

Upper Hay Lake Association

FALL 2026 ISSUE / OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Environmental Stewardship Today, for Tomorrow.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The hummingbirds have left our feeder, the boats are winterized, and the patio furniture is stored for the season. My wife, Vicki, and I will fly to Mesa in a few days after a wonderful summer on Upper Hay Lake. Many of you are probably making similar preparations while enjoying the cooler fall weather. Meanwhile, I have been working on UHLA matters and would like to share the latest updates.

The UHLA board met on August 6 after the social gathering at Shiners and welcomed three new directors: Chuck Hadley, Brent McPherson, and Dean Schrimpf. With the board fully staffed again, we look forward to their fresh perspectives and contributions.

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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NATIONAL LOON CENTER TO OPEN IN 2027

After 10 years of planning, the National Loon Center marked a major milestone with its First Beam signing ceremony on September 18, 2026. The new center is being constructed on Swann Drive in Crosslake, Minnesota, nestled within a 10-acre wooded site near Pioneer Drive. Scheduled to open in 2027, the center will be a leading research and education facility focused on loons and freshwater ecosystems.

The 20,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art center will offer immersive, interactive exhibits exploring the underwater world, lake and shoreline habitats, and the expansive skies and migration routes loons rely on throughout their lives. Designed for families, it will draw visitors nationwide and serve as a hub for conservation efforts.

Through science, education, and immersive experiences, the National Loon Center will help protect loons and northern lakes while celebrating the bird's distinctive, haunting call.

Source: <https://www.nationallooncenter.org/>





GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT CONTINUED from Page 1:

The directors also met on September 14. It was decided to have Whitey Larson check with the fishery to arrange walleye stocking yet this October. The calendar of events for next year was also discussed. The annual UHLA meeting will be held on Thursday, June 3, 2027. The boat parade will take place on Saturday, July 3, 2027, at 11:00 A.M. (an earlier time was set to encourage greater participation in the event). Then the August social will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2027. The American Legion will be contacted for availability for both the annual meeting and the social.

Chuck Hadley contacted the DNR fisheries department and learned that the Upper Hay Lake outlet is a promising candidate for a pilot remediation project. Once a productive spawning creek, the outlet is now impaired by excessive weed growth. The proposed project would reduce cattails to help restore fish reproduction. Chuck will follow up with the project manager this winter and again in the spring for a decision.

Greg Murphy continued monthly water-quality testing throughout the summer. Neil Beaverson and I also surveyed the lake for invasive weeds. Although we found algae-covered vegetation, we detected no invasive aquatic plants.

Association membership grew over the summer, but remains below previous years. Please encourage your neighbors to join. The UHLA website explains the benefits of association membership.

UHLA's formal meetings are finished for the season, but winter brings ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other activities on Upper Hay Lake. I look forward to seeing you in spring 2027!

BRAD SCHULTZ

THE NATIONAL LOON CENTER, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, HELD A FIRST BEAM SIGNING CEREMONY



Photos source: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=National%20Loon%20Center>

SUMMARY OF THE UPPER HAY LAKE ASSOCIATION SOCIAL GATHERING DISCUSSION

August 6, 2026

Shiners Restaurant. Jenkins, MN

Members of the Board present: Brad Schultz, Dennis Feltgen, Brad Kaus, Whitey Larson, Claire Steen, and Greg Thomas.

UHLA Members present: 30

President's Welcome and call to order – 6:15 pm

"Update on Weed Remediation at Hay Creek Outlet

Chuck Hadley has been working with Nate Rose of the DNR Fisheries, who has suggested several angles to proceed with removing the weeds. Satellite images from 2010 to present day indicate the outlet has become completely closed off during that time. Nate performed an onsite inspection and confirmed this. The reproduction of fish in the lake is also being negatively impacted. He spoke about a project that the DNR and Fisheries are doing that involves an evasive species of cattails, and Upper Hay Lake is a very good candidate to participate in the project. Next spring, Chuck will work with Michell who is spearheading the project with the hope of restoring the creek to what it was in 2010.

