

ISSUE  
**133**

Horseshoe  
Lake  
Property  
Association

# Newsletter

Spring  
2026



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## this issue

President's Remarks **P.1**

Committee Reports **P.2**

Fishing Contest **P.3**

Boat Parade **P.3**

Lake Area Events **P.5**

## President's Corner

Summer is near! This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA. So, grab your red, white and blue and hop on your boat to participate in this year's parade. To accommodate your busy holiday, the start will be at 10 a.m. instead of noon. As always, its July 4th, rain or shine. Let's make this year's the biggest ever. More details can be found in this newsletter.

If you haven't been up to put in your pier, you may be in for a shock: lake level is pretty low! As a result, many areas that were previously home to reeds popping out of the water are now beach leaving the frogs and their predators searching for habitat elsewhere. This situation reminds me of the importance of natural shorelines. HLPOA is a member of Minnesota Lakes & Rivers which provides links to excellent articles through their "research" tab on their website: <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/research/>. These articles address key challenges facing Minnesota's water resources, including the decline of natural shorelines but with suggestions for action. Many other articles are collected there and worth a read.

The WakeSafe map providing a visual representation where best to wake surf will be posted at the boat landing. Remember, the map is also available on our website.

Please be sure to check out our Facebook page to find events hosted by your lake neighbors along with other interesting posts. Join me in welcoming Sarah Pennings as administrator of the page. Please remember you must be a current association member to obtain access to the page.

Cheers to the lake life!

As always, I look forward to working together to ensure the continued health of our lake and its habitat!

Kristin Galatowitsch  
President



## STANDING COMMITTEES

### WATER QUALITY

Scott Skinner  
209-201-6270  
Sskin5150@gmail.com

### AIS MANAGEMENT

Dave Baker  
763-551-1287 / 612-280-9809  
dabake73@gmail.com

### FISHERIES/MANAGEMENT

Kevin Max  
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kevincmax@frontiernet.net

### LAKE EVENTS:

#### *-Kids Fishing Contest/Potluck*

Diane Wiener  
612-483-6800  
Diane.wiener7767@gmail.com

#### *July 4th Boat Parade*

#### **Coordinator Needed**

### CHANNEL BUOYS

Jerry Martin

### COMMUNICATIONS AND

#### Membership

Judy Deis  
612-481-5151  
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#### **New Member Contact**

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#### **Memorabilia**

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#### **Website—Horseshoe Lake**

Dave Baker  
Chad Boeckmann  
www.horseshoelakemn.com

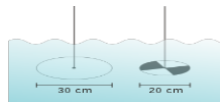
#### **Facebook Page**

Sarah Pennings

## Committee Reports

Water Quality, AIS,  
Membership, Lake Items

### WATER QUALITY



Our thanks to Jerry Martin for putting the buoys in the channel. Low water levels have made it a challenging year for navigating the channel and the boat landing. The board is in the process of getting bids to dredge the channel, which was last done in 2013. The board is also in contact with the DNR, who is in charge of maintaining the public landing in regards to potential upgrades to the landing.

### MEMBERSHIP

Thank you all that paid your association dues. We have 76% of families as members of the Horseshoe Lake Property Owners Association. We appreciate your support to ensure we abide by our very important Mission.

**The HLPOA Mission: To protect, preserve, and enhance Horseshoe Lake and its surrounding area, to ensure 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.**

If you paid your Fiscal Year '25-26 dues and did not get your key chain (floatable bobber), please stop by the Deis' (29118 Huxtable Point Rd).

We will be starting the Fiscal Year '26-27 dues collection August 1st, so please don't pay dues until then. Best to keep on our Fiscal year calendar. If you can plan on paying dues in August, that would really help with efficient processing and reduce volunteer time for processing/tracking, etc. Thank you!

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Net income to expenses since September 2025 has been positive. The amount to cover expenses in this year's budget is \$11,149. Our largest disbursement/expense is for AIS boat & trailer inspections at our public launch. The Association's 2025 taxes were refiled to take advantage of our 501(c)4 non-profit status, a benefit of which is a higher standard deduction and exclusion of interest earnings from taxable income. Our treasurer will share a comprehensive financial report at the annual meeting on August 1. Anyone desiring more financial detail should feel free to contact treasurer Jeanette Leete.

### AIS

Keeping our lake free of invasive species is of utmost importance. Please decontaminate your watercraft after using it on another lake and remind your guests to do the same. Decontamination locations can be found at: [www.crowwing.gov/ais](http://www.crowwing.gov/ais).

AIS inspectors will monitor watercraft at the public landing on weekends throughout the summer. These hours include those provided by the DNR, plus those contracted and paid for by HLPOA. If you are interested in volunteering to staff the landing, the DNR offers free AIS training. For more information, go to:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html>

### HORSESHOE LAKE ITEMS



Stay tuned for updates regarding products.

Please contact Jill VanHeel at 763-760-1287 or at [Jill.vanheel@yahoo.com](mailto:Jill.vanheel@yahoo.com) with input on what types of products you'd like to see.

