

# LAKE WAVES

Newsletter for the Hand/Hay Lakes Association

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

Spring 2016

## Nongame Wildlife Project



We usually think of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as being primarily involved with lake management, fish stocking, and dealing with aquatic invasive species but another function of the MNDNR, and one

that we might not pay much attention to, is its nongame wildlife program.

Unlike the mission of guarding against invasive species, the mission of the nongame wildlife project is to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore native wildlife resources for their intrinsic values, ecosystems functions, and long-term benefits. Some nongame species are bees, butterflies, songbirds, eagles, loons, frogs, turtles, and bats.

The MNDNR works primarily through surveys, monitoring and habitat restorations. Some success stories include the return of bald eagles, trumpeter swans, and sandhill cranes which were almost driven to extinction.

The Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Program is funded almost entirely through grants and donations. It does not receive money

The annual Association Meeting will be held on Saturday May 28th, 2016 at the Ponto Lake Town Hall. The meeting starts at 9:00 am. We will elect officers and directors. The President and Vice President positions are open and five directors positions need to be filled. There are three 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

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from hunting & fishing license sales or state taxes (general fund). Money comes from the purchase of 'critical habitat auto license plates' and from the check off on your MN income tax form. Keep this in mind next time you complete your taxes. The program also relies heavily on individual volunteers.

The state is divided into four regions roughly according to the geography of the regions. Cass County is in the Northwest region. Some current programs include placement of loon and osprey platforms while survey efforts include keeping records on the more common nongame species such as the blue bird and common loon.

For the whole story check out the MNDNR website  
<http://tinyurl.com/zz2ap3y>

Research reports on the various projects can be accessed through the 'list of reports' published on the MNDNR website  
<http://tinyurl.com/zc2q5om>

Or check out MNDNR nongame wildlife project on facebook  
<http://tinyurl.com/q7srxc4>

Submissions to be considered for publication in the Summer newsletter must reach the editor before June 15th. Email photos, articles, and suggestions to:

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

## Burning Restrictions

Burning restrictions went into effect March 21 for our lakes area. Spring open burning restrictions mean residents are not allowed to burn brush or yard waste. The restrictions can last four to six weeks. For more information on fire condition and burning restrictions, visit the Minnesota DNR website,  
<http://tinyurl.com/yhkq5xm>

*From the Editor*

Well here it is spring of 2016 and I begin another year of publishing the lake association newsletter. Today, I put myself in the proper mood by sifting through and reading some of the old newsletters that I have on file. I note that the earliest newsletter I have appears to be from the winter of 1987. It is difficult

to be sure, though, because the early newsletters are not dated. That's 28 years of newsletters. Excluding a few newsletters that my wife and I published in the early-1990s, this will be my seventh year of publishing. And, I am still trying to get this thing off the ground.

I was delighted to receive a very kind email from Bill Borchardt, one of the earliest founders of the lake association. It is printed in the next column.

Other than that, my mail box has remained empty much of the winter. I replaced my old mail box logo that has always been at the end of this column with one that is more like what I want my incoming mail to look like. I want to send a positive message. Surprise me!

Duane Larson stopped by and provided me with some information about the dangers of wild parsnips that are growing around this area. You will find it in this issue. Thank you, Duane.

Don't forget to check out the association website at: <http://handhaylakesassoc.org>. If you have photos, stories or anything else to be published on the site, send your information directly to webmaster Barbara Hanson: [handhaywebmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:handhaywebmaster@yahoo.com)

Paul Courneya (editor)  
1388 Shadywood Shores Drive NW  
Pine River Mn 56474

**Letters to the Editor**

Every time I read the news letter I get home sick for the lake and friends up there. I especially enjoyed the article about the pileated. We always had plenty of them out there on the point. They were really entertaining when the adult birds brought the young in to visit the suet feeders we always had out. The young were not afraid of people yet and would perch on the rails of our deck. They would not eat from the suet feeders but would wait on the rail until the adult would bring a large gob of suet and lay it out in front of the young bird. They knew that it was good to eat but their instinct told them they had to peck on wood before they ate, so they would sit there and peck at the rail before eating the suet in front of them. Even that young, they had so much strength in their bills that they would knock large pieces of wood out of the rails, many 8 to 10 inches long and an inch or so thick. had to replace a couple of the 2 x 4 rails after a few visits. They were funny in that they would sit and talk at the adult birds and ask for more food but would not make any effort to feed themselves. They wanted it either in their bills or on the rail in front of them. We lost several of them from flying into the glass sliding door that opened out onto the deck.

Bill Borchardt

**Important Dates**

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

**Saturday April 30, 2016**

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 April 30, 2016**

Directors meeting following completion of road clean-up at the home of Lee and Sandi Theisen.