Update on fish stocking in the lake

Whitey Larson took on the project after Greg Thomas resigned from the board. The board had approved a motion to spend \$2500 to restock. The next step is to determine the best option and when to do it. Whitey explained that small lakes such as ours do not have the success rate as that of large lakes when it comes to walleyes reaching maturity. The best month to restock is October. What is yet to be determined is the success rate of 4-6" walleyes as opposed to 5-8" or larger, and how is success measured." [Note:At the UHLA board meeting on September 14, 2026, it was decided to have Whitey Larson check with the fishery to make arrangements to have walleye stocked yet this October.]

Membership Update

Brad Kaus stated that as of August 6th, membership stands at 78 members. [Note: Brad reported 81 paid members as of 9/14/2026.] Two USPS mailings and an email sent after the meeting on June 22nd has netted 10 of these members. While this is good news, the figure is less than it was several years ago when it stood at 100 members. Please reach out to neighbors to encourage membership.

In addition to the \$25 annual membership dues, extra contributions of \$1500 were made.

Jack Woodruff resigned from the board in early August. In addition, Greg Thomas' decided not to renew his term on the board of directors. Brad Schultz presented a certificate of appreciation to Greg for his service to the organization at the gathering. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

EARN YOUR LAKE STEWARD AWARD

Qualifying properties receive official Lake Steward recognition and become part of a growing movement to protect Minnesota's lakes.

Most participants begin with simple steps and gradually build a more natural shoreline over time. The Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship (available to MLR members at a discounted rate) can help you learn the criteria and implement improvements.

Cost-share funding and technical assistance may also be available through your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).



SHINERS SOCIAL GATHERING DISCUSSION CONTINUED:

Three people are joining the board as at-large members – Chuck Hadley, Brent McPherson, and Dean Schrimpf. They attended their first board meeting following the Social Gathering. We have a complete board of nine members again.

Topic - AIS Education Training

Volunteers used to get some training to inspect boats at the landing for invasive species. However, that is no longer permitted, and formal training is now required to set up a booth with state-provided ligature and personally speak with boat owners on how to inspect their own boats for any invasive species. Training is taking place this month, and lake resident Bob Faundeen has expressed interest in taking the training. Brad S. will place an article about the training in the next newsletter.

Landing Cleanup Update

Volunteers had signed up earlier this summer to clean up the landing once a week. This effort has been very successful and appreciated. There are a few dates in September still available for volunteers.

The gathering was adjourned at 6:45 pm.



AQUATIC INVADERS SUMMIT

Learn from experts, connect with fellow lake leaders, and help shape real solutions for protecting our lakes and rivers. This one-of-a-kind gathering brings together lake and river enthusiasts, advocates, researchers, and policy makers from across Minnesota – and around the world – to share knowledge, network, and take action against aquatic invasive species (AIS).

REGISTRATION COMING SOON! Sign up bellow for updates, discounts, and more!

Learn more at:

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/summit27/>

SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT ON UPPER HAY LAKE COMPLETED THIS SUMMER

Dean and Lori Schrimpf completed a shoreline restoration project at their Upper Hay Lake property this summer. They have owned the property for 19 years, and this was their third shoreline repair. Because the ice damage met the DNR criteria listed below, no permit was required.

"An individual Public Waters Work Permit would not be required from the DNR for ice ridge removal or grading under the following conditions:

- The ice ridge resulted from ice action within the last year;
- The project is either exempt from local permits or is authorized by issuance of a local government permit;
- Not more than 200 feet of shoreline is affected;
- All ice ridge material that is composed of muck, clay or organic sediment is deposited and stabilized at an upland site above the ordinary high-water level (OHWL);
- All ice ridge material that is composed of sand or gravel is removed as provided above or graded to conform to the original cross-section and alignment of the lakebed, with a finished surface at or below the ordinary high-water level (OHWL);
- No additional excavation or replacement fill material occurs on the site;
- All exposed areas are immediately stabilized as needed to prevent erosion and sedimentation; and
- Local zoning officials, the Watershed District, if applicable, and the Soil and Water District are given at least seven days prior notice."

