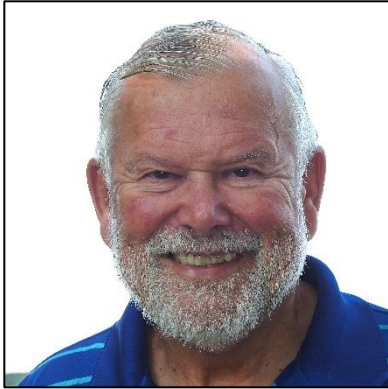


# FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2022

EMAIL: FISHHOOKLAKEANDRIVER@GMAIL.COM

Website: <http://minnesotawaters.org/>



### President's Letter by Tom Harmon: **What is one thing that you can do to protect the Lake and River that you love?**

This question was recently posed to me by Jeff Forester, Executive Director of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR). His answer was to join the MLR.

My answer to this question is for you to join the Fish Hook Lake and River Association

(FHL&RA) if you are not already a member. Your membership and the extra donations you make to the Environmental Fund make it possible for our Association to purchase additional hours for Watercraft Inspectors to look for AIS when they examine a watercraft as it enters and exits from our lake and river entry points at Heartland Park and Route 71.

For 2022 the DNR had allocated 737 hours for Watercraft Inspectors to safeguard Fish Hook Lake and the Fish Hook River from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). At the November 2021, meeting the FHL&RA Board voted to spend \$6,500 to purchase 295 additional Watercraft Inspection Hours. This means that we will have 1,032 hours of protection for 2022.

At the last Hubbard County (C.O.L.A.) Coalition of Lake Associations meeting the DNR stated the Good News that in 2021 there were no new infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species reported. The Bad News is that some lakes in our county have been infested with AIS such as Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Starry Stonewort and Curly-Leaf Pondweed.

Our FHL&RA Board in recent years has been most concerned as some of our lake property owners have reported having Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP). After investigating this with the local DNR their report is that what we have is a "Native CLP" and not the "Invasive CLP". We encourage property owners who discover what they believe to be CLP to take samples to the DNR for identification. If it is determined to be the Invasive CLP, then appropriate action can be planned in cooperation with the DNR.

So please JOIN the Fish Hook Lake & River Association NOW to protect the Lake and the River you love! Complete the Membership Form in this newsletter, enclose your check and mail it to: FHLRA, P.O. Box 225, Park Rapids, MN 56470. Thank you!

**Thank you. See you on the water. Tom Harmon**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4<sup>th</sup> –Downtown Parade  
July 4<sup>th</sup> FHL&R Boat Parade  
2:00 @ Red Bridge Park

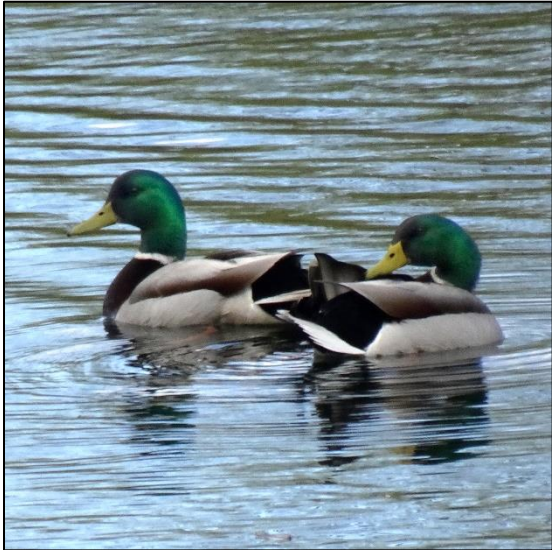
July 23<sup>RD</sup>– 5:00 pm FHL&R  
Annual Meeting

September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 –  
Fall Dinner at Good Life

**Annual Meeting: We will hold our ANNUAL MEETING on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon at Heartland Park. This will be a potluck with meat dish provided by the FHL&R Assn. Additional details will be emailed to all when available. If we don't have your email, we can't keep in touch. Please provide it when you renew your membership.**

