



PO Box 86

Merrifield, MN 56465

## Horseshoe Lake Property Owner's Association

MISSION - To protect, preserve, and enhance Horseshoe Lake and its surrounding area. To assure the continued health of the lake's ecosystem, safe and healthy family living, high quality fish and wildlife habitat and the survival of these natural gifts for future generations.

### HLPOA OFFICERS

**President**-Pam Heller  
763-557-8924 / 612-987-3605  
pamheller24@gmail.com

**Vice-President**- Bob Kalton  
218-765-3779 / 218-820-5341  
rrkrk@brainerd.net

**Secretary**- Pat McCormick  
218-765-3290 / 281-839-2289  
patmc@brainerd.net

**Treasurer**-Rob Saunders  
218-765-3323 / 320-522-1800  
robs@smscpafirm.com

**Past President**- Dave Baker  
763-551-1287  
dabakes@comcast.net

### DIRECTORS

**North** – Jerry Martin  
218-765-3797  
skijump@brainerd.net

**South** – Dale Johnson  
218-765-4295  
drbejonson@gmail.com

**East** - Bud Hays  
218-765-3616  
bndhays@brainerd.net

**West** – Rick Hanson  
218-765-3881 / 218-340-5903  
2rjhansen@brainerd.net

**Seasonal** – Tom Losey  
763-559-1869 / 612-670-5803  
tlosey@bhz.com

**Seasonal** - Sue Peterson  
763-551-0945  
jimsuepeterson@comcast.net

### President's Corner

The summer of 2014 has drawn to a close and fall has presented some glorious bright and beautiful days. Already I find myself dreaming ahead to spring when we will be putting the boats back in the water. Not that I don't appreciate the quiet, snowy days on the lake – there is something magical about snowshoeing through the woods or sitting by a fire while the big flakes fall – but I do love my summers on Horseshoe.

This summer's water levels were higher than the last few years which made for much easier boat navigation through the channel and had many of us adjusting our docks to accommodate the rising water during the course of the year. Time will tell if the moisture keeps up through the winter months.

Thanks to all of you who attended the annual meeting in August; it is always a great chance to chat with some of the neighbors we see less often and to hear what is on people's minds. Protecting our lake from zebra mussels and invasive plants has been at the forefront of the lake association's efforts this year. Past president, Dave Baker and I had a chance to attend a round table event focused on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) protection in mid-September. The event was sponsored by Crow Wing County and was attended by over 60 representatives of lake associations, the county and the DNR. It was interesting to learn more about how other groups are working to protect the lakes. I am appreciative for all of the support that we get from our association members to continue staffing Horseshoe Lake's public landing during peak activity times with inspectors that can help educate boaters about the risk to launch watercraft without taking proper steps to avoid AIS carry over.

Along with our AIS efforts, our lake association continues to sponsor those great family events like the Labor Day kids' fishing contest. It's always a ton of fun to see how proud the young anglers are of their catches and what a great family tradition it is for many of the participants.

A couple of notes regarding the August elections of HLPOA officers – Dave Baker passed the president's gavel on to me. Speaking for all of the board members, we have valued Dave's leadership over the last 2 years – his efforts in coordinating AIS inspectors, setting up a website for the lake association members and even repainting the transit station sign have all been meaningful and appreciated.

Other newly elected officers include: Bob Kalton (Vice President), Bud Hays (East Director), Dale Johnson (South Director), Sue Peterson (Seasonal Director) and Tom Losey (Seasonal Director). Thanks to all of the directors for volunteering their time and talents.

Best wishes to all of you for a fabulous winter and we will catch up with you again in the spring!

