

LAKE WAVES

Newsletter for the Hand/Hay Lakes Association

HandHayLakesAssoc.org

Summer 2014

High Water Alert



As we get ready to enjoy summer on our lakes let's take into consideration the very high water levels when enjoying our activities. This is what a foot above the ordinary high water mark looks like. Please use restraint and common sense when producing wakes close to our shorelines. Let's all enjoy ourselves and stay safe.

News Release: DNR increases watercraft inspectors and checkpoints

This summer, to help combat the spread of aquatic invasive species, the Department of Natural Resources is increasing the number of watercraft checkpoints to 36, double the number from last year.

The DNR also expects to hire 146 watercraft inspectors and place 23 decontamination units at zebra mussel infested waters and high-use areas. Up to 300 additional authorized inspectors will be working for tribal and local government units throughout the state.

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"These folks are going to be out there checking boats, trailers and other water equipment this summer," said Maj. Phil Meier, DNR Enforcement Division operations manager. "It's their job. They aren't there to cause a delay, but to keep invasive species from entering our lakes and rivers." The DNR's watercraft inspection program is designed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by educating boaters, inspecting watercraft and providing decontamination services at public water accesses.

Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade on Hand Lake

This year's boat parade will be held on Saturday July 5 (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.

There will be three trophies for pontoons and one for boats. Judges are Duane Larson, Paul & Barbara Courneya.

From the Editor

It's finally done! My wife and I are finally moved to our lake home. Or, maybe I should say we are finally moved out of our Bloomington house. The truth is, we have been spending most of our time at the cabin for the past year and a half but we still had most of our *stuff* at the Bloomington house. Not anymore. Now it is all here. It's a mess, but it is all here. There are boxes everywhere.

One afternoon I was unpacking some boxes in the garage. I leisurely opened one box and out of the box darted a humongous black hairy spider. Startled, I jumped back feeling the pang of fear shoot through my body. "A Tarantula," I thought. The hairy thing stopped on the flap of the cardboard box and stared at me, defiant, and daring me to try something.



I quietly stepped back and out of the garage and went back to the house to get my camera. When I got back the spider was still sitting on the box flap as if waiting for me to return. I did manage to take a couple of photos. It was then that I realized the spider wasn't quite a big as I had initially believed. It was about the size of a silver dollar. When I looked up from my camera, the spider was gone. I didn't see where it went. Back into the box, perhaps!

As it turns out, the spider is a fishing spider. It called that because most live near water and catch small aquatic insects from the water as they walk on the surface. But they are also found in wooded areas.

You can read more about this spider here:

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/fishing-spider>

By the way, that box is still waiting for me to unpack it.

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Welcome our new officers.

Welcome **Sandi Theisen** (Norway), our president and **Jean Theisen Schatz** (Indian Point), our vice president. **Cheryl Lindberg** (Shadywood Shores) will take over as treasurer. Thank you for assuming these duties and keeping our association active.

A special welcome to **Barbara Hanson** (Shadywood Shores), our new webmaster. Barbara has agreed to revive our neglected website and has already begun making changes. One page on the site includes a variety of photos from her webcam. I am sure you will want to take a look. If you have any interesting photos or information that you think should be shared on the website please contact Barbara at:

handhaywebmaster@yahoo.com

Website can be found here: <http://handhaylakesassoc.org/>

Thank you **Gloria Taylor**. Gloria has saved every issue of the association's newsletters published over the years. Bless her heart! She has them all neatly stored in a ring binder. While I have always had access to her collection, this year she donated them to our association. Thank you, Thank you.

The collection is now housed in three 3-ring binders and are available for loan to association members or I can make copies of any issue.

(Editor)

Landscaping-Lawn Mowing
Sunshine Gardens
218-947-3154

Cooper's Hawk and Other Sightings

By Barbara Courneya



I was working at my corner desk overlooking the pond and yard when I saw a large bird swoop down below my window. I heard the ground gutter that extends out onto the yard rattle and then the distinct sound of the startled chipmunk that lives there. The next thing I saw was a hawk flying away from the house with the chipmunk firmly held in its talons.

