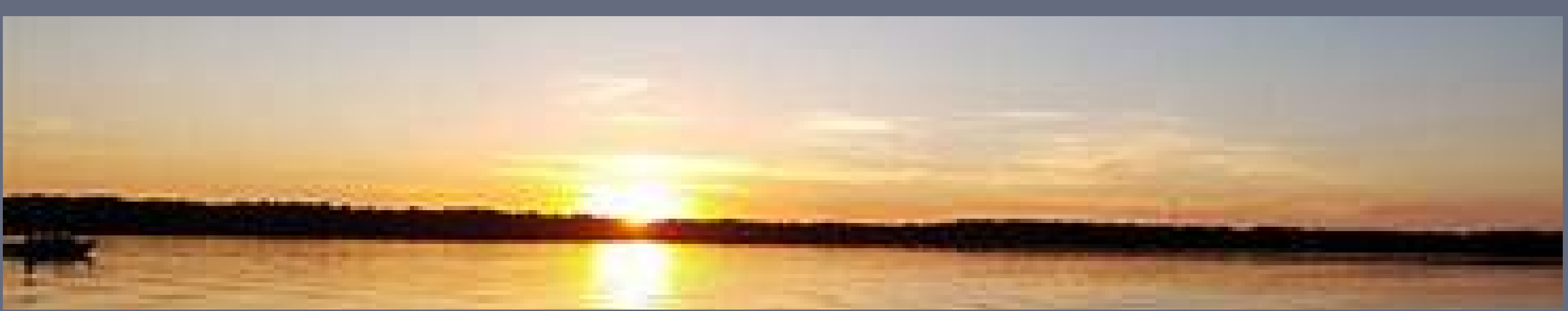
BRAD SCHULTZ

JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL GATHERING AT SHINERS RESTAURANT IN JENKINS

AUGUST 6, 2026, from 5-7 P.M.

Members may order subs and beverages from the menu at their own expense.





CONSIDER SHORELINE RESTORATION

Everyone living along Upper Hay Lake shares the responsibility of keeping the lake clean and safe. Imagine Upper Hay Lake having so many weeds that it's not navigable for boating, or so cloudy with algae that it's not safe to swim or fish. Now imagine the negative impact on your property value. Anyone interested in buying your lake home will certainly see the poor water quality and walk away. We love the green lawns and shrubbery around our lake homes, but the runoff from our lots that goes into the lake, especially from grass clippings and fertilizer, has a negative impact. Left unchecked, Upper Hay Lake will suffer.

What can you do?

The simple answer is to create a "no mow" zone from the water's edge to your lawn, about 15 feet wide along the length of the shoreline. Within that area, right by the water's edge, plant native vegetation. This vegetation will absorb the minerals in runoff and stop them from entering the lake. An added benefit is that many such plants have very deep growing root systems that will stabilize the shoreline and decrease erosion.

How do I do that and what might it cost?

The Upper Hay Lake Association has long promoted shoreline restoration. The Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District (CWSWCD) provides shoreline restoration grant money. The program provides clean water legacy funds to local groups and citizens to improve water quality and reduce storm water runoff.

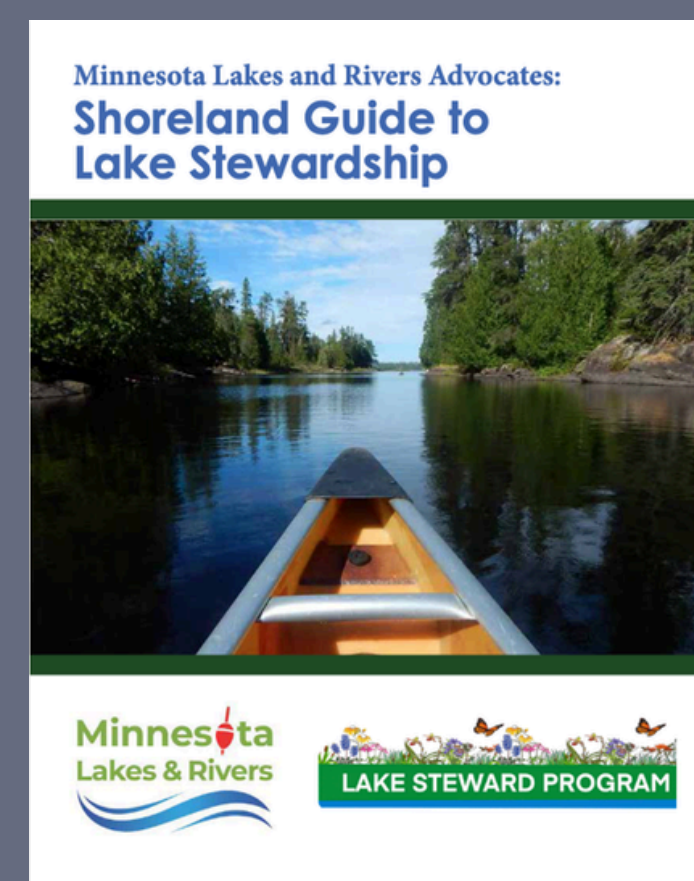
If you are interested in improving your shoreline for next year, be sure to contact one of your UHLA Board members. The plan needs to be in place during the fall months to have ample time to apply for grant money early the following spring. Note that the CWSWCD won't know if it will get funding or how much it will be until after January 1st.