**Pam Heller**  
**President**

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**Remember: Check Website**  
[www.horseshoelakemn.com](http://www.horseshoelakemn.com)

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Water Quality and AIS Management

Jerry Martin (Chair)  
218-765-3797  
skijump@brainerd.net

Dave Baker  
763-551-1287  
dabakes@comcast.net

Dale Johnson  
218-765-4295  
drbejonson@gmail.com

### Fisheries Management

Ron Mumm  
218-765-3065  
rrgamumm@brainerd.net

### Wildlife

Marlin and Gwen Sackett  
952-934-2463 / 612-281-9944  
gwsack@gmail.com

### Lake Events:

#### -Kids Fishing Contest

Kim Kalton  
218-765-3779  
kaltonk@my.uwstout.edu

#### -4th of July Boat Parade

Tom Losey  
763-559-1869 / 218-765-3437  
tlosey@bhz.com

#### Channel Buoys

Jerry Martin / Bud Hays

### Communications and Public Relations:

#### -Membership

Rob Saunders  
218-765-3323 / 320-522-1800  
robs@smscpafirm.com

#### -New Member Contact

Pat McCormick  
218-765-3290 / 281-839-2289  
patmc@brainerd.net

#### -Newsletter

Renaes Saunders  
218-765-3323  
renaes.boldeci@gmail.com

#### -Website—Horseshoe Lake

Dave Baker  
www.horseshoelakemn.com

# Committee Reports

## LAKE EVENTS:

### July 4th Parade - 2014

Thank you to Chad Hansen as parade organizer, and Tom Losey awards presenter.

#### Best Boat Entry

Awarded to Trenary/Huestis Families.

#### Commodore Trophy

Presented to Janette Peterson.

**2015 Parade** will be on Friday, July 3, as Mission Parade is on Saturday, July 4.

### Kids Fishing Tournament and Labor Day HLPOA Potluck Lunch

Nine anglers registered for this year's tournament. Thank you to the Judges covering the east and west basins and spending this time with the kids, and to Kim Kalton for organizing this event. Residents and anglers enjoyed the potluck before hearing the results of the tournament.

**WINNERS—1st=\$20, 2nd=\$10, 3rd=\$5**

#### Sunny

1st - Nick Hand 8.25"

2nd - Scarlett Morrisette 8"

3rd - Oliver Maener 7.5"

**Crappie**—none this year

#### Bass

1st - Lincoln Morrisette 15.5"

2nd - Steven Hand 9.75"

3rd - Grace Leland 8.5"

#### Northern/Walleye

1st - Triston Sackett 26"

2nd - Nick Squibb 24.25"

3rd - Dylan Squibb 24"

3rd - Stuart Leland 24"

**GRAND PRIZE—\$50**

**BIGGEST FISH - Jens Lund 30.5"**



## Wildlife: Loon Watch

A big, big thank you to Len Leland for putting out and taking in the loon platforms this year. Two platforms were occupied. To the best of our knowledge, two babies were hatched.

One was hatched in the channel and did not make it to diving stage. The other was hatched in the shallow area of the southeast corner of the west lake. We saw it swimming alone on September 19th. However, we did not see any adult loons and think that maybe they had gone south.

While on our last ride of 2014, we noticed an eagle hovering overhead. He dived into the water twice. The second time he was barely 15 feet from our pontoon. He got his fish and headed for a treetop just off shore. And we were left astounded at the beauty of it all.

Marlin and Gwen Sackett



# Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Report

On September 19th, President Pam Heller and I attended the **Crow Wing County AIS Roundtable** in Brainerd. Twenty two Lake Associations were represented along with various representatives from Crow Wing County and the DNR. Discussions revolved around what area lake associations were doing in the fight of the spread of AIS.

Certainly some eye opening conversations on programs that failed, but more importantly, those programs that were showing success.

- **Inspections** are a must.
- **Rapid treatment** of a suspected or confirmed aquatic growth is also key.
- The **educational process** is vital and the foundation of long term success. Crow Wing County is looking at a strong promotional campaign through radio and television in the area to also help create the awareness and importance of everybody's commitment to help stop the spread.
- Simple things like **using certified dock installers** when you put your dock in and take it out. Unfortunately, a greater percentage of those companies are not certified. The short term plan is to get a list of those certified. When you call your regular companies in the spring, ask them.