I immediately went to my bird book. I couldn't decide whether it was a Cooper's hawk or another variety like the sharp shinned hawk which is almost a look alike. A short time later (enough time for a quick lunch), the hawk returned to a perch just outside my window. I was again paging through the bird book when it took off after another bird, crashing into my picture window in the process. It missed the bird and managed not to knock itself out as it flew away.

That's when I decided in favor of the Cooper's hawk when I read "...they know nothing about reflective surfaces. When Cooper's hawks see a window they see whatever the glass reflects, be it sky or trees"...or other birds..."They think they can just fly through it. Sadly, they sometimes even succeed, but the price of success is still a broken neck." Fortunately, not this time.

Other exciting bird sightings for me this spring have been my first ever scarlet tanager, two indigo buntings and more than a half dozen Baltimore orioles simultaneously at my feeder. Oh, and Blackie, the mallard drake we raised fifteen years ago or more, is back for any of you who remember an earlier newsletter article! My children insist that it can't be the same mallard; but, I'm not buying it. Blackie is part of our Handsome Acres magic, returning every year. And, this year he brought a girl home!

Sightings

In the last newsletter Paul and Barbara Courneya (Shadywood Shores) reported seeing three wild turkeys roaming the ditch on Hwy 49 just across from the Ponto 8 road. Well now the birds are roaming in their back yard. This time a camera was handy.



From the Minnesota Boating Guide

There must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved life vest available for each person on board. The vest must be of the appropriate size for the person intended to wear the vest.

While there no requirement to be actually wearing the vest, it must be readily available. It cannot be stowed away in a locker.

There must be one readily available Coast Guard type IV throwable buoyant ring on board for boats 16 feet or longer.

Children under 10 years old must be wearing a Coast Guard approved vest at all times while the boat is underway.

Water skiers and jet skiers must be wearing a life vest while skiing.

Forest Findings In search of Minnesota's overlooked tiny creatures and plants.

Hand Lake, MN

By Marcella Courneya



Anemone Quinquifolia

I'm sure I speak for the majority of people in Minnesota, when I say I couldn't wait for spring this year. After a rather long and harsh winter, I finally had the chance over Memorial Day weekend to get up to my parents' place and take a walk in the woods. Along the way, I noticed a number of white flowers along the forest floor. I had seen them before, always thinking they were wild strawberries. However, upon closer look, I noticed the leaves were not the right shape for strawberries. I snapped a photo and decided to look them up.

Nightcaps (Anemone Quinquifolia/Wood Anemone) are approximately one-inch wide flowers that rise above the leaves and commonly have five petals. The plant usually has three to five whorls of lobes leaves with coarse teeth along the edges. The leaves and stems are covered in fine hairs. Nightcaps can be found in white or pink. Plants tend to grow in thick patches or mats that cover the forest floor. A single plant may take up to five years or longer to flower, meaning one can use these plants to figure the age of the forest undergrowth.

Results of 2013 fish inventory on Hand Lake

Northern Pike were abundant compared to other Lake Class 25 lakes. Northern Pike mean length was 19 inches and fish up to 35 inches were sampled. Large year classes in 2009 and 2010 should provide future opportunities for anglers targeting Northern Pike. Abundance of Black Crappie and Bluegill in Hand Lake was comparable to similar lakes. Black Crappie mean length was 10 inches with fish 12 inches in length present, and Bluegill averaged 6.8 inches long with fish up to 9 inches being sampled. The improved size quality of both Bluegill and Black Crappie populations will provide quality angling opportunities. Anglers may also encounter other species such as Bowfin (dogfish), Brown Bullhead, Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Tullibee (Cisco), Yellow Bullhead and Yellow Perch.

People can have significant impacts on lakes and the fish populations they support. Harvest, lakeshore development, removal of shoreline vegetation, and introductions of invasive species can all adversely affect fish populations. Currently no aquatic invasive species (AIS) have been identified in Hand Lake.

