

# LAKE WAVES

Newsletter for the Hand/Hay Lakes Association

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

Summer 2017



## Pipeline Update

The intent to build a pipeline corridor through our lakes area that includes the Pine River watershed continues to move forward.

A draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been submitted. Oral public comments were submitted during meetings scheduled June 6 through June 22.

A revealing article published in an April issue of the Brainerd Dispatch had this to say:

A watershed the federal government considers one of the most important from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean is right here in Cass, Crow Wing and Aitkin counties.

The 783-square-mile Pine River Watershed contains more than 500 miles of rivers and streams and more than 400 lakes of 10 acres or larger, covering the center of the northern half of the Upper Mississippi Basin. Within its boundaries are the Whitefish Chain of Lakes, Pelican Lake and the Pine River, a tributary of the Mississippi River.

"According to the (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Forest Service, of all the watersheds in the state, they feel the Pine is the most valuable of our water resources as far as quality, quantity and its ability to provide drinking water," said Chris Pence, Crow Wing County land services supervisor.

One might ask, "If the Pine River watershed is that important why would one want to put the watershed at risk with a high pressure oil pipeline running through it?"

One might visualize the pipe as being just an ordinary pipe with oil lazily meandering through it from one end to the other. But that is not the case. This pipe is large. It is three feet in diameter and carries oil at a high pressure.

Think of a car tire. It has a pressure of 30-35 pounds per square inch (psi). The pipeline has a pressure of over 1000 psi and will transport 760,000 barrels of oil per day. It is essentially a line of explosive charges buried underground through our lakes area just waiting to be detonated. At that pressure even a tiny crack or fissure in a weld will spew out gallons of oil. And, it would

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not be detected until it is too late.

Transporting oil by pipeline is not less dangerous than other methods of transport; it is just cheaper. And, that is the part oil producers like.

While the time period for public oral comments has ended, one can still send comments by regular mail or email. Written comments will be accepted through Monday, July 10, 2017.

If you have concerns about a pipeline corridor being constructed through our lakes area, please send your comments. If you don't know what to say, just copy parts of this article and send that.

Comments may be emailed, mailed, or faxed.

**Email address:** [Pipeline.Comments@state.mn.us](mailto:Pipeline.Comments@state.mn.us) U.S.

**Mail:** Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager Minnesota Department of Commerce 85 7th Place East, Suite 280 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

**Fax:** 651-539-0109

**Important:** Please include the docket numbers CN-14-916 and PPL-15-137 on all comments.

## Be Sure to Check Out Our Hand/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/>



## From the Editor

Well, summer is finally here along with the mosquitoes, black flies and the ticks. But there are also the butterflies, dragon flies, and the multitude of returning birds. We await

the deer to show off their new fawns. As the summer heat returns, swimming in the lake is in order.

The association's general meeting went off as planned on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Two directors from Hay Lake and four directors from Hand Lake renewed their two year term so our lineup of directors has not changed. Cheryl Lindberg agreed to remain as treasurer for at least another year and Debra Samuelson (Shadywood Shores) volunteered to be secretary replacing Barbara Courneya. Thank you all for your continued service.

In this issue...The oil pipeline through our lakes area is still in play so on the first page I attempted to provide a somewhat graphic picture of the risks that it would pose. I am not necessarily against oil pipelines; I am just opposed to where they want to put them. Our northern lakes are the last remaining pristine lakes in Minnesota and it does not seem wise to put them at risk when there several other pipeline routes available. We spend millions of dollars every year cleaning up and attempting to restore degraded lakes, yet we continue to put our most valuable lakes at risk. Go figure!

Lee Theisen (Norway Shores) provided an informative presentation of the continued high water in Hand Lake. The water has been above the high water mark for a few years and it is degrading lake clarity. Lee provided a graph and it is reproduced in this issue.

Finally, Barbra Courneya (Shadywood Shores) suggested we sign up for the tree planting program. Crow wing County provides a variety of trees at low cost. The association would buy them and distribute them to our members for planting in their yards. Full details have not been completely worked out but I did make mention of the program in this issue.

The remainder of the newsletter is departments and announcements.

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  
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## Annual Hand Lake Boat Parade

This year's boat parade will be held on Saturday, July 1. Judging will begin at 12:45 PM in Samuelson's Bay and the parade will commence immediately after judging has been completed. In case of weather issues the event will be Moved to July 2.

Be sure the judges have the following information: The theme of your decorated boat, your name, and where you are from.

There will be three trophies for pontoons and boats. This year's judges are Mary Gabe, Scott Samuelson, Jean Shatz. Debra Samuelson has volunteered to provide her boat as the judges boat and Paul Courneya will be on hand to take photos.

