

# LAKE WAVES

Newsletter for the Hand/Hay Lakes Association

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

Summer 2015

## Stocking and Maintaining Our Lakes



Natural Resource Specialist, Bill Evarts, gave his presentation of the test netting results of our two lakes at the spring general meeting. In his slide show presentation he provided information about the species

black crappie, blue gill, largemouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, and walleye.

Walleye is what most of our members are concerned about and he pointed out, using graphs, there is a strong correlation between perch populations and walleye populations. The two populations tightly track together. Neither of our lakes have strong populations of perch.

Stocking in Hand Lake has been tried since 1980 but stocked year-classes are not showing up in gill nets. Past stocking efforts of all age types demonstrate Hand Lake is not suited for walleye management. Attempting to increase the perch population is not likely to be successful or advisable. Walleye management for Hand Lake was discontinued in 2014 but the Lake Association can continue stocking.

Hay Lake also produced very low walleye samples. There were some naturally reproduced year-classes between 1981 and 1997 but no natural reproduction from 1998 to 2005. It appears that fry stocking is ineffective and there is very limited success with stocking fingerlings. Stocking of mixed ages at a rate of 0.5 pounds/acer can begin in 2016.

In addition to the walleye information, black crappie averaged 10 inches in Hand Lake and 8 inches in Hay Lake while blue gill averaged 7 inches in Hand Lake and 6 inches in Hay Lake. Largemouth bass averaged 12 inches in both lakes. Most bass are less than 15 inches. Northern pike tend to be less than 21 inches (hammer handles) in both lakes. See the adjoining DNR News Release.

This is just a very brief summary of Evarts excellent and informative presentation. His slide show presentation in its entirety can be found on our associations website.

<http://handhaylakesassoc.org>

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## DNR seeks dialogue about pike problems

Northern Pike are present in most Minnesota lakes. In the northeast they are present in low numbers but because of lower fishing pressure they can grow quite large. In the south pike are less abundant and don't reproduce as well as in the north. The south also has a higher fishing pressure. But pike grow faster in the south. In our area, the north central, there is an overabundance of hammer handle size pike.

The overpopulated small pike in the north central region eat large numbers of perch, which may have a negative effect on panfish populations. Overabundant pike also eat stocked walleyes, reducing the effectiveness of walleye stocking. And small pike eat proportionately more than big pike – for example, 10 one-pound pike eat significantly more than one 10-pound pike.

“North-central Minnesota has the hammer-handle pike problem to the detriment of not only pike but also stocked walleye, perch and panfish,” Pereira said. “With new regulations, we would hope to see a gradual but moderate increase in the average size of pike.

The DNR wants to create three fishing zones to address issues in these areas. “There is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to effective pike regulations,” said Don Pereira, DNR fisheries section chief. “However, a zone concept, if enacted, could protect large pike in the northeast, increase pike populations in the south and eventually solve the problem of an over-abundance of small pike in north-central Minnesota.”

You can find more information on this issue and sign up to receive emailed updates here:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html>

***From the Editor***

Producing the association newsletter has always been somewhat of a challenge for me. When the deadline for a publication approaches I park myself in my basement office, turn on the computer and wait for something of interest to the association to invade my thoughts.

There isn't actually any shortage of information to put in the newsletter. I can always dig up some general information. For example there is information about the dangers of wood tick transmitted disease, the nuisance of mosquitoes and how to control them, the nesting habits of loons or how about the summer migration of turtles across the road to lay their eggs. But is that really all we want in the newsletter?

I divide the newsletter into three main components. There is the hard news. That includes events and their dates or news from the various government sources. Second, are the educational articles as mentioned above. I try to make the articles educational, interesting, and somewhat applicable to lake dwellers. Today's article is about monarch butterflies. It is somewhat of a stretch as a lake association article but it is a story that I wanted to tell.