A table of the findings are shown on the facing page and the complete report from the MNDNR can be found here:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=11024200>

Bass inventory on Hay & Hand Lakes Using Electro-fishing

On Thursday May 29th we received an email from Carl Pederson (DNR Fisheries) indicating the DNR was going to electro fish both Hay and Hand lakes that same evening. Electro fishing involves placing electrodes in the lake and sending a strong electrical current through the water. It stuns the fish and they float to the top where they can be collected, counted, and measured. The primary purpose of this process is to determine the Bass populations since Bass are not easily caught in either trap nets or gill nets. No test results have been released for this publication. Netting, using conventional nets, to determine fish inventory for Hay Lake is still scheduled for the week of August 11, 2014. Andy Courneya (Shadywood Shores) has been asked and he has agreed to help with the hay Lake inventory.

Species	Gear Used	Number of fish per net		Average Fish Weight (lbs)	Normal Range (lbs)
		Caught	Normal Range		
<i>Black Crappie</i>	Trap net	1.44	0.7 - 3.2	0.53	0.2 - 0.5
	Gill net	1.33	0.5 - 2.7	0.63	0.2 - 0.4
<i>Bluegill</i>	Trap net	19.56	5.6 - 42.3	0.26	0.1 - 0.3
<i>Bowfin (dogfish)</i>	Trap net	2.00	0.4 - 1.0	3.82	3.1 - 4.8
	Gill net	0.33	0.1 - 0.4	3.21	2.9 - 5.0
<i>Brown Bullhead</i>	Trap net	0.44	0.3 - 1.5	0.66	0.6 - 1.0
<i>Largemouth Bass</i>	Trap net	0.33	0.3 - 1.1	0.65	0.2 - 0.9
	Gill net	0.33	0.3 - 1.2	0.14	0.5 - 1.1
<i>Northern Pike</i>	Trap net	0.78	N/A	2.79	N/A
	Gill net	7.17	3.1 - 8.5	1.53	1.5 - 2.7
<i>Pumpkinseed</i>	Trap net	2.56	1.7 - 8.2	0.30	0.1 - 0.2
<i>Rock Bass</i>	Trap net	1.56	0.6 - 2.5	0.29	0.2 - 0.5
<i>Tullibee (cisco)</i>	Gill net	2.67	0.7 - 6.5	1.99	0.6 - 1.6
<i>Walleye</i>	Gill net	0.17	1.3 - 5.5	3.53	1.2 - 2.4
<i>Yellow Bullhead</i>	Trap net	2.78	1.5 - 7.7	0.46	0.5 - 0.8
	Gill net	0.17	0.9 - 10.0	0.13	0.5 - 0.7
<i>Yellow Perch</i>	Gill net	0.33	2.5 - 24.2	0.08	0.1 - 0.2

Species	Number of fish caught in each category (inches)								Total
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	
<i>black crappie</i>	1	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	21
<i>bluegill</i>	23	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	176
<i>bowfin (dogfish)</i>	0	0	0	0	3	17	0	0	20
<i>brown bullhead</i>	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
<i>large-mouth bass</i>	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
<i>northern pike</i>	0	0	0	4	35	7	1	3	50
<i>pumpkinseed</i>	3	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
<i>rock bass</i>	3	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
<i>tullibee (cisco)</i>	0	0	0	2	14	0	0	0	16
<i>walleye</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>yellow bullhead</i>	0	8	18	0	0	0	0	0	26
<i>yellow perch</i>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Keep Our Lakes Area Healthy and Happy

by Danae Schafer

I have been enjoying Hand Lake for over 27 years and I hope that I can continue to enjoy it and the other lakes in the area. We can all do our part to keep our lakes happy and healthy. Weigh the benefit of an artificially maintained lawn by the use of pesticides and fertilizers against the potential damage these products can do to the watershed. Fertilizers and pesticides eventually end up in ground water and surface water and can cause many issues such as algae blooms and fish die offs. They also may end up in your drinking water. Is the benefit from these products worth the cost? What about having a landscaped waterfront? Having your lawn run right up to the water's edge or otherwise manipulating the shoreline increases run-off and erosion directly into our lakes. Consider leaving your shoreline in a somewhat natural state by letting native grasses, trees, shrubs, and other plants thrive there. This is more aesthetically pleasing and often causes an increase in the fish and wildlife that will use your lakefront.