Results of this years boat parade will be posted on the association website soon after the parade and in the fall edition of the association newsletter.

## Recycle Bins



Cass County encourages us to recycle our paper, plastic, bottles and cans and have strategically placed recycling bins for that purpose. One is located at The Harriet Club and a second is located at the Ponto Lake Township Hall.

A sign on the bin for disposing of cans and bottles specifically states “NO BAGS.” It seems that, many of us collect up our bottles and cans in garbage bags and then rather than emptying the bag in the bin we just throw in the whole bag.

One might think there is some guy at the transfer station whose job it is to open all the bags and empty them. Not so! The bags of recyclable cans and bottles are culled out and sent to the land fill. They are not recycled at all. So it is important that we empty the bags ourselves. The county is threatening to remove the bins if the “no bags” rule continues to be ignored.

### Sightings



Photo by Marcella Courneya Clothier

Paul and Barbara Courneya (Shadywood Shores) have reported a bear in the neighborhood. One morning in mid-April they discovered their bird feeders destroyed and the garbage can knocked over. A few days later, after a light snow, they discovered a paw print on the front step. That confirmed it. There had been a bear visiting during the night.

A few weeks later the bear revealed himself. One afternoon, when Paul stepped out onto the front porch, there they were. There two of them. There was the mamma bear and her tiny, tiny cub. They were standing just 20 feet away. Startled, the cub scampered up a nearby tree and the mamma lay down at the base of the tree.

Most of the residences of Hand Lake have seen the bear and its cub and have endured some damage. Barabara Hansen (Shadywood Shores) reports replacing their bird feeder pole twice now. You will find a photo of the bear in a tree on our website. <http://www.handhaylakesassoc.org/>

Barbara Courneya (Shadywood Shores) reports seeing the first Oriol visiting the bird feeder on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Courneya spotted a deer and its tiny fawn romping through Duane Larson's (Shadywood Shores) back yard on May 25<sup>th</sup>. And saw the first monarch butterfly filtering around his milkweed patch on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The milkweed was about 6inches tall. The dragonflies appeared a few days later.

Submissions to be considered for publication in the Fall newsletter must reach the editor before August 15th. The fall newsletter is mailed near the end of September. Email photos, articles, and suggestions to:

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

### This is Interesting



Zebra Mussel

In a May news release the MnDNR reports that it will be using Zebra Mussel-sniffing dogs to inspect boats and trailers for the Invasive Mussels. The dogs can quickly locate the presence of the mussels and, more importantly, can find those that are hidden and not easily seen. Dogs have been used in the past and this year two more K9s are being added to the force.

The best way to prevent the spread of AIS is to clean, drain and dispose!

**Clean** aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species from watercraft;

**Drain** lake or river water and keep drain plugs out during transport; and

**Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water. It is the best way and it is also the law.

### Honey Bees

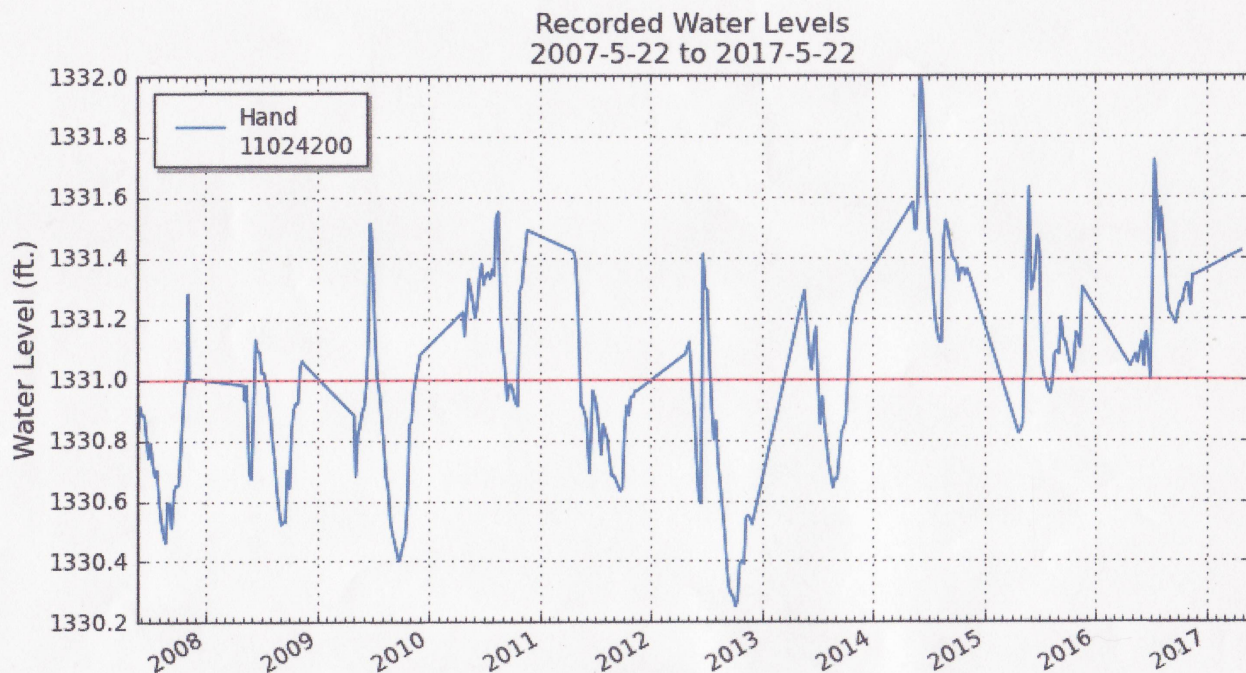
There's a glimmer of hope for America's ailing honeybees as winter losses were the lowest in more than a decade, according to a U.S. survey of beekeepers. Reduction in varroa mites, a lethal parasite, is likely the main cause of the improvement due to a new product to fight the mite and better weather for pesticide use.