The third news component is the stories that you submit. It is what connects the newsletter to this lake association. Without your input the newsletter becomes just a generic general purpose newsletter. So I encourage you to support the newsletter. You might talk about how you spend your time at the lake? Maybe you have some hobby that you engage in while here. Have you seen an animal, a fish, an unusual insect, plant, or experienced an unusual weather pattern? Let us know. You don't have to write much. I can always expand or contract a story and can make it anonymous so it does not reveal anything about anybody if you prefer. If there is something you want to see in the newsletter that is missing, let me know and I will amend.

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 Hansen: [handhaywebmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:handhaywebmaster@yahoo.com)

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**Thank You for Your Participation**

We want to welcome new director Paul Anderson of Hay Lake. He will be taking over for Dale Johnson. Scott Parr of Hay Lake agreed to continue for another term.

Clint Lindberg, Mary Martin, Lee Theisen , and Wayne Lee agreed to continue for another two year term as directors of Hand Lake.

A motion was passed to change the secretary and treasurer posts from one year to two years. Barbara Courneya and Cheryl Lindberg of Shadywood Shores agreed to remain as secretary and treasurer for another term.

The complete list of of officers and directors is printed on the back page.

**Important Dates**

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

**July 4, 2015**

Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade on Hand Lake. Meet at 1:00 PM in Samuleson's Bay for judging. Parade will follow Judging.

**September 19, 2015**

Fall 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.

**September 19 2015**

Directors meeting will follow immediately after the road clean up.

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

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

## The Monarch Butterfly

By Paul Courneya

I remember it was a particularly hot summer that year. There was a large open field that stretched out to the east of our cabin. I always kept that field mowed. On either side of the field there were tall weeds before the start of the woods.

One day that summer I was standing in the field when I noticed a plastic bucket had blown into the tall weeds. When I stepped into the weeds to retrieve the bucket, something almost magical happened. Dozens of monarch butterflies were aroused, flew up and fluttered all around me. Some lit on my clothes and on my hat. It was as if I were in one of those butterfly tents that you find at state fairs and amusement parks. I was startled to say the least but I was also amazed and astonished. I had never paid much attention to monarchs or to any butterflies for that matter. But since that day I always watch for the arrival of the monarchs.

The tall weeds on either side of the field were milkweed and milkweed is the host plant for monarchs. It is essential for their survival.

There are four stages to the monarch's life cycle. The monarch lays a single egg on the underside of a milkweed leaf and three days later it hatches to the caterpillar (larva) stage. The monarch lays over 100 eggs in her life time. The caterpillar eats the milkweed leaves and in about 10 days transforms to the pupa (chrysalis) stage. During this stage the lava completes its metamorphosis to a butterfly.