We have many avid fishermen on our lakes. Make sure you are dumping un-used bait such as minnows, leeches, and night crawlers in the appropriate place. Minnows should never be released into the lake as they are often not species that naturally occur there. Night-crawlers should never be released into the soil as they are also not native and cause damage to the natural ecosystem. Any fishing line or other garbage should be brought back to the cabin and put in the garbage.

If you bring toys, tools, equipment, firewood... anything from home or another body of water be sure that it is free of invasive species. Firewood should not be transported from areas with emerald ash borer or gypsy moth infestations. Water toys and equipment should be allowed to completely dry out and/or be heat pressure washed to ensure we aren't contributing to the problem.

Remember most people head up to the lake to relax. Everyone has different ways to do that. We each

have our own hobbies and interests and there is plenty of room for everyone. I believe that most people don't intentionally try to disrupt or anger others. If we all remember this and try to implement some of the things I mention above we can be sure to enjoy our lakes area healthy and happy for many years to come.

Get This Newsletter by Email

The electronic version of this newsletter can be delivered to you by email. 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 matter where you are!

The e-version is in color!

The e-version may have extra pages!

It may contain active links!

It is less costly for the administration

Sign up for the e-version by sending your name and email address to the editor. Put the words "Email my Newsletter" in the subject line. Send to: pcourneya@tds.net.

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

The minutes of the general meeting shown on the facing page are an abbreviated version. Only the business portion of the minutes are printed. The Sheriff's presentation was omitted to save newsletter space. You can obtain a complete copy by contacting either the editor or the secretary and requesting a copy.

Minutes of the Association General Meeting 2014

Attendance: 27 plus 2 guests (Sherriff & chief rec deputy)
 Meeting called to order
 Sherriff spoke first ... (*sherriff's presentation is left out to save space. Editor*)
 Attendees: Bruce Bolstad, Wayne Lee, Lee Theisen, Jeanne Shotz, Doug Shotz, Scott Barr, Judy, Gloria Taylor, Jan Lee, Mary, Dale, Stella, Mary Have, Joanna Gellerman, Scott, Terry, Cheryl, Lauren, Glen, May, Fred, Ken
 Treasurer's report was reviewed – Motion made, seconded and approved by vote
 Motion made, seconded and approved by vote to accept the secretary's report which was printed in the newsletter without reading
 The next order of business was the election of officers and directors. Barb Courneya agreed to be secretary for another year.
 Susan Hagen, acting treasurer, resigned – Cheryl Lindberg volunteered to be new treasurer
 Dusty Mirick nominated Sandi Theisen to be president & Barb Courneya seconded
 Motion, seconded and accepted with unanimous vote to accept Sandi, Cheryl and Barb for their volunteered offices
 No one volunteered for Vice President during the meeting; although after the meeting Jean Theisen Schatz volunteered to assume the office of Vice President
 Directors up for election all remained in place – motion made, seconded and approved by vote to accept

Hand Lake Test netting report – printed results of netting and made available at meeting
 Hay Lake to be done Aug 11 – Doug Schultz fishery supervisor will come next year after both nettings are complete
 Last newsletter showed map of where it was done
 Andy Courneya participated last year and volunteered to do so again this year on Hay
 Web site has information regarding stocking and netting
 Hand Lake shown 20 acres larger on web site after netting
 Request was made to see whether stocking was successful in increasing fish population before stock again as Hand Lake is not a natural reproducing lake for walleye