**Regarding the funding**, they believe it will continue for the long term. Funds have been committed for 2015. More lake associations are asking for support. A couple of advantages for us in 2015: First, we started inspections on our own, prior to the grant, and were one of the early adapters. Second, we have used 97% of our allocated 300 hours (as of this writing). Our hope for 2015 is to start inspections much earlier, and for longer durations during the week. The good news bad news is our lake is a high priority lake, as we are surrounded by many infected lakes. (Pelican, Crosslake, Emily, Gilbert White Fish, etc.) For a complete list check our website [www.Horseshoelakemn.com](http://www.Horseshoelakemn.com) or the DNR site will add the infected lakes and rivers from the DNR at [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/infested\\_waters.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/infested_waters.pdf)

Funds should be available at the beginning of the season once Crow Wing county sets up distribution criteria. Look for a mailing to our Horseshoe Lake residents in the spring. (paid for by our grant - see below).

**More information to come**, but again check our website for more information. We will be in the process for updating and adding additional content. Thanks for all your commitment to AIS! **Dave Baker, Past President**



THINK ZERO  
We need your help to  
protect our lake!



**BE ON THE LOOK OUT!**

Always visually inspect for zebra mussels on hard surfaces such as docks, dock floats and supports, swimming platforms, boats, motors, anchors, and any objects that have been in the water. During early infestations, zebra mussels are likely to be small (1/4 – 1/2 inch long) and the number attached on any object is likely to be low.

If you find evidence of zebra mussels, please contact Dan Swanson, DNR Brainerd office at 218-833-8645 or email [Daniel.Swanson@state.mn.us](mailto:Daniel.Swanson@state.mn.us). If you can take a photo to help the DNR with their analysis, that would be great!

You may also contact any member of the HLPOA board and we will contact the DNR.

# Membership Report:

246 Property Owners Possible on Horseshoe Lake.

193 paid memberships\* 78% as of Oct. 18, 2014  
(85% of property owners paid memberships in 2013-2014)

Membership fees support the HLPOA Mission Statement goals.

**\*A special thank you to the 72 members who paid between \$5 and \$200 more than their members fee as a donation to the Lake Protection Fund.** These extra donations averaged \$30 above the fee and totaled \$2085.

## New Directory

- ◇ Pick-Up directories between 8:00 am and Noon Nov. 22, at 29578 County Rd 3. If not picked up, they will be mailed.
- ◇ Available to paid memberships only
- ◇ Not to be used for solicitation
- ◇ **ERRORS, CORRECTIONS, CHANGES:** If you find something that needs to be changed, please let us know immediately (before it slips your mind). Then we can stay current with the constantly changing ownerships around the lake. Thanks.

## Welcome New Families on the Lake

If you have a NEW NEIGHBOR, please send us their names and contact information by email or phone call to: Pat McCormick/*New Member Contact*, or Rob Saunders/*Membership*, or Renae Saunders/*Newsletter*. (Contact information is listed under Standing Committees on page 2.)

**Thank you for helping us stay up-to-date on New Families along with any corrections.**

### QUOTES from the Lake

A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature. ~Henry David Thoreau

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water. ~Loren Eiseley

A lake carries you into recesses of feeling otherwise impenetrable. ~William Wordsworth

Pure water is the world's first and foremost medicine. ~Slovakian Proverb

# Horseshoe Lake Annual Budget

**Budget 2014-15**

### RECEIPTS:

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Dues                   | 3,150.00        |
| Prepaid dues           | -               |
| Interest               | 120.00          |
| Lake Protection Fund   | 4,200.00        |
| Fishing Contest Refund | 50.00           |
| Memorabilia            | -               |
| Misc                   | -               |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>  | <b>7,520.00</b> |