Together we can make a difference in both reducing the amount of phosphorus in our lake and beautifying our lake.

<http://uhla.mnlakesandrivers.org/lakeshore-restoration-2/consider-shoreline-restoration/>

TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE LAKE STEWARDSHIP, REFER TO THE "Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship" FOR PRACTICAL ADVICE:

- Understand local regulations and best practices for shoreline management.
- Maintain natural vegetation along the shoreline to prevent erosion.
- Reduce runoff by implementing rain gardens or permeable surfaces.
- Properly dispose of hazardous materials to protect water quality.
- Participate in local clean-up events to keep the lake environment healthy.
- Educate yourself and others about invasive species and how to prevent their spread.



THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE FOR \$5.00 THROUGH UHLA. PLEASE CONTACT BRAD SCHULTZ TO GET YOUR COPY AT BVSCHULTZ55@GMAIL.COM

A 2026 EDITION IS FOR SALE FOR \$11.99 AT THIS WEBSITE: [HTTPS://ITASCABOOKS.COM/PRODUCTS/MINNESOTA-LAKES-AND-RIVERS-ADVOCATES-SHORELAND-GUIDE-TO-LAKE-STEWARDSHIP-1](https://itascabooks.com/products/minnesota-lakes-and-rivers-advocates-shoreland-guide-to-lake-stewardship-1)



YOUR PHTTSP://WWW.DNR.STATE.MN.US/WATERS/WATERMGMT_SECTION/SHORELAND/HISTORY.HTMLML TEXT



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SAVE OUR SHORES?

Don't mow-let it GROW~ Mowed turf shorelines let 7-9 times more pollutants enter lakes than natural vegetation, fueling algal blooms, excess aquatic growth, and declining water quality. This loss of natural habitat also threatens fish, loons, frogs, butterflies, and the scenic beauty that defines Minnesota's lakes.

Get rid of rip-rap ~Erosion control with rip rap (large shoreline stones) harms natural habitats, reduces biodiversity, and can worsen erosion by increasing wave energy. Natural shoreline buffers better protect water quality, wildlife habitats, and healthy aquatic plant growth.

Learn to live with "weeds"~ Aquatic plants are essential for Minnesota's lakes and rivers, providing habitat and food for fish and wildlife while improving water quality by absorbing nutrients and stabilizing sediments. Next time a "weed" brushes your toes while swimming, remember it's helping sustain Minnesota's fisheries.

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/mnnaturalshorelinepartnership/>





"OWN YOUR OWN WAKE" MAPPING INITIATIVE

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers member organizations can purchase a custom PDF map designed to help boaters make informed decisions on the water. 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.

Order a Map for Your Lake

Bulk Orders Recommended for Local Governments. [Place Bulk orders HERE](#)

Not a member? [Join with your lake association](#)

FAQs

How much does a map cost?

Single lakes and chains of lakes with 2 connected lakes cost \$150 for a map design (chains will include a map of each lake). Chains of 3 or more connected lakes cost \$250 and include maps of each individual lake and the full chain.

Can LGUs request maps for multiple lakes within their jurisdiction?

Yes. Local government units can request custom "Own Your Wake" maps for lakes in their jurisdiction by [using this form to make a bulk order request](#).