High lake levels throughout state
 Beaver continue to be a problem and bringing down trees across the lakes
 Hand Lake Water level chart reviewed by Lee Theisen
 Half a foot above high water mark – only year it was higher since tracking was in 2001
 Since 1935 there has been a level variation five feet – trending back to high water mark
 Drought in early 2000s brought levels down
 Lee also has charts of Hay Lake – Dale Johnson keeps lake level information also
 Creek between Tammarack and Hand Lake is wide open now as new culverts set level lower than previously
 Latest ever that state reported lake levels
 No one watching and fighting beaver dams anymore
 County won't get involved unless culvert is plugged as only worried about county roads being impacted
 11 dams between Hay, Hand and Ada
 Beaver very tenacious
 Trapper was checking out lakes recently – not sure if he set traps or not
 Can shoot beavers if destroy your personal property – DNR can provide permit to trap
 Supposed to notify DNR if kill one so they can retrieve car-

cass
 Go to Cass County website to review land use ordinances – impact zone one and two and bluffs – little right to clear anything so if request permit, probably won't get it
 Otter on Hand Lake have been sighted

Boat Parade – July 5 suggested day – Motion made, seconded and passed

1PM judging – Samuelson's Bay—with parade to follow
 Judge volunteers – Lars, Barb & Paul Courneya
 Next day, if rain
 3 trophies for pontoons and one for boats was approved
 Sandi Theisen will pick up trophies

Discussion about Newsletter & Web Site
 Barb Hanson – Web Master – not present but husband was there and encouraged sending her anything you'd like posted
 Paul Courneya will talk to Barb Hanson about website as it relates to newsletter

Wayne Lee: Website should have roster of members – could make password protected – faster updates but security concerns over mining data

Most of members appeared to prefer that the directory not be posted there

Most agreed that officers and directors should at a minimum be listed on website with Email address which could be Email address through website rather than personal Email address for privacy

Dusty Mirick volunteered to email roster to members upon request
 No votes were taken on these suggestions

Sandi Theissen volunteered that her favorite thing about the association is the newsletter. She complimented Paul Courneya on what a good job he was doing and many attendees agreed.

Paul spoke regarding newsletter

Have had several contributors over past year
 Next newsletter will encourage participation by more
 Very few newsletters being returned now

Dusty & Zella Merrick have been working on updating roster and have good mailing list now

Buoys back up at island end of lake – people have observed the buoy request to slow down around the island

Fred bought a new buoy to replace one that was stolen and wants that to be his contribution to association

There was a loon nest was by the dam but it appears to have been abandoned

The loons are usually here by ice out
 At least three baby loons were sighted last year

Joyce Arvidson's place is up for sale as she has moved to Good Samaritan nursing home in Pine River

Fall & Spring clean ups – usually second week-end after Labor Day & week before fishing opener

2014 Sept 13 with director's meeting to follow
 2015 May 9 with director's meeting to follow

Sandi Theisen will confirm that the meetings can be held at the Long Pine

Memorial Day service at 11AM at Ponto Lake Cemetery

10AM at Backus Cemetery

Speaker from Backus, coffee and cookies, chairs, bugler, gun salute, good fellowship

Door Prizes were awarded to lucky winners: Weather Radio, Lantern with batteries, Back to the Cabin autographed book

Duane Larson announced that he is collecting dues

A motion was made to end the meeting. It was seconded and approved by vote.

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	2015
Secretary	Barbara Courneya	2015

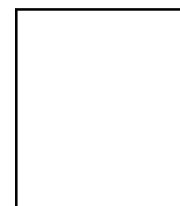
Hand Lake Directors

Shadywood Shores	Clint Lindberg	2015
Haley's Haven	Mary Martin	2015
Indian Point	Ken Reinecke	2016
North Bay	Dustin Mirick	2016
Norway Shores	Lee Theisen	2015
At Large 1	Danae Schafer	2016
At Large 2	Wayne Lee	2015

Hay Lake Directors

Director 1	Scott Parr	2015
Director 2	Rick Pope	2016
Director 3	Joanna Gellerman	2016
Director 4	Dale Johnson	2015

Paul Courneya
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Summer 2014