

Fall  
2026

## HLPOA OFFICERS

**President**  
Nancy Jones  
614-842-7034  
nancysayresjones@gmail.com

**Vice President**  
Jill Vanheel  
763-760-1287  
Jill.vanheel@yahoo.com

**Secretary**  
Karee Schmiesing  
markschmiesing@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Jeanette Leete  
jennieleete@gmail.com

**Past President-**  
Kristin Galatowitsch  
920-299-2385  
kgalatowitschlaw@gmail.com

## DIRECTORS

Bobbie Crocker  
msbobbiecrocker@outlook.com

Mark McCormick  
mamccor2@gmail.com

Mindy Tschann  
MIhyne00@gmail.com

Linda Reko  
rekomom@gmail.com

Christopher Lewis  
Cmlewis52@comcast.net

Rich Sykora  
rhsykora@comcast.net



## President's Corner

As I write this, summer already feels as though it is slipping away. Owners have enjoyed the lake and all it offers and we hope that continues as we begin to plan fall activities. Change is in the air, much like the seasons, while some traditions remain.

More than 65 members attended our August Annual Meeting to hear updates and committee reports. We recognized Diane Weiner, a longtime board member and Kids' Fishing Contest Coordinator, as she announced her retirement, along with Judy Deis, who has served for many years as both Board member and Secretary. We are deeply grateful for their dedication, service, and thoughtful contributions. Thanks also to Kristin Galatowitsch for her presidency.

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As we look ahead, we welcome capable new leaders ready to address important issues in the coming year: Jill Van Heel as Vice President, Karee Schmiesing as Secretary, and Linda Reko as a new Board member. Jeanette Leete will remain as Treasurer. Returning to the Board are Bobbie Crocker, Chris Lewis, Mark McCormick, Rich Sykora and Mindy Tschann. We also say thank you and goodbye to Kevin and Peg Max who will be moving off Horseshoe Lake. Peg has been our newsletter editor and Kevin has been very involved with Fisheries and Management and the Kid's Fishing Contest.

New goals and objectives are established, and the Board will work to achieve them.

*Continued on next page*

## *President's Corner, continued*

### **They include:**

- Partner with Mission Township and remain engaged in its 2027 Comprehensive Plan
- Initiate a Water Navigation and Safety Committee to study regulatory issues, channel dredging, and ways to support the lake's health and sustainability.
- Complete the Horseshoe Lake Book Project, made possible by the many families who generously contributed their stories.
- Apply marketing strategies to promote current and future lake events.
- Expand fundraising opportunities to strengthen our treasury.

Over the years, our lake community has changed. More homes are now year-round residences rather than weekend cabins, and we are increasingly engaged with Mission Township's 2027 Comprehensive Plan, which addresses housing, jobs, roads, community spaces, and future growth. Environmental stewardship is also a growing priority as we work to protect our beaches and wildlife and keep the lake clean and sustainable for future generations. To support this work, we plan to form a Safe Waterway Navigation Committee to study issues such as channel dredging, environmental engineering and science, aquatic ecosystems, and long-term lake health. We hope to include a broad range of community stakeholders, including property owners, to bring diverse perspectives to the committee, with the goal of having it in place later this year.

Our "coffee table" book project is nearing completion. It will feature early lake history, hydrology, old maps, DNR information, wildlife, and fishing, with its greatest strength coming from the more than 50 families who shared their stories of life on Horseshoe. We will announce the press date, final cost, and order forms soon. To date, more than 60 members have expressed interest in ordering a copy. The book is not intended as a fundraiser; copies will be sold at cost. Our Fourth of July Parade was a great success, and we appreciate the many families who came out to support it. Along with the Kids' Fishing Contest, the parade is an important community tradition that encourages engagement and camaraderie. We will discuss and promote additional activities throughout the year.

Our committees remain active and engaged, and we value their ongoing efforts to maintain communication and provide updates to the Board.

Finally, while our treasury is currently adequate, we must remain proactive in building funds for both planned and unexpected needs. Growing our treasury will be an important goal in the year ahead. Staying current with dues is one important way members can support that goal.

As fall approaches, many of you will be closing your property and heading to warmer destinations. Safe travel wherever your journey takes you. For those staying at Horseshoe, there will be plenty of activities and opportunities to enjoy the lake and the beauty of the changing landscape.