Photo by Paul Courneya

Monarchs cannot survive the cold tem-

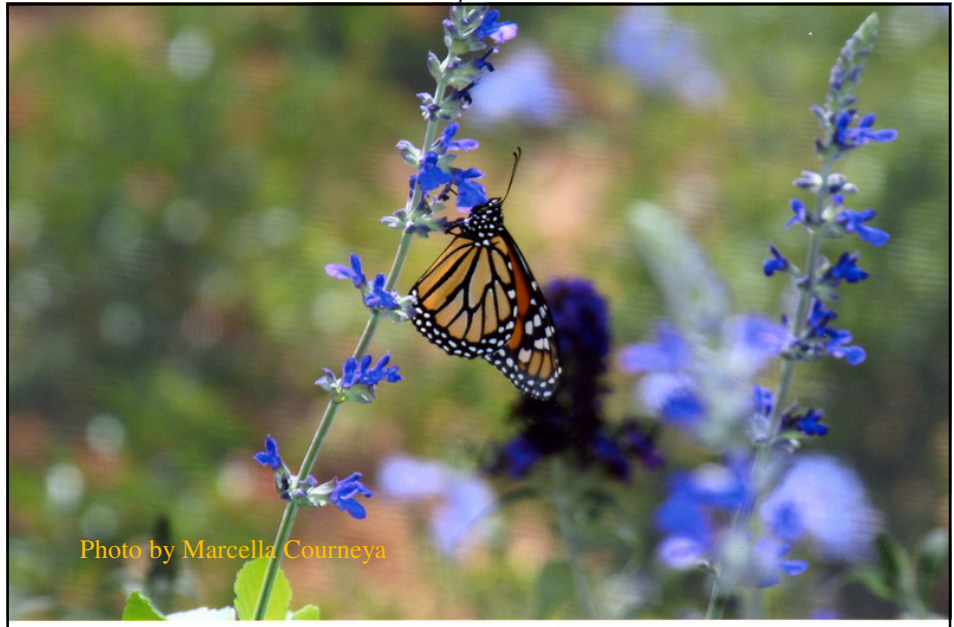


Photo by Marcella Courneya



Photo by Paul Courneya



Photo by Dreamstime

peratures of Minnesota and so, like migratory birds, they fly south in the fall of the year. About late September they gather together and fly south to Mexico where they spend the winter. Yes, they fly all the way to Mexico. They use wind currents and thermal to help them reach their destination. There are several generations of monarchs during the summer and it is only the last generation of sexually inactive juveniles that fly south. They fly only during daylight hours and can make about 200 miles a day. They roost in trees along the way. In the spring they begin their journey back but they don't make it all the way. They become sexually active and it is the offspring that ultimately arrive in Minnesota. The first monarchs arrive about the time the milkweed is just emerging from the ground.

The first monarch I spotted this year was on May 27. The milk weed was already about 5 inches out of the ground. In the same way we report loon populations to the DNR we can also report observations of monarchs and milkweed to the organization Journey North (<https://www.learner.org/jnorth/>). Lake dwellers are not likely to see many monarchs unless you have some milkweed growing on your property but one can occasionally find them fluttering around near the roadsides.

In the same manner that bee populations have been declining so to have monarch populations. The cause is unknown but pesticide use and loss of habitat have been

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2010 Boat Parade contestant

## Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade on Hand Lake

This year's boat parade will be held on Saturday July 4 (the next day if rain.) Decorate your boat to any theme of your liking. We will all meet at Samuelson's Bay at 1 pm for judging and the parade will commence immediately after judging has been completed.

There will be three trophies for pontoons and one for boats. This year's judges are Duane Larson, Barbara Courneya, and Dustin Mirick. Duane Larson has once again volunteered to provide his pontoon as the judges boat and Paul Courneya will be on hand to take photos.

### Get This Newsletter by Email

The electronic version of this newsletter can now be delivered to you by email *instead of* or *in addition* to the printed version.. There are advantages to receiving the electronic version rather than the print version.

You will receive the newsletter earlier!  
 You can retrieve your newsletter no mater where you are!  
 The e-version is in color!  
 The e-version may have extra pages!  
 It may contain active links!

Sign up for the e-version by sending your name and email address to the editor. Put the words "Email my Newsletter" and the words "in addition to" or the words "instead of" in the subject line. Send to:  
[pcourneya@gmail.com](mailto:pcourneya@gmail.com)

If you have suggestions or questions about this newsletter, if you have any suggestions or questions about the association in general, **ask me!** Just send me an email with your question and it will be forwarded to the appropriate official for an answer. You can email me at:

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

Cass County has stationed an AIS inspector at the lake access to Hand Lake. The inspector checks all boats going into and out of the lake. It is not clear that the inspector is there through out the day or just certain days and hours. But every little bit helps to keep the dreaded mussels out of the lake.

### Sightings

Barbara Courneya (Shadywood Shores) reports seeing a bear strolling across the back yard in May. The wild turkeys and deer that usually hang around have retreated into the cover of the woods to bear their young. The fawns have not yet come out.

A large snapping turtle was spotted near the Hand Lake access in mid June.

Jadon (age 9) and Amber (age 7) from Shadywood Shores found this cute creature swimming in the lake and took this picture. They were at a loss to identify just what creature it is.