For more than a decade, bees and other pollinators have been rapidly declining with scientists blaming a mix of parasites, disease, pesticides and poor nutrition. The U.S. government has set a goal of keeping losses under 15 percent in the winter.

Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle



hydrograph\_cgi.py (PNG Image, 780 × 440 pixels)

[http://maps1.dnr.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/lakesdb/hydrograph\\_cgi.py?basins=11024200:Hand&sta...](http://maps1.dnr.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/lakesdb/hydrograph_cgi.py?basins=11024200:Hand&sta...)

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### Hand Lake Water Level

Lee Theisen reports the water levels on Hand Lake have exceeded the Ordinary High Water Mark over the past three years. As a result the high water is bringing in sediment and reducing the clarity of the lake.

Beaver dams are causing much of the problem and will have to be removed on a yearly basis if we want to keep the lake at appropriate levels.

Cass County Environmental Services has authorized beaver trapping in past years upon request. Two years ago some of the dams were removed and trappers took out a number of beaver which resulted in a temporary drop in the lake level. We will need volunteers to do this work or hire someone. The work is strenuous.

There was more than 30 inches of rain last year

### Lake Association Tree Program

Our lake association is engaged in a program to distribute native trees and shrubs to association members. The objective is to encourage members to plant more trees.

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation Department makes available a variety of native trees, shrubs and plants to lake associations and other organizations at an attractive price. Our lake association would buy an assortment of trees and give, for free, a set number of them to each member who wants them. Members may buy additional trees at a low cost if they so desire.

The varieties, the set number of giveaway trees and the cost of additional plants is yet to be determined. Details will be presented in the fall issue of the Hand/Hay newsletter.

## Hand Hay Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes, May 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President, Jean Schatz. Everyone present introduced themselves as well as identifying their lake location and how long they had owned the property. The minutes from last year's annual meeting were approved as they were published in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present, led by Jean.

The following special reports were presented:

### Duane Lars Larson Township News:

The helicopter pad next to the Long Pine Store is progressing well with only a few remaining items to complete

A Memorial Day Service will be held at 11AM on Memorial Day at the Ponto Lake Cemetery or the Township Hall if it rains

The dumpster at the Township Hall has received complaints from the County Environmental Services over the way trash has been left in and out of the dumpsters. Recyclables must be properly separated and should not be placed in paper bags when putting them in the appropriate dumpster. This is not the site for disposal of large appliances and electronic equipment. The right for us to have the dumpster will be revoked if these violations continue.

### Lee Theisen Water Levels on Hand Lake: A chart was available to track the changing lake levels which will be published in the newsletter.

Water levels have exceeded the high water mark over the past three years

High water is bringing in sediment which is making the lake dirtier and reducing water clarity

Much of this is caused by numerous beaver dams which are no longer being removed

Environmental Services has authorized beaver trapping in past years upon request

2 years ago some of the dams were removed; and, trappers took out a number of beaver which resulted in a temporary drop in the lake level

This needs to be repeated every year if we want to reduce the lake level; but thus far no one has volunteered to do the work which can be quite strenuous.

There was more than 30 inches of rain last year

Lee did not have lake level information on Hay Lake. Scott Parr has been keeping those readings since the DNR installed a water gauge. Scott was not present at the meeting to make a report.