***"The end of summer is just the beginning of a new season of possibilities!"***

Nancy Jones  
HLPOA President

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Waterway Navigation Committee  
Mark McCormick  
mamccor2@gmail.com

Water Quality  
Scott Skinner  
sskin5150@gmail.com

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

Fisheries Management  
Mindy Tschann  
Mlhyne00@gmail.com

## LAKE EVENTS

*Kids Fishing Contest/Potluck*  
Open Position

*July 4th Boat Parade*  
Bobbie Crocker  
msbobbiecrocker@outlook.com

Channel/Buoys  
Jerry Martin  
147Ironwood@gmail.com

Communications and  
-Membership  
Judy Deis  
612-481-5151  
mdeis@comcast.net

-New Member Contact  
Judy Deis  
612-481-5151  
mdeis@comcast.net

-Newsletter Editor  
Ken Reko  
Kreko@comcast.net

Memorabilia  
Jill Vanheel  
763-760-1287  
Jill.vanheel@yahoo.com

-Website—Horseshoe Lake  
Judy Deis  
mdeis@comcast.net

Facebook Page  
Sarah Pennings  
Cell: 320-493-5265  
pennysap@gmail.com

## Committee Reports, Etc.

Water Quality, AIS, Wildlife,  
Membership, Lake Items

### MEMBERSHIP/ COMMUNICATIONS

Our lake association membership has increased over the last few years. At this time, we have 257 properties around the lake. In the last 6 years, we've increased from roughly 150 members to nearly 200 members in 2025-26, which is 77% participation. Four years ago, our lake association challenged a proposed cluster development approved and planned for Horseshoe Lake. We won the lawsuit, but the legal fees depleted our treasury. The lake families responded positively at that time and since then we have increased membership. We hope to keep that momentum going this year and build even more membership, as it is very important for our lake protection and care.

Thank you to all our '26-27 members so far that paid the annual dues and an extra thank you to those who donated an extra amount as well. Reminder notices will be sent out to those who have not yet paid the annual dues. We are seeing some property turnover lately, so new families are joining our lake adventures. Welcome to all the new families on Horseshoe Lake! You have a lot to look forward to on our special lake with a nice community in a very beautiful area. If you get new neighbors or meet new lake families, please provide them with our Membership Coordinator contact information so we can inform them of our association and to get their contact information in our lake database.

It's been an honor to be on the HLPOA board for the last several years and to be the membership / communication coordinator.

In January 2027, I will be passing this position on to Sarah Pennings. She is happy to continue to keep you all informed and to maintain our lake database.

See you around the lake!

Best wishes always,

Judy Deis

Membership / Communication  
Coordinator

Mdeis@comcast.net

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Net income for the year was \$16,013, mostly from dues and donations.

The biggest expense for the year was for AIS Inspector invoice of \$3368. The checking account balance is about \$23,000 and the 5-month CD is for \$27,300.

For a detailed summary of accounts, please contact:

**Jeanette Leete**  
HLPOA Treasurer  
jennieleete@gmail.com



### HORSESHOE LAKE MERCHANDISE



I would like to thank everyone who ordered merchandise. It should arrive by October 1st. We will have a small number of hats available for sale along with logo-etched pint glasses, whiskey glasses and cork coasters. We also have some vinyl decals available in 3 sizes. Folks can reach out to me via text at 763.760.1287 if they are interested.

Jill Van Heel

Merchandise Coordinator



## Boat Parade Winners



First place:  
Janyce Hansen and the Qualley Family - America 250 Birthday Cake

America's 250 birthday sparked incredible creativity from parade entrants! Thank you to judges, the Russ and Nancy Rudnitski family for making a tough decision. Thanks also to Commodores Tom Laurence and Pam and to Boat Parade Coordinator Bobbie Crocker for providing this fun experience!



Second place:  
Jim and Bonnie Gross Family - Invasive Species Theme



Third place:  
Laurie Rogosheske Family - Baywatch Theme



## Kid's Fishing Contest



Cool, misty conditions didn't deter hardy competitors who rose early on Saturday, September 5 for the annual fishing contest. Thanks to all who entered and to all helpers, especially Diane Weiner, who is retiring after many years of coordinating the contest and picnic. Also thanks to Pam and Richard Heller and Bud Hays and Kevin Max for their many years of working at the contest and awards ceremony. A new coordinator and team is needed for next year. Contact Bobbie Crocker if you're interested.

### Winners were:

#### Grand prize:

Bryce Heustis  
25 1/2 inch Northern

#### Crappies:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Kasha Rudnitski  
12 inch

2<sup>nd</sup> place: (tie) Landon Moyer  
Juniper Bose  
10 1/2 inch

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Theo Haugstad  
9 1/2 inch

#### Bass:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Landen Moyer  
18 inch

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Rayna Moyer  
17 1/2 inch

3<sup>rd</sup> place: (tie) Theo Haugstad  
Gabe Tschann  
17 1/4 inch

#### Sunnies:

1<sup>st</sup> place: August Unertl  
9 1/2 inch

2<sup>nd</sup> place: (tie) Bennett Unertl  
Ryker Merten  
9 1/4 inch

3<sup>rd</sup> place: (tie) Nash Smith  
Rayna Merten  
9 inch

#### Northerns:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Soren Eisele  
21 1/4 inch

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Landon Moyer  
21 inch

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Reyna Moyer  
19 3/4 inch

#### Most Northerns:

Cole and Bryce Huestis  
20 Northern caught

## EYE ON IT



With low lake levels, many people wonder about lawn irrigation during a drought. The following is from the MN DNR website:

*A DNR water appropriation permit is required to pump water or allow to flow by gravity from a lake, wetland, watercourse, spring, ditch, gravel pit, quarry, natural or artificial pond, or well; to irrigate gardens and lawns if the amount exceeds 10,000 gallons per day, or one million gallons per year. A well-maintained lawn in Minnesota uses approximately one inch of water per week, regardless of whether this comes from rainfall or lawn watering. As a rule of thumb, an irrigated lawn greater than 1.4 acres in size will likely meet the threshold for requiring a DNR permit during a dry year.*

*Daily water application is unnecessary for healthy established turf. Before watering, verify that the grass needs watering: Step on the grass.*

- **Do not water** if the grass springs back.
- **Water** if the grass stays flattened.

#### **Efficient lawn watering:**

**\*Water** landscapes and lawns during the early morning, when it is still cool.  
**\* Lawns** need about 1 inch of rain or water per week. Deep soaking is better for roots than frequent shallow watering.

**\*Water** your lawn infrequently, one time or less per week, assuming no rainfall has occurred."

*Permits for watering from lakes and rivers are subject to suspension when lake levels or flows are low.*



## Spiced Rum Apple Cider

Makes 1 serving  
3 ounces apple cider  
1 1/2 ounces spiced rum  
1 1 ounce fresh lemon juice  
1 teaspoon sorghum syrup  
Dash of cardamom bitters  
Garnish: apple slices, cinnamon stick

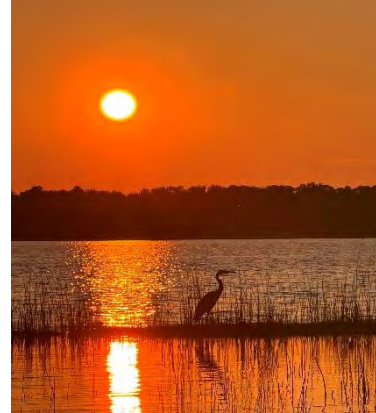
Combine cider, rum, lemon juice, sorghum syrup, and bitters in a cocktail shaker. Shake until mixture is completely blended, about 30 seconds. Add ice, and shake vigorously until chilled. Pour into a glass over ice. Garnish with apple slices and a cinnamon stick, if desired. Enjoy by the bonfire!



## 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.*

*Photo Credit to  
Jill Levin*



***“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”  
Albert Camus***

## MISSION TOWNSHIP AND PARK NEWS

The last 2026 date to bring items to the transfer station is on Saturday, October 31.  
In 2027 county road 3 (from CR 19 to 11) will be resurfaced and will add 6 additional turn lanes.

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

## UPCOMING 2027 HLPOA DATES TO REMEMBER

|                               |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, May 1</b>        | <b>Board Meeting 8:30 – 10:00 am</b>                                            |
| <b>Saturday, June 5</b>       | <b>Board Meeting 8:30 – 10:00 am</b>                                            |
| <b>Sunday, July 4</b>         | <b>Boat Parade<br/>10:00 am</b>                                                 |
| <b>Thursday, July 10</b>      | <b>Board Meeting 5:15 pm</b>                                                    |
| <b>Thursday, July 29</b>      | <b>Board Meeting 5:15 pm</b>                                                    |
| <b>Saturday, July 31</b>      | <b>ANNUAL MEETING 8:00 am<br/>Mission Park Pavilion<br/>(Note venue change)</b> |
| <b>Thursday, August 12</b>    | <b>Board Meeting 5:15 pm</b>                                                    |
| <b>Saturday, September 4</b>  | <b>Kids Fishing Contest and Potluck</b>                                         |
| <b>Thursday, September 17</b> | <b>Board Meeting 5:15 pm</b>                                                    |

## 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)



If you're looking for rental properties on Horseshoe Lake to house extra guests, Ro Be Doe resort is a great option. Or use rental websites Airbnb, VRBO, or post a request on the HLPOA Facebook page.