### Wake Safe Map

The DNR was not satisfied with the Wake Safe map that was developed in 2025 to show safer locations on Horseshoe Lake for the Wake boats to travel. The map was revised and will be submitted to the DNR for approval. Upon approval, a sign will be made to display the map at the boat landing.

### Secchi Disc Readings

Taken by Scott Skinner on May 20, 2026:  
West basin 18'7"  
East basin 19'5"

The reading on May 15, 2025:  
West basin- 12'6"  
East basin -12'3"



## Boat Parade

Get ready to celebrate our country's 250 birthday by participating in our annual boat parade, which will be held rain or shine at a **new time** this year:

**10:00 am**

Participants should gather in the channel at 9:45 am.

Your boat does not need to be fancy and the decorations do not need to be elaborate—although creativity is encouraged and appreciated. Participation has dwindled the past few years and the board is looking at the possibility of no longer having a parade after this year. Your participation will ensure that we can preserve this tradition for generations to come!

We're looking for a parade coordinator, so please call Judy Deis if you're interested.

## Book Project

At the previous Annual Meeting, the HLPOA Board made the decision to initiate a project focused on documenting the history of Horseshoe Lake and the families who own property along its shores. To gather information, a questionnaire was distributed to all property owners, inviting them to share personal stories and explain how their families came to choose Horseshoe Lake as their home. The response from residents was positive, with many submitting narratives and photographs that add depth and richness to the project.

The book covers early State and Crow Wing County history, an account of Mission Township's past, Native nations who worked the land, and the railroads' effect on local commerce. There is also a focus on the environment, hydrology, fishing and wildlife in our area. The Homeowner's Association has also played an important role in the preservation and enjoyment of Horseshoe Lake. It has an interesting background after its formation in the 1970's. Traditions of the Annual Boat Parade and Kid's Fishing Contest continue to be a highlight of the summer season.

Finally, the book features family stories submitted by residents, sharing cherished memories and family legacies. Although the original plan was to have the book ready for publication by summer and available at the Annual Meeting, adjustments are now necessary. The completion and distribution data is unknown at this time, but once we have the final content ready, we will get a cost and timing estimate from the development and printing supplier(s).

The good news is that there is still time for you to be included in the family section of the book, if you have not submitted your narrative. If you are interested in an interview, that is also possible (contact Nancy Jones at (614-842-7034 - cell) to set up a time. Questions can be directed to Judy Deis at 612-481-5151 (cell).



## EYE ON IT



**The Flanders wildfire near Horseshoe Lake in Mid May resulted in evacuations of homeowners, the loss of thousands of acres of forest and was devastating for wildlife. It's a good time for all of us to review responsible use of fire.**

(The following is from the Minnesota DNR)

*Whether you're in a state forest or in your backyard, campfires should be constructed and maintained with safety in mind. Use a designated fire ring or build a campfire in an area cleared of combustible materials 5 feet in all directions around the fire. Campfires must be 3 feet or less in diameter and not more than 3 feet in height.*

*Think before you strike. Check the **burning restrictions** for your area before lighting a campfire. Select a level spot a safe distance away from trees, low overhead branches, shrubs, dry grass, or logs to prevent the fire from escaping, and clear all combustibles within 5 feet. Have a shovel and water available at the campfire site for extinguishing campfires.*

*Supervise the fire at all times. Even a light breeze could cause the fire to spread.*

*Extinguish the campfire with water using the "down. and stir" method.*

## Spiced Strawberry Jelly

- 1 cup sliced fresh strawberries
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon white balsamic vinegar, divided
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 2 ½ teaspoons low-sugar powdered pectin
- Cream cheese and crackers to serve

Combine strawberries and sugar. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours, stirring occasionally. Drain, reserving liquid. Combine reserved strawberry liquid, ¼ cup vinegar and red pepper in a small saucepan and bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook about 10 minutes, until slightly thickened. Reduce heat to medium low; add strawberries and cook for 10 minutes. Sprinkle pectin over strawberry mixture and stir until combined. Simmer for one minute. Remove from heat. Stir in remaining 1 tablespoon vinegar. Carefully transfer to a sterilized glass jar. Cover and let cool at room temperature for 1 hour. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or up to 1 month. Serve with cream cheese and crackers.



## MISSION STATEMENT



To protect, preserve, and enhance Horseshoe Lake and its surrounding area. To ensure 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.

*“The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her Loveliness, the human spirit is apt to revive also.”*  
*Harriet Ann Jacobs*



### MISSION TOWNSHIP AND PARK NEWS

Are you hosting a big event this summer? You can reserve the Pavilion at Mission Park by filling out an application at Mission Township Hall during business hours on Tuesdays from 10:00 – 2:00.

