

# LAKE WAVES

Newsletter for the Hand/Hay Lakes Association

[HandHayLakesAssoc.org](http://HandHayLakesAssoc.org)

Spring 2017



## Pipeline Update

News about oil pipelines continues to bubble up in the local media outlets. The Canadian company Enbridge is desirous of building an energy corridor through the heart of our lakes region and that news was covered in the summer 2016 issue and again in the fall 2016 issue of this newsletter. In August 2016 Enbridge abandoned its intent to build a 30 inch pipeline to transport Bakken oil from North Dakota through the corridor but its intent to build a 36 inch high-pressure pipeline to carry toxic tar sand oil from Canada is still in play. This pipeline would be one of the largest on the continent and carry nearly 800,000 barrels a day. That is 32 million gallons of bitumen per day right through our pristine lakes ecosystem. Make no mistake, this corridor will not be home to just one pipeline but will become home to multiple pipelines in the future and will permanently alter the economy and character of this region.

There is no absolutely safe way to transport oil. It does not matter if it is by pipe, by rail, by truck or by ship; they all have caused significant damage to the environment and the economy

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## Annual Hand/Hay Lakes General Meeting

The annual Association Meeting will be held on Saturday May 27th, 2017 at the Ponto Lake Town Hall. The meeting starts at 9:00 am.

We will elect officers and directors. The Secretary and the Treasurer positions are open and six directors positions need to be filled. There are four from Hand Lake and two from Hay Lake that are open.

As always there will be coffee and treats and various hand outs. And, of course, there will be drawings for door prizes.

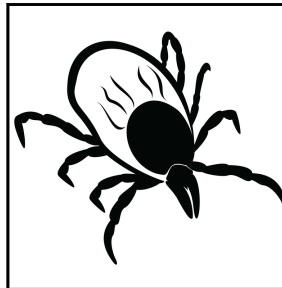
Don't Miss It

## In This Issue

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## Threat of New Tick-Borne Disease in Our Lakes Area

A new bacterial disease spread by the deer tick, the same tick that carries Lyme disease has been invading in our lakes area. The bacterial strain is called Ehrlichiosis and it is just as serious as Lyme disease but is harder to detect.

Unlike Lyme disease there is no telltale bullseye rings at the infection site and the disease is transmitted the instant the tick bites. Symptoms occur very soon after being bitten. Lyme disease is transmitted only after the tick has been attached for several hours and symptoms may not be known until days later. Ehrlichiosis infects and kills white blood cells and may cause fever, body aches, headache and fatigue.

In the past two years 25 cases have been confirmed in Minnesota and Wisconsin but it is believed there are many more cases but have been misdiagnosed. The disease can be treated with antibiotics.

## Welcome to Our Hand and Hay Lakes Website

Dedicated to preserving the health, safety, welfare and prosperity of the lakes and forest that surround Hand and Hay Lakes.

<http://handhaylakesassoc.org/>

April 22th is Earth Day



### *From the Editor*

It is just a week past the Ides of March as I write this piece for our spring association newsletter. The weather is unseasonably warm, there are only a few tufts of snow here and there,

the dirt roads are muddy and the ground in the yard is wet and squishy. But, there is still ice on the lakes. Soon many will be arriving to open their cabins and be getting ready to enjoy the summer months at the lake. The lakes are a vital part of this area; they define the economy and character of the territory. They should not be taken for granted. They deserve to be protected. We are labeled the Central "Lakes" Region for a reason.

I had some difficulty finding information to include in this issue. Even though we have a new federal administration and a new state house with bills moving through that will affect our region, I could not decide how to appropriately include them here.

I did include an article written by Danae Schafer (Norway Shores) about collecting maple sap from maple trees. It is an interesting article and it was slated to go into the winter issue. I didn't publish a winter issue this year and I did not want to hold the article another year so I included it here. Another tick-borne bacterium has been uncovered. I thought that to be of significance. I added a brief update of the oil pipeline controversy and we will probably see an increase in hunting and fishing licenses. Much of the rest of the newsletter is filler and departments. My daughter, Marcella Clothier, provided a photo of a walking stick insect and a paragraph. I had no idea such insects survived in this area.

I added the sign-up sheet for paying association dues to the last page of the newsletter rather than having a single loose sheet included. You will have to cut out the last page to use it. It makes the newsletter less bulky and less expensive to publish.

If you have any suggestions to improve the newsletter or if you come across information that you think should be included, please point me to it so I can incorporate it.

