

Friends of Lower Hay

2022 Spring Newsletter



Patti Bullen captured these two pictures of the sunrise in early March. What began as a beautiful sunrise transformed into a pair of brightly shining sundogs!

Mark Your Calendars!

2022 Events

Annual Meeting

June 11, 2022

9:00 a.m. Jenkins VFW

Boat Parade/Dock Decor

July 3, 2022

3:30 p.m. Line up at
boat launch 4:00 p.m.



President's Note

In spite of the cold and snowy winter, Lower Hay Lake is starting to show signs of Spring. It won't be long before the lake is open, and we will all be able to check out our newly dredged channel!

Accompanying this newsletter is the 2022 Friends of Lower Hay (FOLH) membership form. Please remember to send in your membership form along with your dues and donations. Now that we've successfully completed and financed the channel dredging, we will be focusing on building a reserve for the inevitable arrival of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Many of the popular recreational lakes in Minnesota are already spending thousands of dollars a year on efforts to contain AIS such as Starry stonewort and Eurasian milfoil. FOLH will continue to support the DNR efforts at the Lower Hay boat launch to help keep out AIS, but we can help individually by donating money directly to the FOLH AIS fund to build up a reserve. You can make payments by sending in a check or using PayPal, Venmo, or a credit card on the Friends of Lower Hay website at www.friendsoflowerhay.org/.

After a two year hiatus due to Covid-19, we are planning a return of the Friends of Lower Hay Annual meeting on June 11th, 2022 at the VFW in Jenkins at 9:00 a.m. Please note that this is two weeks **after** Memorial Day weekend. It's a great time to catch up with neighbors and meet new ones. I hope to see you there!

This year's meeting will focus on the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P). While the pandemic was going on, a planning team representing Cass and Crow Wing counties were developing individual lake plans to set priorities for each lake located in the Pine River Watershed. Be sure to check out Dave Topinka's article related to 1W1P on page 3.

I look forward to seeing you on June 11th at the annual meeting. We will also be updating the FOLH membership directory for 2022 and will have copies available to current members at the meeting.

Thank you, Steve Curry - President, FOLH



The Friends of Lower Hay Lake Association is dedicated to protecting the water and watershed of Lower Hay Lake and the preservation of surrounding natural resources through sharing of information with other organizations. It strives to enhance the enjoyment of the lake and encourages a sense of community among its residents.

Friends of Lower Hay is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization

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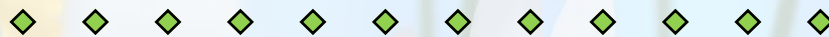


2022 Boat Parade/Dock Decorations

By Debbie Enger, Social Director

Since July 4th falls on a Monday this year, we are going to have the parade at **4:00 pm on Sunday, July 3**. That way anyone that is traveling on Monday won't miss out on the fun! Boats line up by the boat landing beginning at 3:30 p.m. The parade begins at 4:00 p.m. Competition includes best boat and dock decorations and gift certificates will be awarded to the best in each category. No registration necessary!

If you have any questions, call, text, or email: **Debbie Enger** – Engert77@aol.com; 612-810-2713. Be sure to check out photos from the 2021 boat parade on the Friends of Lower Hay website at www.friendsoflowerhay.org/



Loon Life

(Fun facts about the Common Loon)

Editor's note: Information listed below is from the National Loon Center website at <https://www.nationallooncenter.org/>

The National Loon Center is located in Cross Lake, MN. This state-of-the-art facility is scheduled to open in Spring, 2024.

Adult weight: 7-13 pounds

Habitat: In summer, on lakes in coniferous forest zones. In winter, mainly on oceans, usually close to shore.

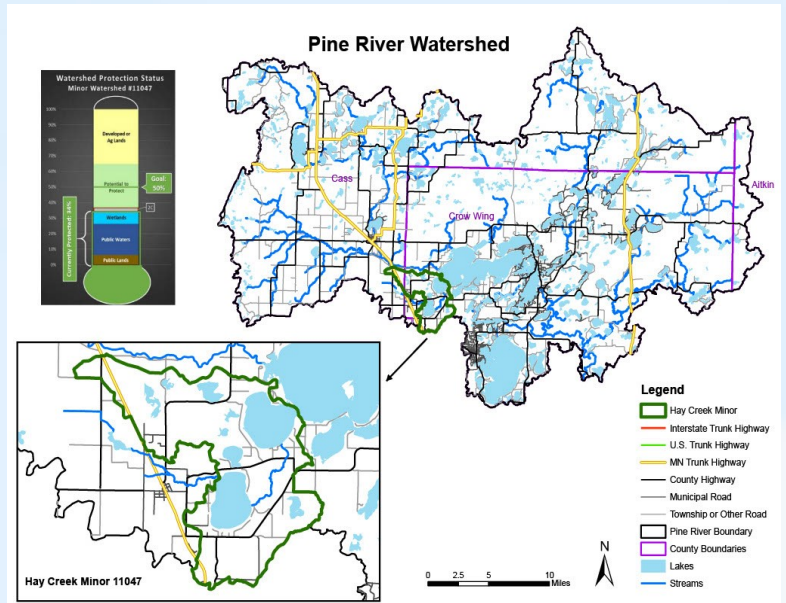
Nesting: Loons seldom settle on a territory until they are five to seven years old. In most cases, a young loon must evict an older individual of its sex in order to claim a territory for itself. Both pair members cooperate in building the nest and spend equal time incubating the two eggs laid by the female until hatching, which occurs in 28 days.

shelly

One Watershed, One Plan

By Dave Topinka, 1W1P Director

Have you heard of One Watershed, One Plan also known as 1W1P? In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Minnesota Legislature has appropriated the Clean Water Funds to each watershed that has completed a comprehensive watershed plan. We are in the Pine River watershed, in Crow Wing County and Cass County, with a minimal amount in Aitkin County and Hubbard County. The Crow Wing and Cass County Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) work together to manage the Pine River 1W1P funds. We should be proud that Lower Hay Lake has been selected as a priority lake to develop management practices to improve the Pine River Watershed.



The planning team developed individual lake plans to help lake associations focus time and effort on plan priorities. Both Upper and Lower Hay have Lake Plans. Upper Hay is critical for Lower Hay's activities because Hay Creek is the most significant contributor of phosphorus to Lower Hay. **A quick summary of the Lower Hay plan is to reduce the annual phosphorus loading by 5% over the next ten years.** The present Lower Hay annual phosphorus load is 912 pounds per year which needs to be lowered by 46 pounds per year. To accomplish this, in the next 10 years we plan to:

- Install ten rain gardens
- Have six shoreline restoration projects
- Plant 500 trees along the shoreline
- Permanently protect 1,383 acres of undeveloped land (combined with Upper Hay)
- Continue the WAPOA water testing program
- Maintain and pump all septic systems every three years
- Seal ten unused wells
- Minimize salt usage on driveways, sidewalks, and in water softeners

Funding is available to implement these projects, but the projects must be pre-approved. If you have been thinking of an improvement project for your lake property, such as those listed above, you will want to attend the FOLH annual meeting on June 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Jenkins VFW. The meeting will feature more information on 1W1P as well as funding opportunities for projects that can help us achieve our goal of reducing the phosphorus levels in Lower Hay Lake.

You can see the complete Lower Hay Lake Implementation Plan on the Lower Hay Lake website at <https://www.friendsoflowerhay.org/>. The Pine River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan can be seen at <https://mn-crowwingcounty2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/17315>.

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Check out the Friends of Lower Hay website at:

www.friendsoflowerhay.org/

AND



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