### Barb Courneya: New Tree Program

Barb provided information about a tree program that she learned about from the Woman Lake Association which has been doing this for five years, resulting in more than 3,000 trees being planted.

The membership voted unanimously to approve the program.

Interested members will be able to choose five free trees from a list of six species

A yet to be determined volunteer will pick up the trees from the Crow Wing Soil Conservation Bureau in early May and make them available for pickup by the members

Members will have several newsletter advertised opportunities to pick up their trees. Any trees that are not picked up by the end of the time period on the last day will be given to members willing to plant them.

Further details about his program and the trees selected by the Board of Directors will be made available in the fall newsletter along with a form to be completed with your choice of trees indicated

Members can order additional trees for \$1 each

### Elections:

Deb Samuelson was nominated to replace Barb Courneya as secretary

Cheryl Lindberg was nominated to continue as Treasurer

Both Deb and Cheryl were unanimously elected

Directors from both lakes were re-elected unanimously, as well

### Boat Parade: The boat parade will be on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, this year. In case of rain, it will be on Sunday, July 2

The judging will begin at 12:45 in Samuelson's Bay to be followed immediately by the parade

The judges will lead the parade to ensure that all parts of the lake shoreline are visited

Participants are encouraged to remain with the parade until it ends so everyone can see their decorated boats

The following are the volunteer judges:

Mary Gabe

Scott Samuelson

Jean Schatz

Dates for the spring and fall directors' meetings will be determined by the board and posted in the newsletter. Spring clean up will continue to occur prior to the spring directors' meeting. Everyone is encouraged to participate to keep our roadsides clean.

### Hand/Hay Lake Roster/Directory:

There was a discussion whether it should be posted online, Emailed or printed and mailed to everyone

The cost of printing and mailing would be substantial

There was a concern about putting the directory on the website as it is not password protected; and, the directory will include home and lake addresses and telephone numbers for all members.

The membership voted to Email the directory to members who have provided their Email addresses on an annual basis. Those without an Email address can request a hard copy from the Director in their area or any officer.

Members are encouraged to notify their director, an officer or the newsletter editor when their information changes.

It was noted that we are still mailing over 100 hard copy newsletters which is a considerable expense. All members with Email are encouraged to provide their Email address for this purpose to reduce expense.

Dustin Mirick: The Association by-laws have not been changed in many years and need to be updated. Dusty has volunteered to do so over the winter. The new by-laws will first be reviewed by the Board of Directors before being presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval by the membership.

### Deb Samuelson: Identified TDS Telecom WiFi Issues

TDS installed a fiber optic cable in the area last fall to improve Wi-Fi speed

Many of the settings on the new modems mailed out were inaccurate. If you are not noticing improved speed, you should call TDS to make sure your settings are correct

TDS continues to sell WiFi service in the area so contention could again occur in the future

If you have a guaranteed rate and are not getting it, you should call TDS

Lars reports that the township board is pushing for statewide broadband which could offer more alternatives

Social Event: The board asked the members in attendance whether they would like to see a summer social event to get to know one another and have a little fun. A majority of the members present endorsed this idea so the board will continue to look for an appropriate site.

Hay Lake Mailbox Pedestal: This serves members on Hay Lake as well as North Bay on Hand Lake. Volunteers are working to replace this with one that complies with Post Office requirements. When it is done you will be able to move your mailbox from the old pedestal to the new one.

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 | 2019 |
| Secretary      | Debra Samuelson | 2019 |

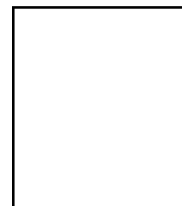
### Hand Lake Directors

|                  |                 |      |
|------------------|-----------------|------|
| Shadywood Shores | Clint Lindberg  | 2019 |
| Haley's Haven    | Mary Martin     | 2019 |
| Indian Point     | Ken Reinecke    | 2018 |
| North Bay        | Dustin Mirick   | 2018 |
| Norway Shores    | Lee Theisen     | 2019 |
| At Large 1       | Debra Samuelson | 2018 |
| At Large 2       | Wayne Lee       | 2019 |

### Hay Lake Directors

|            |               |      |
|------------|---------------|------|
| Director 1 | Scott Parr    | 2019 |
| Director 2 | Vacant        | 2018 |
| Director 3 | Vacant        | 2018 |
| Director 4 | Paul Anderson | 2019 |

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



**Summer 2017**

The Hand-Hay Lakes Association Newsletter  
[www.HandHayLakesAssoc.org](http://www.HandHayLakesAssoc.org)