Paul Courneya (editor)  
1388 Shadywood Shores Drive NW  
Pine River Mn 56474  
pcourneya@gmail.com



### **Fishing & Hunting Licenses Fees to Increase**

According to a January 2017 DNR news release, Governor Mark Dayton's budget proposal includes increases in many of the DNR's licenses and user fees. Only about 15 percent of the DNR's budget comes from the state's general fund. The majority of state DNR funding (85 percent) comes from user fees, sales of licenses and permits, and dedicated funds from the Legacy amendment and the state lottery. DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr said Wednesday increases are needed to keep the state's Game and Fish Fund and other accounts from going into the red in the next few years. Here are some examples of hunting and fishing license fee increases. There are also increases for boat, snowmobile and ATV license. The legislature must approve and increases.

Resident annual fishing: To \$25, up from \$22  
Nonresident annual fishing: To \$51, up from \$45  
Resident deer hunting: To \$34, up from \$30  
Deer hunting lottery application: \$4, up from \$0  
Resident super sports: To \$108, up from \$93

### **Important Dates**

(See our website for last minute changes  
<http://HandHayLakesAssoc.org>)

#### **Saturday May 6, 2017**

Spring Road Clean-Up 9:00 am. Meet at the junction of Hwy 49 and Shadywood Shores NW (per 2012 general meeting rules). Dress warm, wear good shoes (boots), gloves and bring a garbage bag.

#### **Saturday May 6, 2017**

Directors meeting following completion of road clean-up. Location of meeting is yet to be determined.

#### **Saturday May 13, 2017**

Fishing opener for walleye, bass, and northern pike

#### **Sunday May 14, 2017**

Mothers Day

#### **Saturday May 27, 2017**

Annual association meeting 9:00 am. Ponto Lake Town Hall. 1538 MN-84, Backus, MN 56435

#### **Monday May 29, 2017**

Memorial Day Service 11:00. Ponto Lake Cemetery. The cemetery is located at the junction of HWY 84 and Hand Lake Drive NW.

**Sightings**

Winter sightings as reported by Paul and Barbara Courneya (Shadywood Shores) .



Throughout the winter we have been hearing the whoo-who-who of an owl so we knew there was an owl surveying our yard but we could never see him. In mid-January he revealed himself in a tree in the back yard right outside the window. I took a picture but it was late afternoon and not much light. I had to use some computer enhancement to make the picture visible so there isn't much color.

It was a dreary day in mid-March. Most of the snow was gone and the ground was wet and squishy. When we looked out the bedroom window the whole ground under the big spruce was shimmering and seemed to be alive. It turns out it was a large flock of 50 to 100 common Redpoll pecking around on the ground. A squirrel had knocked down a finch food bag and the bag's nyjer thistle seeds were strewed all over the ground. The birds did a nice job of cleaning up the area and then departed as suddenly as they had arrived. The common Redpoll survives in large flocks. They all fly together at the same time and feed together at the same time. They fly down from Canada to northern and central Minnesota in the winter and return around March.



Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle

**Forest Findings:  
Northern Walking Stick**

By Marcella Clothier



Photo by Marcella Clothier

This past fall, I was out cleaning up and prepping the yard for the coming winter. While filling up one of my bird feeders, I noticed a stick was oddly stuck to my front window. I moved closer trying to figure out how in the world a stick had gotten stuck to the middle of my window, which was when I realized the stick had legs.

I had seen walking sticks in South America, but never knew they lived so far north. I gently blew on the bug and got her to move her front legs, which are tucked closely together in the photo in order to mimic a stick or branch, hiding her from prey.

I did a little research and found the Northern Walking Stick ranges all across Northern America. The females are larger than the males but both sexes have long antenna that are approximately two-thirds the size of the body. The bug I saw was approximately six inches long. Females will climb down to the ground just before winter to lay a single egg then retreat back up to higher ground.

Walking Sticks are vegetarians, feeding on vegetation. They are often a favorite to bug enthusiasts, easy to handle, and are harmless to humans.

Submissions to be considered for publication in the Summer newsletter must reach the editor before June 15th. The summer newsletter is mailed near the end of July. Email photos, articles, and suggestions to:

[pcourneya@gmail.com](mailto:pcourneya@gmail.com)

## Maple Trees and Maple Syrup

By: Danae Schafer

It is maple syrup season! This wonderful natural treat is out there just waiting for you to make it. Native Americans were the first to figure out how to refine maple sap, and the method remains the same today. The process of making maple syrup is relatively simple and inexpensive to try. The main thing you need is access to maple trees. There are several species of maple trees growing in Minnesota. There are also several kinds of maple that are grown as street trees or decorative trees. The kind grown for decorative purposes are generally not usable for the production of maple syrup. Another source of natural sweetener is birch sap. Birch trees are tapped in areas that don't have an abundance of maple.