**Saturday May 14, 2016**

Fishing opener for walleye, bass, and northern pike

**Saturday May 28, 2016**

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

**Sunday May 30, 2016**

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

### Another Invasive Species



Photo by Dreamstime

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca Sativa*)

Mention Invasive Species and Zebra Mussels usually come to mind as they have dominated the news for the past few years. Another invasive species is the wild parsnip. It is a plant whose sap will cause burns and blisters and it is present right here in our lakes area. It has been reported growing near the public Hand Lake access. The plant is a biennial that is most noticeable in its second year of growth when its

hollow stalk rises two to five feet above the ground and holds inviting, attractive yellow flat topped umbrella like clusters of flowers. In its first year it begins as a spindly rosette of leaves growing close to the ground. During that time it develops a tap root that is actually eatable.

The sap of the wild parsnip causes "phytophotodermatitis. When the sap, from broken stems and leaves, touches the skin and is then exposed to ultraviolet light (as from sunlight), the skin begins to burn and turns red. Ultimately, the redness forms into hurtful blisters. The symptoms can take 24-48 hours to develop. You might not even know you have been exposed. The best defense is to be able to identify the plant and be aware of its dangers.

The plant tends to take over roadsides, abandoned fields, un-mowed pastures and the edges of woods, and the like. Small outbreaks of wild parsnip can be hand cut before seeds form, gathered and destroyed. The population will decrease as the seed bank is depleted.

Be Aware!



### Take More Photographs

Photographs can add considerable dimension and interest to a newsletter. They brighten and add clarity to the news. You don't need an expensive camera to take photos for submission to this newsletter.

A cell phone camera will suffice. And, in this technological age nearly everyone carries a cell phone. It is only important the photo be in focus. The next time you see something of interest, pull out your cell phone and snap a picture. Then submit it to the newsletter editor. It is as easy as that.

Here are five tips for taking photos.

**#1 – Get out early and stay out late.** The best light of the day is the hours immediately after sunrise and immediately before sunset. That's when the light's natural warmth gives your photos that special touch. It makes the subject really stand out. When the sun is high in the, the light is often too harsh, the shadows too strong, and there is too much contrast.

**#2 – Shoot in bad weather.** Some of the best pictures of animals are taken by those who decided to brave poor weather. Storms can provide unusual, dramatic backdrops. Capturing falling snow or raindrops will add a new and unusual element to your pictures.

**#3 – Shoot close.** When photographing a plant or insect get right up close. Use your camera's "macro" setting if it has one. The macro setting allows the lens to focus a very close range. Do not use the flash.

**#4 – Watch your backgrounds.** It's easy to be so focused on the animal you're following that you miss what's going on around it. If your backdrop is clean and tidy, then it won't distract the viewer from the main subject of the photograph: the wildlife. On the other hand, the animal can become lost in the shot if it's placed against a messy and cluttered background.

**#5 – Use the rule of thirds.**

Proper composition can transform an otherwise average photo into something far better. The most basic compositional rule is *the rule of thirds*. Just imagine your viewfinder split into 9 equal sections. Visualize 3 evenly spaced horizontal lines and 3 evenly spaced vertical lines. Many smartphone cameras and point & shoot cameras have a *grid* setting that you can turn on. It makes using the rule of thirds easier than ever. The idea is to place the most important elements of your image either along these lines or at their points of intersection. This is a tried and tested technique, and will almost always result in better pictures than having your subject dead center in the frame.



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

### Officers

|                |                  |      |
|----------------|------------------|------|
| President      | Sandi Theisen    | 2016 |
| Vice President | Jean Schatz      | 2016 |
| Treasurer      | Cheryl Lindberg  | 2017 |
| Secretary      | Barbara Courneya | 2017 |

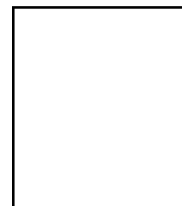
### Hand Lake Directors

|                  |                |      |
|------------------|----------------|------|
| Shadywood Shores | Clint Lindberg | 2017 |
| Haley's Haven    | Mary Martin    | 2017 |
| Indian Point     | Ken Reinecke   | 2016 |
| North Bay        | Dustin Mirick  | 2016 |
| Norway Shores    | Lee Theisen    | 2017 |
| At Large 1       | Danae Schafer  | 2016 |
| At Large 2       | Wayne Lee      | 2017 |

### Hay Lake Directors

|            |                  |      |
|------------|------------------|------|
| Director 1 | Scott Parr       | 2017 |
| Director 2 | Rick Pope        | 2016 |
| Director 3 | Joanna Gellerman | 2016 |
| Director 4 | Paul Anderson    | 2017 |

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Pine River, MN 56474



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