## 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                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thurs., Sept 24-Sat., Sept.26 | 7:00 am-midnight  | Crosslake Days                           | Crosslake                 |
| Fri., Oct 16-Sat., Oct 17     | All day           | Crosslake Oktoberfest                    | Crosslake                 |
| Fri., Oct 16 – Sun. Oct 18    | 8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Northwoods Fall Festival                 | Breezy Point              |
| Sat., Nov. 8                  | 2:30- 6:00 pm     | Trick or Treat at Camp Spooktacular      | Crosslake Recreation Area |
| Fri., Nov. 21                 | 8:00 – 11:00 pm   | Grand Brewfest Kick-off Party            | Grandview Lodge           |
| Fri., Nov. 27                 | All day           | City of Lights Celebration               | Nisswa                    |
| Thurs., Feb. 4-Sat., Feb 5    | 9:00 – Midnight   | Winterfest                               | Crosslake                 |
| Sat., March 13                | All day           | St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration | Crosslake                 |



### 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 Breakfast/Coffee Group

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



## This is their home—please be a good neighbor!

The summer of 2026 was beautiful and as usual, the lake was busy with boats and personal watercraft. Unfortunately a few HLPOA members witnessed some watercraft operators violating wildlife protections by chasing loons, which is illegal. As we prepare for summer 2027, please remind guests and friends to protect loons and their habitat by keeping a safe distance while boating. Consider assigning a “loon watcher” on each boat to spot birds that may surface unexpectedly and help prevent collisions or close approaches. Stay at least 50 feet away whenever possible, even when conditions make that difficult.

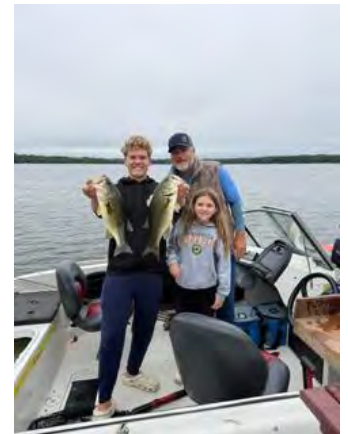
## Thanks to Bud and Dar Hays, who gathered these fun facts during a late summer pontoon ride



|                  | East Basin | West Basin |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Docks In         | 145        | 103        |
| Docks Out        | 3          | 2          |
| Lifts In         | 133        | 92         |
| Lifts Out        | 12         | 9          |
| Wave Riders      | 52         | 37         |
| Wave Rider Lifts | 52         | 32         |
| American Flags   | 33         | 23         |
| Paddle Boats     | 14         | 11         |
| Fishing Boats    | 25         | 25         |
| Power Boats      | 29         | 33         |
| Pontoons         | 107        | 71         |

## Wanted: Volunteers to Help with the Kids' Fishing Contest!

We need four volunteers to measure and categorize fish at the Annual Kids' Fishing Contest. The event takes place on the Saturday before Labor Day, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. and the contest ending at 10:30 a.m. Two volunteers will be stationed at the East Basin boat landing, and the other two at your dock on the West Basin. Please help us continue this tradition for our children. To volunteer, contact Bobbie Crocker at [msbobbiecrocker@outlook.com](mailto:msbobbiecrocker@outlook.com).



## WATER LEVEL



The beaches are vast and the lake is low. It is the lowest it's been in the past 10 years, but it has been lower, about 10" lower in 2007.

### Water Level Data for Horseshoe Lake

Lake ID: 18025100

Period of record: 05/22/1989 to 08/09/2026

# of readings: 687

Highest recorded: 1207.85 ft (05/25/2019)

Lowest recorded: 1204.43 ft (09/04/2007)

Recorded range: 3.42 ft

Last reading: 1205.28 ft (08/09/2026)

Ordinary High Water Level (OHW) elevation: 1208.5 ft

Datum: NGVD 29 (ft)

For more information about the drought and it's effect on lake life, click on the following link from MPR:

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/08/09/wheres-the-water-drought-dries-up-minnesota-lake-levels>

## Waterway Navigation Committee

The Board voted to establish a Waterway Navigation Committee to address key concerns affecting the lake. The committee is responsible for the following:

- Review past and current navigation efforts and the lake's recurring water-level challenges
- Recommend ways for the Board to address navigation issues
- Oversee navigation projects, including permitting, dredging, and lake quality
- Collaborate with stakeholders, including federal agencies and local authorities, to address navigation challenges and promote best practices
- Recommend membership updates as needed

Board Member Mark McCormick leads the Committee, which includes Andy Graham, John Gibas, Ken Kuphal, Board Member Rich Sykora, and consultant Dan Whirley. The group will hold its first meeting this fall to establish objectives for achieving the goals outlined above.

## Book Update

We are finalizing the Horseshoe Lake Family Book and expect to send it to the publisher for creative design and page layout in early October. Proofreading and printing will follow, with completion anticipated in early winter. We will email order forms separately to members in early November so you can order and purchase copies for family and friends. The book will make a thoughtful gift for the holidays, birthdays, or other special occasions. Thank you for your patience—this project has taken longer than expected, but we hope you will find it well worth the wait!

**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**

Crosslake Police  
218-692-2222  
Mission Lake Fire Department  
218-765-3259  
**If you have an emergency  
CALL 911**

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



*Tracy Remy  
Diane Wiczek*

*Embrace the changing seasons as we say, "see you next spring," to many of our neighbors!*