Source: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/ice_ridges.html

Joe Nelson of JN Tree Service and Landscaping completed the work (218.232.7328 / <https://www.jntreeservice-landscaping.com/>). The Schrimpf's chose biodegradable coir logs made from coconut fiber, which are commonly used in Minnesota to stabilize shorelines and prevent soil erosion. These logs are typically 12 to 16 inches in diameter and can be planted with native vegetation for added effectiveness. Although the contractor initially planned to use 12-inch logs, limited availability required the use of 16-inch logs. After procurement delays, the crew used a Bobcat to install three rows of logs along the entire 100-foot shoreline in one day in late June 2026. The property's gradual slope toward the lake aided installation.

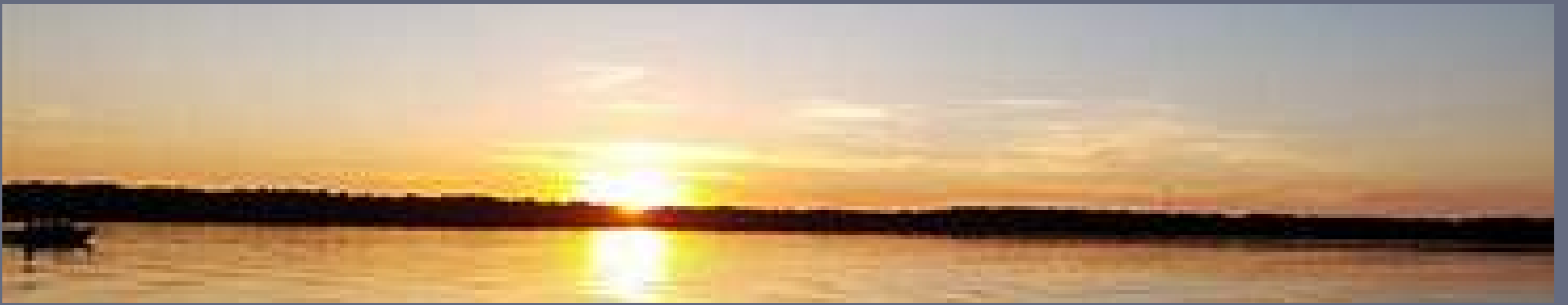
Native plants, including wildflowers, were also seeded for their deep root systems. Over the summer, floating bogs brought cattails to the shoreline. Dean spread the remaining seed on the lawn in front of the logs to establish a 10-foot buffer. He said, "Hopefully, the ice will be kind for several years, giving our buffer zone time to fill in."



THE NATURAL PLANTS HAVE GROWN IN AROUND THE COIR LOGS.



CATTAILS HAVE ALSO TAKEN ROOT ALONG THE SHORELINE.



MEET THE NEW UHLA BOARD MEMBERS

Three individuals joined the UHLA Board of Directors in August 2026. To become better acquainted, each of them answered these questions:

Q 1: When did you purchase property on the lake?

Q 2: Are you retired? Please provide some brief highlights of your current or past occupation

Q 3: Please tell a little bit about your family?

Q 4: Tell us about your main interests or hobbies.

Q 5: What do you like best about Upper Hay Lake?



Dean Schrimpf

First, Dean Schrimpf provided the following answers:

Q1) Dean and his wife, Lori purchased property on the lake in the Fall 2007. They have been on the lake for 19 years.

Q2) Dean is retired. He worked in IT for Medtronic for 34 years. He held many positions with the company. A highlight included being part of the team that set up the company's first Internet connection. His last role was being an architect working with Amazon Web Services.

Q3) He has been married to his wife, Lori, for 29 years. They have 2 daughters--one married and one engaged with 2 dogs and 3 grand dogs.

Q4) Dean's hobbies and interests include going to movies, playing electronic games and 3D printing.

Q5) What he likes best about Upper Hay Lake is the quiet and being close to everything they need.