Maple syrup can be made from the sap of: box elder, red, silver, sugar, and black maple. Mountain maple also occurs here but as more of a shrub or understory species. Maple trees can be identified by their opposite branching and distinct maple shaped leaf with different species having unique characteristics. The bark ranges from smooth to shaggy depending on species. All maples produce their seed in samaras often described as seed helicopters. The best way to be sure you have a maple tree is to watch it the growing season before you want to tap and look at the leaves. Red maple can be found growing nearly anywhere except the deep swamp. It is a common component of our woods but rarely occurs in large concentrations. Box elder also grows in a variety of areas but can be found in concentration in areas of disturbance. Silver maple grow nearly exclusively along rivers and streams. Maple is an increasing component of forests across our state due to the absence of wildfire and because it is part of a more mature forest. If you want to produce a measurable volume of syrup you will need a fair number of trees relatively close to each other. It often takes 25-40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup.

Be sure to research recommendations on size of trees to tap. Tapping too small or young of a tree will damage the tree. Multiple taps on a tree can also be damaging. Be especially careful to remove your spiles after you are done tapping so the tree can heal and be ready for tapping again next year. Do not tap trees that may potentially be cut & used as sawtimber, as tapping creates a unique pattern in the wood and often introduces blue stain, an undesirable characteristic.



You know it is time to tap when temperatures are above freez-

ing during the day and below freezing at night. Another sign to watch for is the opening of the flowers at the top of the tree. Different species will flow best at different times. To tap a tree you will need some sort of a spile. A spile is what you put into the tree for the sap to run out of into a container. Spiles can be handmade (out of wooden dowels, old bullet casings, or other such materials), or you can purchase metal ones designed specifically for tapping. For collection of the sap, you can use gallon jugs (water, juice, or milk) or ice cream buckets. More sophisticated operations use tubing and bags for collecting. Whatever you come up with, be sure to clean everything thoroughly. It is advised to use food grade products as you are creating a food product.

You will need containers and an area to store your sap to keep it cool. Sap is comparable to milk and can spoil if it gets too warm. After you have collected your sap you will need to boil it down to concentrate it to the level you desire. The sugar content varies from less than 1- 2 % depending upon species and the year. The best place to boil the sap is outdoors. Some people use a kettle over an open fire. Others use stainless steel pans over modified wood stoves. Larger more permanent operations will have this all this set up in a 'sugar shack'. A sugar shack is a sheltered (to some degree), well-ventilated structure.

The last step is finishing. This is typically done in a more controlled environment such as on an outdoor burner or on a stove top. It is essential to filter your sap at this point. The filter can be cheesecloth, coffee or milk filters. This will separate out the fine silt-like sugars and other impurities that will collect in your sap. Once you have obtained your desired consistency, put the heated syrup into sanitized glass canning jars immediately after removing from boiling heat. When the center of the lid pops (pulls down), this indicates the jar has sealed. If you don't get a good seal or sanitizing heat, the syrup will mold. If sealed correctly it will last a long time in your cupboard. Just put open unused portions in the refrigerator.

Aside from producing sap for making maple syrup, maple trees are also beneficial in many other ways. They are a common yard tree as they often have brilliant fall colors. The flowers are an important food source for many insects early in the spring. Box elder and silver maples are important parts of the floodplain ecosystem. Animals use the seeds and buds for food. Cavities in maple are used as nests or dens for many species. Maple is used for veneer, lumber, firewood, paper, and cardboard production.

Further resources and information about making maple syrup are abundant on the internet. Like many hobbies, everyone has their opinion on how to do it best. The UMN extension service has information available at this website:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/environment/trees-woodlands/homemade-maple-syrup/>

### Fun Facts

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manages 3,134,900 acres of land - nearly twice the size of Delaware.