The transfer station is open every Saturday from 9:00 – 3:00 through Oct. 31. Tires, appliances and garbage will no longer be accepted. Transfer station staff will also ask residents to supply their name when they use the transfer station. This data will help township staff make decisions regarding the future of the services needed. For additional recycling and refuse needs check out <https://idealtownship.com/services/transfer-station>.

Check out the Mission Township website for more information on our township developments. <https://missiontownship.org/>.

### UPCOMING 2026 HLPOA EVENTS

Saturday, June 6	Board Meeting 8:30 – 10:00 am
Friday, July 4	Boat Parade TIME CHANGE 10:00 am
Thursday, July 9	Board Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Thursday, July 30	Board Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Saturday, August 1	ANNUAL MEETING 8:00 – 11:00 am
Thursday, August 13	Board Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Saturday, September 5	Kids Fishing Contest and Potluck
Thursday, September 17	Board Meeting 8:30 – 10:00 am

## HLPOA FACEBOOK PAGE

HLPOA Facebook group is a private page for Horseshoe Lake Merrifield MN. The Facebook page is for currently paid HLPOA members and their family members. To join, go to the Facebook page and request access from coordinator Sarah Pennings: 320-493-5265

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



HLPOA Membership Yard Signs – \$25.00

contact Pam Heller:

[Pamheller24@gmail.com](mailto:Pamheller24@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING LAKES AREA EVENTS

If you are in the Brainerd Lakes Area, check out all the activities at the website: [business.explorebrainerdlakes.com/events](http://business.explorebrainerdlakes.com/events) (Check before you plan to attend as events can be cancelled)

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sat, May 30	10:00 -5:00	Summer Kickoff	Pequot Lakes
Sunday, June 1	11:00 – 2:30	Community Dog Walk	The Babinski Foundation 2825 76th St SW Pequot Lakes
Saturdays June 13 – August 29	10:00 – 2:30	A variety of family events, changes weekly	Crosslake Log Village
Wednesdays, June 3 – Aug. 12	1:00 – 3:00	Turtle Races	Downtown Nisswa behind the Chamber of Commerce Building
Wednesdays beginning June 3	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Trivia Night	Big Axe Brewery Nisswa
Thurs., June 25 and July 16; Fri., July 24	5:30 pm	Summer Concert Series	The Pines Golf Course at Grandview Lodge Nisswa
Fri, June 26 – Sat., June 27	7:00 am – 8:00 pm	Minnesota Loons & Lakes Festival	14303 Gould Street Crosslake, MN
Fri., July 3	9:00 – 3:00	Craft and Flea Market	13716 County Road 103 Crosslake
Fri., July 4	Dusk	Fireworks Display	Sand Island in Crosslake
Tues, July 14- Wed., July 15	5:00 pm Tues.– 2:00 pm Wed.	2026 Bean Hole Days in Pequot Lakes	Trailside Park Pequot Lakes



### **The Horseshoe Lake Men's Breakfast/Coffee Group**

Meet at Valerie Ann's in Ossipee every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

### **The Horseshoe Lake Women's Get-Together**

Meet at Valerie Ann's on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. Plus every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m.

**The HLPOA Newsletter is published twice a year:**

Spring (May/June)  
Fall (September/October)

Please contact any board member with news that may be of interest to fellow HLPOA members!

Horseshoe Lake information is available when you join HLPOA Horseshoe Lake Property Owners Association  
Check out the Website: <https://www.horseshoelakemn.com/>  
[Horseshoe Lake Facebook page – HLPOA Members Only](#)

**Emergency Numbers to Remember**

**Crosslake Police**  
**218-692-2222**

**Mission Lake Fire Department**  
**218-765-3259**

**CALL 9-1-1**

**If you have an emergency**

VRBO/AirBnB/Rental:

If you rent your lake home on a short-term or long-term basis, please ask your renters to follow these guidelines:

- Wash boats, jet skis, and other watercraft before launching them into the lake.
- Be respectful of neighbors and the surrounding community.

**Wake boat map / landing sign**

For those families that have the wake boat, please refer to the Wake Safe map (which will be posted soon at the public landing) for optimum places on the lake to do your fun. The deeper water, the better.



Please remember to keep your distance from nesting loons and other wildlife. This is their home too!



Hello Lake Friends! We have so many summer days to look forward to! But when the days get shorter, we'll say farewell to summer with a party.

**Mark your calendars:**

**Please join us for a potluck picnic at Mission Park**

Saturday, September 5 11:30 a.m.

Bring a dish to share and your own utensils/plates

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## Welcome to new lake residents:

Jim and Julia Thorius

Steve and Karen Carder

Mike and Abby Mitchell

Thor and Paula Raarup

DeAnn Guentzel and Wendy Fochtman

## Lake Directory and Map:

The map of Horseshoe Lake property owners is being updated. Upon its completion, the new directory will be distributed via email. The current map can be accessed at this link:

<https://www.horseshoelakemn.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/HLPOA-Map-April-2026.pdf>



*In memory of the lake friends we've lost:*

*Dick Koch*

*Tana Mateyka*

*Ray Holm*