What data is used to produce these maps?

Bathymetric data for the Own Your Wake maps is sourced from state databases and is clearly attributed on each map. In cases where public data is unavailable, MLR's map designers may be able locally source contour information.

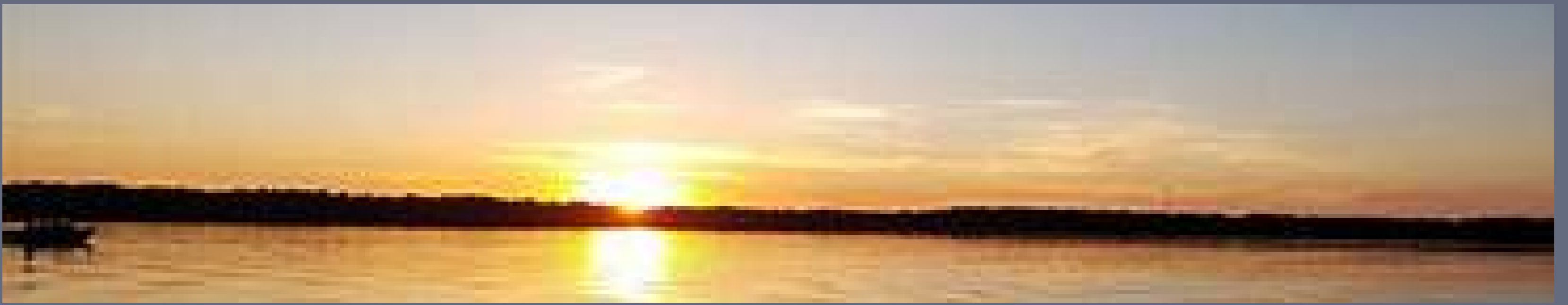
Why 500 feet from shore and 20 feet deep?

MLR worked with the University of Minnesota's St. Anthony F print-ready PDF files for you to print and share locally.

Are there state laws regulating wake surfing based on these recommendations?

No. Minnesota does not currently have laws that enforce 500 feet from shore and 20 feet deep. In the meantime, the Own Your Wake maps provide education and guidance for boaters and communities. These maps help establish best practices—such as operating at least 500 feet from shore and in water 20 feet or deeper—as an accepted social norm, so that any future policies can be informed, fair, and effective while protecting lake ecosystems and supporting responsible boating.





LIGHT POLLUTION IN LAKES: HOW OUR NIGHTTIME GLOW MESSES WITH NATURE

Picture this: you're chilling by a lake at night, expecting stars and quiet. Instead, the water's glowing from nearby streetlights, city buildings, or a lit-up bridge. That's light pollution in lakes, and it's quietly throwing freshwater ecosystems out of whack. The bright lights we love in our cities don't just mess with stargazing—they sneak into lakes and rivers, confusing fish, messing with tiny critters, and sparking algae explosions. Drawing from studies like those on Lake Erie and Lake Washington, let's dive into this sneaky problem, how it's shaking things up, and what we can do to fix it.

Why Are Lakes Getting So Lit?

We humans love living near water. Lakes and rivers are our hangout spots, but as cities grow, so do the lights. Streetlamps, billboards, and skyscrapers create a glow called "skyglow." In Chicago, for example, Lake Michigan's surface is never truly dark because of the city's shine. Even far-off lakes catch light from nearby towns. Blue light, especially from modern LEDs, cuts deep into water—sometimes 20 meters in clear lakes. That's enough to mess with life below the surface.

How Does Artificial Light Sneak In?

Artificial light at night (ALAN) comes from all over:

- Bridges: They're like glowing roadblocks. German studies show fish avoid bright bridge areas, splitting up their river paths.
- City Glow: Urban lights brighten entire lakes, like Lake Michigan under Chicago's skyglow.
- Shorelines: Lit-up docks and paths mess with animals on the water's edge.

Rivers get hit harder than lakes—they rarely see full darkness. Blue light travels deepest, while red light fades fast. Those bright LEDs? They're the worst culprits, throwing ecosystems off balance.