Monarchs Continued from page 3

suggested as likely contributors. The milkweed on my property is slowly being replaced by wild raspberry and an encroaching poplar forest. I see fewer monarchs every year but I always look for them.

**Recycle Fish! Practice  
 Catch and Release**

## Minutes of the 2015 Association

### General Meeting

The minutes posted here are from the business portion of the general meeting. The Secretary also took notes on the presentation portion of the meeting but there is not space to include it all in this publication. If you want a copy of the minutes from the presentation, email the editor to receive an electronic copy. The whole of the minutes will also be available on our web site.

30 Attendees, 5 from Hay Lake  
 Motion made, seconded and passed: Approval of minutes  
 Motion made, seconded and passed: Accepted treasurer's report  
 144 Addresses between two lakes  
 Annual Dues: 10 paid Hand Lake, 10 paid Hay Lake for 2015  
 Asked for address changes  
 Lake levels reviewed by Lee Theisen – 4 inches over high water mark – last year same time 12 inches over high water mark  
 No readings from Hay Lake as person who was doing that stopped  
 Asked for volunteer to take reading for Hay Lake  
 Lee takes reading every week now for Hand Lake and sends to DNR  
 Significant variations over the past ten years on Hay Lake with variations of as much as a foot  
 Paul reported on newsletter – would like newsletter to be more specific to our lakes – please send information and articles to Paul and Barb, webmaster  
 Submit funny stories, recipes, whatever  
 Email newsletter may become larger than printed one  
 Lars – township information – reported on Memorial Day services at two sites – nice services with buglers (pull from agenda)  
 Helicopters for emergencies – looking at adding a helicopter pad so don't have to close highway for landing – may go through this summer  
 Election of officers and board meetings  
 Motion made, seconded and passed: Change secretary and treasurer posts from 1-2 years  
 Motion made, seconded and passed: Cheryl Theisen will keep treasurer position  
 Motion made, seconded and passed: Barb Courneya will keep secretary position  
 Director positions up, as well  
 Dale's position to be filled by Paul Anderson on Hay Lake  
 Motion made, seconded and passed to accept candidates: Existing directors and Paul to fill slots  
 Hand/Hay Lake Parade on July 4 or 5th if rain  
 Barb Courneya volunteered to be judge, Lars Larson will be judge and take judges on his boat, Dustin Mirick will also be a judge  
 Fall cleanup Sept 19, 9AM with Director's meeting to follow  
 Spring cleanup, Saturday following fishing opener, 9AM, with

Director's meeting to follow, May 21  
 Annual Meeting 2016 to be determined as waiting on approval for Ponto Lake town hall, 9AM – will be on website and newsletter – want to move away from Memorial Day if possible  
 Lake Area Community Day – get from agenda and add to notes  
 No cost for electronics recycling drop off  
 Pine River recycling will accept one appliance per year free of charge  
 New News:  
 Black bear sited on Shadywood Shores  
 Thanks for buoys and for people slowing down around them  
 Loons back again this year – nest near buoys not getting washed out now across from public access and loon is sitting  
 Third buoy that disappeared a few years ago showed up thirty feet into woods near public access so have spare one now  
 No baby turkeys spotted yet this year but many male and female turkeys over the winter  
 Trapped beaver last year on Tamarack as had culvert issues  
 Big beaver problem on both Hand and Hay lakes – taking large trees near shoreline  
 Allowed to take beavers that are being destructive  
 Took beaver that was 48 inches long last year  
 Thanks for web site – hear there's a lot of history and would like to post it  
 Would also like to get pictures  
 Bob Theisen passed away last August – they were at their property since 1917  
 Barb Courneya will interview Lars for historical information – he's been here since 1959  
 and fishing the area before then  
 Only two resorts and cabin at the very beginning  
 Some articles were written from years past and Paul will send to Barb for website  
 Bill & Sharon – first drive after outlet for lake – he lived on island as a boy and had to cross over to go to school – suggested interviewing him, as well  
 Lots of interesting stories surrounding island

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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

Paul Courneya  
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**Summer 2015**