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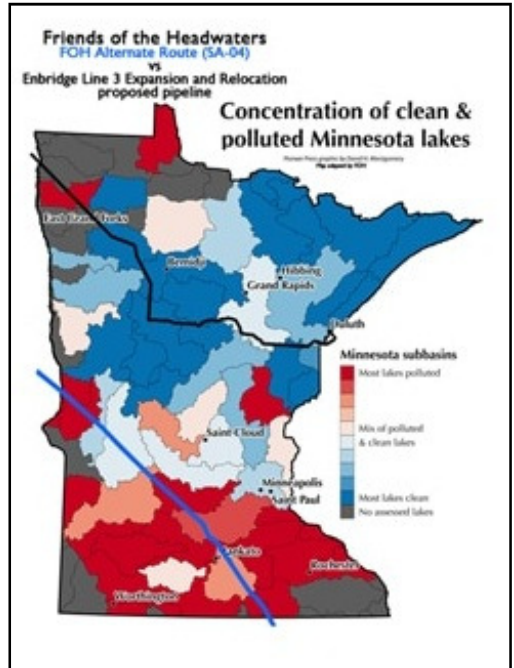
derived from that environment. If a pipeline is needed then it would make sense to place that pipe in a place where eventual leaks and spills would do the least environmental damage.

The lakes and water systems in our region are vital to our economy. The lakes and streams in southern Minnesota are seriously impaired largely due to industrial pollution and agricultural run-off. In fact they are dead and they are not coming back.

Lakes in the south central region of Minnesota are impaired but can still be recovered. Lakes in the northern parts of the state are still in their nearly pristine condition and should be protected from any environmental damage. Our region is in this “still pristine” region.

The map at the right shows the distribution of clean and polluted lakes. The proposed pipeline would pass through the cleanest lake areas. An alternative route has been suggested that would avoid the most environmentally sensitive area.

Public hearings will soon be held in each county affected by the pipeline.



**Hand/Hay Lakes Property Owners Association  
Membership Form**

Yearly dues for membership in the Hand/Hay Lakes Association are collected in the spring of each year. Fill out this form and mail it along with dues of \$15.00 or more to Cheryl Lindberg, Treasurer, 1437 Shadywood Shores Dr. NW, Pine River, MN 56474 or bring it to the annual meeting in May. If you wish to contribute to any of the association’s special projects you can indicate your choices below.

You can also use this form to update any portion of your address or Phone #, or to provide us with your email address at any time.

**Your Permanent address. This is where your newsletter will be sent**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues for the year of .....**

Sunfish Level: \$15.00..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bass Level: \$25.00..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Walleye Level: \$50.00..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation for lake association special projects:**

Fish Stocking Hay Lake \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fish Stocking Hand Lake \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Hand/Hay Lakes Property Owners Association was formed in the spring of 1987. Its primary function is to preserve the health, safety, welfare, and prosperity of Hand and Hay Lakes and the adjoining properties. The association has one general meeting on Saturday at 9:00 am during the Memorial Day weekend at the Ponto Lake Town Hall. All are welcome. Yearly membership dues are \$15.00 per household and payable at the general meeting. Or, send your check to the office of the treasurer with your name, address, phone number, and email. The Treasurer's address is: Cheryl Lindberg, Treasurer, 1437 Shadywood Shores Drive NW, Pine River, MN 56474. Make check payable to Hand Hay Lake Association

All Hand/Hay Lakes property owners are entitled to receive the Lake Waves, the official organ of the association. The Lake Waves is also available on the association's website, <http://HandHayLakesAssoc.org>. The Lake Waves is published four times per year in March, June, September, and December. Material for the newsletter should be sent directly to the editor. Material must be received before the 15th of the month for consideration to be published in that month's newsletter. Editor's address is: Paul Courneya, 1388 Shadywood Shores Drive NW, Pine River, MN 56474

Past Presidents

Duane Larson, *Dennis Haley*, *John Waters*, Dale Johnson, Dustin Mirick, Dick Stensrud, *Pete Kampa*, Wayne Lee, Andy Droen, Scott Parr, Arlan Hagen, Sandi Thiesen

Officers		
President	Jean Schatz	2018
Vice President	Zella Mirick	2018
Treasurer	Cheryl Lindberg	2017
Secretary	Barbara Courneya	2017

Hand Lake Directors		
Shadywood Shores	Clint Lindberg	2017
Haley's Haven	Mary Martin	2017
Indian Point	Ken Reinecke	2018
North Bay	Dustin Mirick	2018
Norway Shores	Lee Theisen	2017
At Large 1	Debra Samuelson	2018
At Large 2	Wayne Lee	2017

Hay Lake Directors		
Director 1	Scott Parr	2017
Director 2	Vacant	2018
Director 3	Vacant	2018
Director 4	Paul Anderson	2017

Paul Courneya  
 1388 Shadywood Shores DR NW  
 Pine River, MN 56474



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