### DISBURSEMENTS:

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| PO Box Rental Fee             | 60.00           |
| Meeting Expense               | 50.00           |
| Annual Meeting Expense        | 200.00          |
| Conference Expense            | -               |
| Newsletter (Includes Postage) | 1,500.00        |
| Water Quality                 | 500.00          |
| Fisheries Management          | 50.00           |
| Aquatic Plant Management      | 100.00          |
| Membership                    | 300.00          |
| <b>Lake Events</b>            |                 |
| -Boat Parade                  | 150.00          |
| -Kids Fishing Contest         | 300.00          |
| Office Supplies               | 100.00          |
| <b>Dues</b>                   |                 |
| - LARA                        | 75.00           |
| -MN Lakes Assoc.              | 200.00          |
| Map Guide                     | 100.00          |
| President Gifts               | 100.00          |
| Miscellaneous                 | 100.00          |
| CD Lakes Bank                 |                 |
| Memorabilia Expense           | -               |
| Lake Monitoring               | 2,000.00        |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>    | <b>5,885.00</b> |

|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Balance in General Fund July 31,     | 5,281.51         |
| Balance in Lake Protection Fund      | 824.08           |
| Lake Protection Fund CD's            | 26,102.84        |
| <b>Total HLPOA Assets as of July</b> | <b>32,208.43</b> |

Budget Membership 210

## HLPOA ANNUAL MEETING

August 2, 2014

**The annual meeting was held at Mission Town Hall** beginning with a social period at 8 AM. The meeting was called to order by President Dave Baker at 8:32 AM with approximately 40 people attending. Dave Baker introduced the Board members.

Our first speaker was Bob Hartman, Crosslake Police Chief. He reminded us that the department relies on us to report any suspicious activity. He informed us that there have been extra patrols put on Co. Rd. 11, due to excessive speeding. A question was asked about the cost of purchasing the flashing speed signs, since they seem to be very effective in slowing people down. He said they are effective and cost about \$4000 each. A member stated seeing Breezy Point police in the area and was asked if they had jurisdiction in Mission Township. He responded by saying that they do and that the reason we see Breezy Point police in the area is that they have an agreement to patrol parts of the east side of Pelican Lake. Our second scheduled speaker, Mission Fire Chief Randy Roach, was unable to attend the meeting.

Our main program was a video presentation by President Dave Baker on our role in protecting Horseshoe Lake against invasive species. It emphasized the importance of draining and cleaning all watercraft before entering a new body of water. There are several lakes in our area that already have zebra mussels and our hope is that we can prevent them from entering Horseshoe for as long as possible. It is hoped that a solution might be found to control them before we might have them in our lake.

### Business meeting

Rob Saunders presented the Treasurer's report. HLPOA has 10 more members than last year. Due to the cost of boat inspections at the landing, our Lake protection fund is depleting. A review of HLPOA financials records was made by John Knight. Secretary Pat McCormick read the letter from John stating that he found the financial records to be in good and correct order according to generally accepted accounting practices. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Pam Heller and was seconded by Bill Glas. Motion carried. Minutes of the 2013 annual HLPOA meeting were distributed to attendees. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rob Saunders and was seconded by Sally Mainquist. Motion carried.

Pam Heller announced that all candidates on the ballot were elected to office. Tom Losey presented the trophies for the July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade. Commodore trophy was given to Janette Peterson. Best boat entry trophy was presented to the Trenary/Huestis families. In 2015, the boat parade will take place on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, so as not to be in conflict with the Mission Parade on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### New Business

Dave reported that a grant from MN has been awarded to 20 lakes. Most of the money was given to associations who were already funding inspections with their own funds. Horseshoe Lake has been awarded an amount equivalent to 350 hours of inspection time. This will cover costs for inspections through September and for a period of time next year. In order to keep our Lake Protection fund from depleting, a motion was made by Don Glas to increase the HLPOA annual dues to \$35.00. The increase of \$10.00 will go into the Lake Protection Fund. Motion was seconded by Jerry Martin. Motion carried. Some HLPOA members have given donations voluntarily to the Lake Protection Fund. They were acknowledged in the Fall HLPOA newsletter. A suggestion was made to perhaps have a raffle of some sort to help raise additional funds as needed.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of publishing a new directory with the names and phone numbers of the residents of Horseshoe Lake. The last directory was from 2005. A motion was made by Sally Mainquist to publish a new directory, but to allow residents to opt out of being included. Motion was seconded by Pam Heller. Motion carried.

