

LAKE WAVES

Newsletter for the Hand/Hay Lakes Association

HandHayLakesAssoc.org

Fall 2015

Yet Another AIS Threat

MNDNR News Release August 28, 2015

Another invasive species has invaded our Minnesota lakes. It is Starry Stonewort. Starry stonewort is grass-like algae that can produce dense mats and is named for the tiny star shaped bulbils on its root system. The dense mats can interfere with the use of infected lakes, can choke out native plants, and possibly alter habitat for young fish.

The plant has invaded two connected lakes, Koronis and Mud , near Paynesville in Sterns County. It has apparently been there for some time as it now covers 53 acres of a shallow area on the southwest side of Lake Koronis near a public access off Hwy. 55. It has also spread into the main basin and into neighboring Mud Lake.

Starry Stonewort is a plant that is native to Europe, and, it most likely entered the Great Lakes watershed by ballast water discharges from freighters. Starry stonewort was first discovered in the U.S. in the St. Lawrence River in 1978 and has spread into lakes in the northeastern U.S. Starry stonewort was also confirmed in Wisconsin in 2014 and has been reported in Michigan lakes for more than a decade.

The DNR has surveyed many of the lakes within a 10-mile radius of Lake Koronis and Mud Lake, so far no other lakes have been found to be infested with starry stonewort. Staff will continue to determine the extent of the infestation and review management options.

The Minnesota Conservation Volunteer Celebrates 75 years of Publication

MNDNR News Release September 1, 2015

The *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* is the flagship publication of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The MCV mission is to encourage conservation and sustainable use of Minnesota's natural resources. It is published six times per year. It is sent free upon request and but relies entirely on donations from its readers. The publication started in October of 1940. The September-October issue celebrates 75 years of publication. You can learn more about the publication here: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/index.html> Be sure to watch the video about the history of the publication.

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Minnesota Fishing Licenses Made Easy

MNDNR News Release August 31, 2015

The DNR has made getting a fishing license much easier and faster. If you have a smart phone you can visit www.mndnr.gov/fishmn or if you don't have a smart phone you can call 888-665-4236. Either way you can purchase a license and start fishing immediately. No need to go to town for a license. Readily available license online or by phone support the Department of Natural Resources goal to make outdoor recreation more accessible to the public. The DNR reports that online sales are on the rise. The popularity and convenience of online shopping continues to increase and that's why the DNR has the 'shop DNR' link/Web Page, <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shop/index.html>. On the Shop DNR page you can make reservations, apply for various permits and training classes and purchase a variety of other items.

Saturday September 19, 2015

Let's not forget the Fall Road Clean-Up. Meet at 9:00 am the junction of Hwy 49 and Shadywood Shores DR NW (per 2012 general meeting rules). Dress warm, wear good shoes (boots), gloves and bring a garbage bag. A Directors meeting will be held immediately after the clean up at Sandi Theisen's home.

Be sure to visit the associations website:

<http://handhaylakesassoc.org>

From the Editor

Another splendid summer at the cabin is coming to an end. The weather is slowly transitioning to winter. As I write this, it is early September and while it is still hot and humid, I can already see leaves beginning to change. By the time you read this, the change will be obvious.

I didn't receive any input from our members for this newsletter issue so in addition to the usual Departments I selected a variety of articles that I thought might be of interest. And, Of course, I included the results of this summer's Hand Lake Boat Parade. I am thinking that in the future I will send out a special edition of the newsletter shortly after the parade so members don't have to wait until fall to obtain the results. I will recap the results in the fall issue. For the front page I merely paraphrased some information from various DNR news releases.

I also included a brief article concerning the Canadian Company, Enbridge, and its desire to construct oil pipelines through our lakes area. The selected route is very controversial for some.

Throughout this newsletter I used a 10 point Times New Roman type font. In the past I have varied the type size to fit the available space. Using, the 10 point font throughout allows me to include more articles and make room for more pictures. If you have an idea for an article, if there is something you would like to see in the newsletter, or if you have any suggestion to improve the newsletter, please contact me. And feel free to be critical if there is something you don't like. I will need articles for the Winter publication.

I have added a new department titled Future Articles so you can get a hint of what I am working on and what suggestions I am getting from you. You will find that department on page 5.

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

Paul Courneya (editor)
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**Loons Get Financial Aid from BP**

A recent Minneapolis Star Tribune Newspaper article pointed out that Minnesota may get a chunk of the \$18.7 billion Gulf oil spill settlement to help increase Minnesota's loon population. Most of our loons migrate to the Gulf in the fall. The adults come back to their nesting sites every year, while the juveniles stay in the Gulf or wander up and down the Atlantic coast for two years before coming north to breed. They are tightly connected to where they were hatched.

While roaming in the Gulf they dive down 100 feet or more to where much of the oil spill contamination has settled. Diving 7 to 8 times every half hour, they pick up some of that contamination. Testing on dead loons and broken eggs has demonstrated they are contaminated with carcinogens that come from petroleum.

Because of the long breeding cycle, it is a bit too soon to know what overall effect the oil spill will have on loon population. The young loons who were most exposed in 2010 are only now beginning their decades of breeding.

Both Minnesota and Wisconsin will share in the payout. The payout has not yet been confirmed but Minnesota could receive as much as 39 million over the next 15 years. The DNR would use the money to preserve 160 500-foot stretches of natural lake shore for loon nesting. It would also pay for 750 nesting platforms where natural sites are gone.

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

pcourneya@gmail.com

Results of the 2015 Hand Lake Boat Parade

The 2015 summer Hand Lake Boat Parade was quite possibly one of the best ever. Held on July 4th, the weather was perfect with sunny skies and a light breeze. Numerous boats and pontoons arrived for the judging. The judges had to take extra time to decide who would get the trophies.