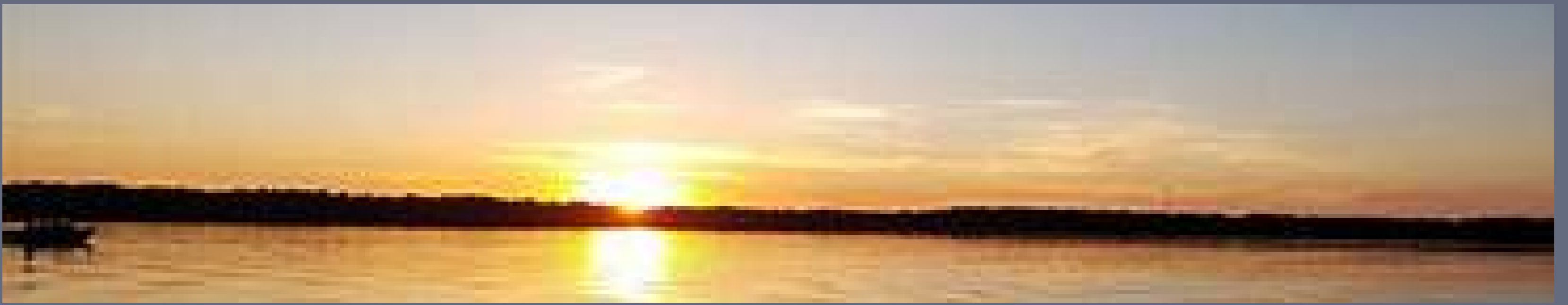
Tiny Critters, Big Problems: Zooplankton

Zooplankton are microscopic heroes in lakes. They munch algae and feed fish. At night, they swim up to eat and hide from predators during the day. ALAN screws this up. In Lake Erie, even a faint glow (0.1 lux, like a dim flashlight) stops them from hiding right. They get eaten more, and algae grow wild. This can lead to gross, toxic blooms that suck oxygen from the water. German experiments at LakeLab showed these blooms mess up the whole food chain.

Fish: Swimming in the Wrong Spotlight

Fish need darkness to eat, spawn, and migrate. ALAN throws them off. It messes with melatonin, a hormone that controls their growth and reproduction. Studies on perch showed fewer eggs under constant light. In Lake Washington, young salmon hung out near lit shorelines, making them easy prey—20–30% didn't survive. In the Rhine River, eels swam toward lights, getting picked off by predators. Bright bridges also block migration paths, trapping fish like a roadblock. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 7]





LIGHT POLLUTION IN LAKES: HOW OUR NIGHTTIME GLOW MESSES WITH NATURE CONTINUED from page 6:

Algae and Plants: Growing Out of Control

Algae love light. Too much of it? They go nuts. In Lake Müggelsee, constant light sparked toxic green blooms, choking oxygen and hurting fish. These blooms mess with nutrients, favoring harmful algae over good ones. Aquatic plants struggle too—they're built for natural light cycles, not 24/7 glow. Algae usually win, throwing lakes out of balance.

Insects and Frogs: Caught in the Glow

Insects like mayflies swarm rivers at night, but ALAN pulls them to streetlights where they die. This starves fish and bats that eat them. Caddisflies, a trout favorite, get confused too, drifting less at night. Frogs in lit-up wetlands croak less, and their tadpoles grow weirdly. It's a ripple effect—fewer insects, weaker food webs.

The Bigger Picture: Ecosystems in Trouble

ALAN's impact adds up. Predators might snack more at first, but prey species crash over time. Food webs unravel. Fewer insects move between land and water, starving animals like bats. Studies show ALAN grows 2–6% yearly worldwide. It's as bad as chemical spills or habitat loss for lakes and rivers.

How Can We Fix It?

We don't have to live in the dark. Here's how to cut light pollution in lakes:

- Use shielded lights to point light down, not at the sky or water.
- Swap to warm bulbs with less blue light.
- Add motion sensors or timers so lights aren't on all night.
- Dim bridge lights to let fish swim freely.
- Use sensors to spot bright zones.

Places like Lake Erie are already trying “dark-sky” rules, and it's helping. Small changes make a big difference.

Wrapping It Up

Light pollution in lakes isn't just about losing starry views—it's stressing out fish, zooplankton, and entire ecosystems. From Lake Erie's algae blooms to salmon struggling in Lake Washington, artificial light is a sneaky troublemaker. But we can fight back. Smarter lights, better policies, and a little care can bring back the darkness our lakes need. Let's give nature a break and keep our waters thriving. What's one step you could take to dim the glow?