Pam Heller presented a gift card to Dave Baker for his service the past two years. Drawings for \$25.00 were awarded to Ton Losey, Shirley and Steve Olsen, Kris Trenary and Keith Peterson.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McCormick, Secretary

# Notes from the Lake

## On Going Events

- **RECYCLING** at Mission Town Hall 24/7; Oil will be excepted
- **SPORTSMAN STORE - Gathering Place** for  
Men at 9:00 AM Wednesdays  
Women at 10:00 AM Thursdays
- **MISSION TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS**  
First Monday/month 7 pm at Town Hall  
TOWNSHIP NEWS [www.missiontownship.org](http://www.missiontownship.org)
- **WOMEN'S AUXILIARY** - Meetings are 3rd Wednesday/month  
Raises money to support Fire Department . No membership fee.  
Contact Dar Hays 218-765-3616 [bndhays@brainerd.net](mailto:bndhays@brainerd.net).
- **TRANSFER STATION** closed until April.

## Law Enforcement & Fire Phone Numbers

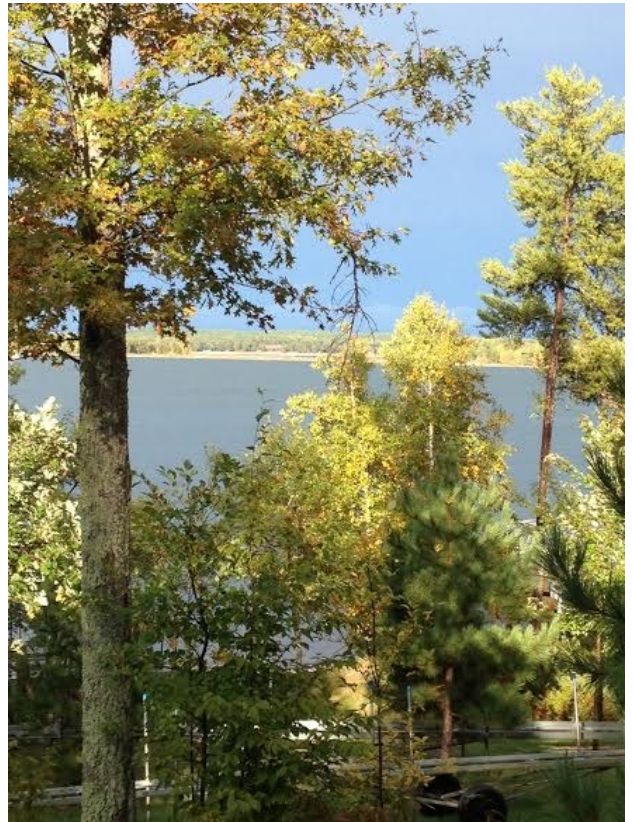
- Mission Lake Fire Dept – (218)-765-3259
- Crow Wing Sherriff – (218) 829-4749
- Cross Lake Police – (218) 692-2222
- Breezy Point Police – (218) 562-4488

## Need Information?

- On Fishing Licenses, Invasive Species, Horseshoe Lake Committees, Birds of Minnesota: Loons, Bald Eagles, Double Crested Cormorant

## Keep informed at...

- **DNR** <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>
- **Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance**  
"Ripples" at <http://crowwinglara.org/>
- **MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates** [www.mlakesandrivers.org](http://www.mlakesandrivers.org)
- **Horseshoe Lake** [www.horseshoelakemn.com](http://www.horseshoelakemn.com)
- **All About Birds** <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/>
- **Audubon Minnesota** <http://mn.audubon.org/>



**Have a favorite picture  
of Life on Horseshoe Lake?**

*Please share it for the newsletter or the website.*

## In Memoriam



Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the families of:

Tony Lahr who passed away on August 20th.  
Tony put out the buoys in the channel for many years.

Louis "Swede" Shockley who passed away  
September 3rd.