The judges gave first place to the “Hand Lake Mosquito Beaters” pontoon belonging to Kevin and Karen Post (Hand Lake, Cty 49). Their boat was equipped with mosquito beating apparatus and each member was wearing a hand made Skeeter uniform.

Second place went to the pontoon with the “Blues Brothers” theme. The boat, with its giant speaker mounted a top, was piloted by Lee Theisen (Hand Lake, Norway).

The final trophy was awarded to Bobbie Jo Theisen’s (Hand Lake, Norway) family. Their pontoon was decked out with flags and balloons and each member was wearing a 1920s style bathing suit evidently made from red white and blue flag material.

There were several boats decorated for the event. Many more so than in past years. Because of past light turn out of decorated boats there is only one trophy awarded for decorated boats. That trophy went to David Eastman (Hand Lake, Norway) with his “Proud to be American” theme.

For future events we might want to increase the number of trophies for the decorated boat class and we might also want to ask each contestant to fill out a simple registration form with owners name and the theme of the decoration.

Cheryl Lindberg (Shadywood Shores) was recently spotted wearing a Hand Lake sweat shirt. Evidently, Hand Lake sweat-shirts and t-shirts are available at the Godfrey’s Store while supplies last.





Member Contributes to the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*

In case you missed it, our association member, Danae Schafer (Hand Lake Norway Shores), was involved in the production of an article that appeared in the July-August issue of the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*. The article explains how to measure the height, volume, and spread of a tree. Those measurements are then reduced to a points system to allow comparison of trees.

The largest White Spruce in the United States grows near the town of Littlefork in Koochiching State Forest.

Danae is a forester for the DNR and lives in International Falls.

The *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* is a publication of the MN Department of Natural Resources and is sent free upon request and relies entirely on donations from its readers. You can download the article here:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2015/jul-aug/young-naturalists.html>

(The photo at left is a stock photo of a spruce from Dreamstime and is not the giant spruce near Littlefork)

A Website to Help you Identify Birds



We likely all have seen an unusual bird at one time or another and wondered just what kind of bird it was. If we were lucky we might have had a camera handy and was able to get a

photograph. Either way the usual next step is to go to one of the many bird books or field guides and try to find the bird listed in the book in an attempt at identification. It can be challenging. But there is an alternative.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology has created "Merlin." Merlin was designed to help beginning and intermediate bird watchers identify what they have seen. It is an application that one can download to one's phone (or use on a desktop computer). Merlin will ask a number of questions about the size, color, location, time, etc. and then will attempt to identify the bird for you. If you were lucky enough to get a photograph you can upload it along with the answers to Merlin's questions.

Merlin is still in the beta stage and it is not yet ready to be downloaded to a phone or tablet but it is available on line to try. It's fun. Give it a try! You will need to have "Chrome" as your browser.

<http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo>

Sightings



A black bear continues to roam the Shadywood Shores area of Hand Lake. Duane Larson reports seeing the bear wandering in his yard. It managed to pull down one of his bird feeders.

There was a report that a loon and her babies were observed on Hand Lake.

Remember this unidentified strange looking creature published in the last newsletter? Found by Jadon (age 9) and Amber (age 7) from Shadywood Shores, it was identified by Scott Par (Hay Lake) as a naiad. Dragonflies emerge from them. Scott is our resident retired biology teacher.

Evidently dragonflies lay their eggs in the water. They hatch and grow into these naiads. When big enough they crawl out of the water and morph into a dragonfly.

An Oil Pipeline Through our Lakes Area



As you probably know, Enbridge, a Canadian company, wants to lay an oil pipeline across our lakes area. The 36 inch high-pressure pipe, known as the Sandpiper line will run just south

of Lake Ada. It will carry oil from the North Dakota Bakken oil fields to Wisconsin terminals. In addition Enbridge wants to lay a second high pressure pipe along the same corridor to carry tar sands oil from Canada. It is referred to as Line 3. Oil pipelines are prone to dangerous leaks and put our lakes area at risk for an environmental disaster.

There is no specific need to run pipes through these sensitive environmental areas. Several organizations have weighed in against the pipeline route. The MNDNR, MN350, The Leech Lake Watershed District, Minnesota Waters, MNCOLA and several lake associations are a few that come to mind.

Fred Smith and Mary Martin from Hand Lake have been keeping up with the developments in this situation.

The purpose of our lake association is stated here:
THE PURPOSE OF THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND PROSPERITY OF THE LAKES AND FORESTS THAT SURROUND HAND AND HAY LAKES AND THE PROPERTIES OWNED OR OCCUPIED BY ITS MEMBERS.

As of this writing our lake association has not taken any position on this controversial energy corridor through our lake area. The lake association might want to take an official position on this controversial pipeline.

The Public Utilities Commission depends on input from the public to help it make decisions about a variety of issues including pipelines. Although, a certificate of need has already been established for the Sandpiper line, its route has not been established. The public comment period for Line 3 will be ending September 30. Not much time left but if you want to make a comment you can do so here:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

You might also find this site useful

http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/documents/34079/Notice_Scoping_JUL2015.pdf

Without love of the land, conservation lacks meaning or purpose, for only in a deep and inherent feeling for the land can there be dedication in preserving it.

Sigurd F. Olson (1899-1982)



While the United States has only 1/20 of the world's population, Americans consume 20% of world's resources. Our 5% of world population is also responsible for 50% of the world's solid waste.

America Recycles Day (ARD), celebrated on November 15 every year, is dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products. Its purpose is to promote the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling.

You might find this site enlightening:

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~kelle20m/classweb/wp/page2.html>

Future Newsletter Articles

Just What is Conservation?

What's in your Grass?

Winter Bird Feeding Tips

Invader Flat Worms

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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

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

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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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