Chuck Hadley

Second, Chuck Hadley also responded to the interview questions:

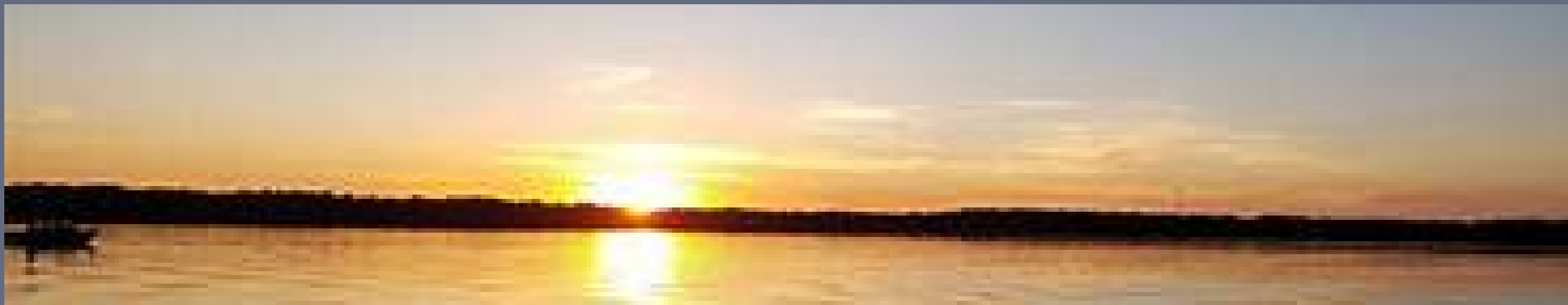
Q1) Chuck's property on the lake has been in the family for 55 years. He and his wife, Cindy have owned it for 22 years.

Q2) Chuck shared information about his career. He worked for Northwest Airlines for 23 years. Chuck also owned Hadley Contracting.

Q3) He has 3 kids and 4 grandkids.

Q4) Chuck plays a lot of golf.

Q5) What Chuck likes most about Upper Hay Lake is that it is peaceful.



MEET THE NEW UHLA BOARD MEMMBERS CONTINUED from Page 6:

Three individuals joined the UHLA Board of Directors in August 2026. To become better acquainted, each of them answered these questions:

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Brent McPherson

Third, Brent McPherson answered the questions:

Q1) Brent purchased property on the lake in 1999.

Q2) Brent is retired. His career path included two major endeavors. He was an insulation contractor in St. Cloud and then he opened a shop in Nisswa in 1999.

Q3) He shared this information about his family: "I am married to my lovely wife Mary with three daughters, three sons-in-law and two grandchildren."

Q4) Brent's hobbies and interests include hanging out on the lake. He also takes fishing trips to Canada. He enjoys snowmobiling in the winter and taking trips to Colorado to ski and snowmobile.

Q5) What Brent likes most about Upper Hay Lake is that it is nice and peaceful-- just the right size. It is a great lake. He can go catch a meal of fish or just enjoy a ride around the lake on the pontoon. He wants this lake to keep improving so it will be a place his kids and grandkids can enjoy in the future.



Find Fall Colors with the Color Map: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fall_colors/index.html



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

UPPER HAY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

10/01/2026

Name:	Lake & Home Address:	Phone:	Email:	Term Ends:
Schultz, Brad, <i>President</i>	33143 Osprey Circle	952-393-1758 cell	bvschultz55@gmail.com	2029
Beaverson, Neil <i>Vice President</i>	330904 N. Oak Dr. 417 Bear Ave. S. Vadnais Heights, MN 55127	651-402-7393 cell	nmbeaverson@comcast.net	2029
Feltgen, Dennis <i>Secretary</i>	33137 South Upper Hay Dr.	305-923-9456 cell	dwfeltgen@gmail.com	2027
Kaus, Brad, <i>Treasurer</i>	4649 County Rd. 145	612-309-3584 cell	bgkaus@gmail.com	2028
Hadley, Chuck	33649 Chickadee Trail	612-232-6771 cell	chuckhadley74@gmail.com	2029
Larson, Richard (Whitey)	33061 W. Shady Beach Lane	218-831-8728 cell	whiteylar@me.com	2008
McPherson, Brent	33593 Chickadee Trail 1441 10th Ave. N. St. Cloud, MN 56303	320-250-9231 cell	Mary.mcphers@gmail.com	2007
Schrimpf, Dean	34267 Birch Trail 2306 Iverson Ct. Lino Lakes, MN 55038	612-850-6911 cell	dlschrimpf@gmail.com	2028
Steen, Claire	33161 Osprey Circle 29 Kingwood Street Brainerd, MN 56401	218-330-7059 cell	Claire.steen@charter.net	2027

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