## CORMORANT ACTIVITY ON HORSESHOE LAKE



Many homeowners have expressed concerns regarding the increasing number of Cormorants observed in 2014 on our lake. Read on to learn more from these excerpts from a MN DNR publication. To read the entire publication, please refer to this URL. [www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/doublecrestedcormorant.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/doublecrestedcormorant.html).

### What is a double-crested cormorant?

The DCCO (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is a goose-sized waterbird in the family Phalacrocoracidae. The DCCO is the only cormorant species found regularly in Minnesota.

### How much does the cormorant eat and what do they eat?

In Minnesota, cormorants have been found to consume from 1.0 to 1.5 pounds per bird per day. The majority of their diet is made up of fish (99.9% in Leech Lake) but they also eat snails, crayfish, and amphibians. Ninety percent of the fish they consume are 5.3 inches or less in length and have an average weight of 4.2 ounces. Cormorants are opportunistic feeders and will prey on a variety of species that seasonally varies. The diet is usually considered a reflection of the relative abundance and sizes of prey species present at the time of foraging. A study by J. Coleman in Oneida Lake, New York, however, showed that cormorants preferred walleyes that were one and two years old compared to younger walleyes. It is not known if the situation from New York would be comparable in Minnesota. The majority of the diet is comprised of young life stages of sport fish and smaller nongame species. In Minnesota this often includes yellow perch, minnow species, cisco, and walleye.

### Do cormorants negatively impact fish at a population level?

Cormorant foraging can potentially have a negative impact on recreational fishing at a localized level. However, such impacts are very difficult to detect and measure because of many other factors operating within the ecosystem can affect fish populations. Such factors include fish stocking, fishing regulation changes, exotic species introductions and population expansion, normal variability in year-class strength, predation, competition, loss of habitat caused by shoreline development, and excessive commercial and/or sport fishing pressure by people.

Cormorant population management on Leech Lake is often cited as a situation where control was necessary to improve the local walleye fishery in Minnesota. In this situation there was circumstantial evidence at the time control was initiated that cormorants were reducing survival of small walleyes, which in turn translated to fewer catchable-sized fish for anglers. Some walleye stocking was undertaken to address the walleye decline.

Fisheries biologists examined cormorant diets and re-constructed walleye year classes produced from 2000 to 2004 to see what the walleye population structure might have looked like in the absence of cormorant predation. This analysis indicated that the predation pressure by the expanding cormorant population could have been sufficient to impact walleye survival to older age classes.

The use of a lake by cormorants does not mean the fishery is at risk. For example, Lake of the Woods supports one of the most abundant cormorant colonies in North America and it also supports one of the most recognizable walleye and sauger fisheries in the country. Similarly, management activities at Leech Lake have reduced the cormorant population to a level where fish consumption by cormorants is expected to have little effect on the fishery. This is considerably different than eradication and, based on increases in fish population surveys, appears to be appropriate.

### Are cormorants a protected bird species?

The DCCO is been federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This act prohibits killing cormorants, their eggs or young and also prohibits the disturbance of the nests or young, except as provided for through federal depredation permits, the federal aquaculture depredation order, and the public resource depredation order. The DCCO is not technically protected by Minnesota statute but federal regulations cover its protection. Any authority for taking or control of this species is under the jurisdiction of the federal government.





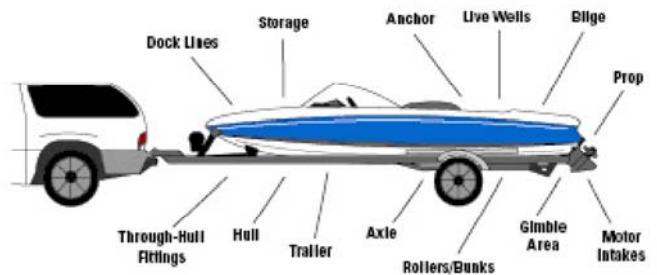
PO Box 86  
Merrifield, MN 56465



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

Before launching and before leaving...  
**Inspect everything!**



**Remind lake visitors to keep an eye out, too.**