<https://shiningscience.com/light-pollution-in-lakes/>





MORE ALGAE BLOOMS ARE PRESENT IN UPPER HAY LAKE THIS SUMMER

There seems to be more algae blooms present along the shoreline of Upper Hay Lake this summer. The zebra mussels have cleared the water (Greg Murphy recently measured visibility. He recorded it at 23 feet recently. The deepest he has ever measured). With clearer water, sunlight can penetrate deeper heating the water and facilitating more algae. Increased levels of phosphorus can also contribute to algae growth. Reduce runoff can prevent weed and algae growth. Permits to chemically treat your shoreline are also available through the Department of Natural Resources. Use this link to learn more about the permit process: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/permits.html>

Aquatic Plants: Algae

Algae have no true roots, stems, or leaves and range in size from tiny, one-celled organisms to large, multi-celled plant-like organisms, such as chara or muckgrass. Plankton algae, which consist of free-floating microscopic plants, grow throughout both the well-lit surface waters of an entire lake.

Caution: When some species of blue-green algae are decaying, their cells release toxic materials, which can poison animals that drink the water. These toxic blooms are uncommon, but it is wise to keep your pets and livestock away from the water when any algal bloom is breaking up. Preventive measures such as limiting the flow of nutrients into the lake may reduce future blue-green algae blooms. You can get temporary control of existing algae blooms using an algicide. An Aquatic Plant Management (APM) permit is always needed any time a pesticide is used.

- [Chara](#)
- [Filamentous algae](#)
- [Plankton algae](#)
- [Stonewort](#)

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_plants/algae/index.html





UHLA MEMBERSHIP PASSES MOTION TO STOCK WALLEYE IN THE LAKE

At the annual meeting on June 4, 2026, the following discussion and motion was made. This is from the minutes of the meeting:

“Neil Beaverson reported that Mike Knapp (Crow Wing Fisheries) had recommended that we stay with stocking our lake with 184,000 walleye fry, which has a five percent survival rate. If not, the next step is to go with walleye fingerlings. These must be purchased through a private fishery, ranging in cost from 50 cents to three dollars, and must be permitted. Knapp noted that the fingerlings, per the DNR, do not have good success rate either and advised it’d likely be a waste of money. However, the bigger fish (5 and 6 inches, costing \$5 to \$7 each) do have a better chance of survival. There are a lot of lakes that stock bigger fish every other year. The Board had decided to recommend spending \$2500 to purchase bigger fish as a positive effort to improve the lake in a meaningful way.

Another lively discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$2500 on the bigger walleye. A hand count resulted in 20 yes votes and 14 no votes. The motion passed.”

The board will report our options at the social gathering at Shiners on August 6, 2026.



UPPER HAY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Term Ends
Schultz, Brad President	33143 Osprey Circle	952-393-1758 (cell)	bvschultz55@gmail.com	2028
Beaverson, Neil Vice President	33904 Oak Dr. & 417 Bear Ave. S. Vadnais Heights, MN 55127	651-429-6672	nmbeaverson@comcast.net	2029
Feltgen, Dennis Secretary	33137 S. Upper Hay Drive	305-923-94 (cell)	dwfeltgen@gmail.com	2027
Kaus, Bradley Treasurer	4649 County Rd. 145	612-309-3584 (cell)	bgkaus@gmail.com	2028
Larson, Whitey	33061 W. Shady Beach Lane	218-568-5831	whiteylar@me.com	2027
OPEN Position				2029
OPEN Position				2029
Steen, Claire	33115 Osprey Circle & 29 Kingwood Street Brainerd, MN 56401	218-330-7059 (cell)	Claire.steen@charter.net	2027
Woodruff, Jack	4861 Popple Trail	612-802-3832	woodruffgarden17@yahoo.com	2028

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

Two Positions are currently open on the UHLA Board of Directors. Please consider joining the board. We need fresh input and perspectives. If you want to see more being done by our organization, this is your opportunity. The board has been seeking increased participation. JOIN US!



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 and 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

_____ Public Access

_____ Social Committee (Picnic / Breakfast)

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

_____ Shoreline Restoration

_____ Fund Raising / Grant Writing

_____ Other _____

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