## Shoreland Management Ordinance – Amendment 20

Hubbard County’s Shoreland Management Ordinance was originally adopted in July of 1971. “Section 401 – Uses” has been updated to include “Short-term Rental” (STR), for example: “VRBO”, “Airbnb”, individual rentals. Performance standards outlined in Section 402 must now be met. Short-term Rentals, new and existing, as of May 1, 2022, require an annual license to operate and must be renewed annually. Questions or clarifications regarding Short-term Rental properties may be answered by contacting Bryan Haugen, Environmental Services, 301 Court Ave, Park Rapids, 218-732-3890 or email: [bryanHaugen@co.hubbard.mn.us](mailto:bryanHaugen@co.hubbard.mn.us)



### C.O.L.A. News:

#### **Congratulations** to the **Fish Hook Lake & River**

**Association** and the dedicated, dependable volunteers who participated in the **HC COLA Water Monitoring Program**, annually May through September. The success of the Program gives confidence to all to look forward to the near term and multi-generational future of all Hubbard County lakes.

### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Analysis:

The **MN DNR Infested Waters List** is maintained by the DNR on a regular basis. This map includes AIS types found on the MN DNR Infested Waters List but also AIS types such as Curly Leaf Pondweed, Mystery Snails, Common Carp, Purple Loosestrife, and others. See the Hubbard County Environmental Services Lake List.

### Decontamination Station:

Hubbard County provides a FREE Decontamination Station to clean visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, snails and other prohibited species off your watercraft as it goes from one lake to another. It is open by appointment 7 days a week by calling 218-252-6738 between 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The Station is located at 812 Henrietta Ave., Park Rapids (between the Detail Shop and the Transfer Station on the north side of the road).

### Hubbard County Watercraft Inspection Program:

Bryan Haugen from the Hubbard County Environmental Services recently reported that this summer 34 Boat Launches on 32 Hubbard County Lakes are scheduled for 15,878 Watercraft Inspection Hours. Shifts are scheduled more heavily on weekends and holidays, but the busiest accesses will be scheduled for hours during the week as well. The schedule is posted on the Hubbard County AIS Webpage.

Funding for this comes from the Environmental Services budget plus supplemental funding from Lake Association Donations and Township/City Supplements. For 2022, \$156,568 was donated by these groups and providing 7,176 of the Watercraft Inspection Hours. The Fish Hook Lake and River Association committed \$6,500 of this to purchase an additional 295 Inspection Hours for the Fish Hook Lake and River access sites.



**-CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY**

## Fishing Update by Paul Thompson

With the fishing season starting, here is some information to review on regulations and license requirements for Minnesota. A great single source online to get information or download the entire fishing regulations on seasons, limits, license requirements is; [Minnesota fishing regulations | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Lake Information; you can review information on fish species, stocking reports and lake maps of any lake in the state at; mobile phone link; [LakeFinder Mobile \(state.mn.us\)](#) desktop version link; [LakeFinder | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Catch a nice large fish, keep it or release it? Although slot limits for larger species have been around for years to protect breeding population and maintain a healthy mix of larger fish, the smaller species like crappies and sunfish have fewer or sometimes no size requirements. The Minnesota DNR say the spawning cycle is impacted negatively by keeping large sunfish and crappies for eating. If you catch an assortment you want for a meal, consider keeping mostly smaller fish and releasing the **really large** ones. This increases the opportunity for a healthy fish population going forward.

**Public safety** remains a concern particularly with increase traffic on County Highway 18 on the west side of the lake and County 1 on the east side of the lake. Residents are encouraged to call the Sheriff's Office at 218-732-3331 anytime they witness driver behavior that endangers the lives of others such as speeding and/or distracted driving. If you are able, please write down the vehicle description and license plate numbers and report them to the Sheriff's Office. **Let's all have a safe and relaxing summer!**

Many of us have spent all of our lives on or near the lakes. Growing up there was always this gentle, unwritten rule that there be no toys or noise, especially on the weekends, prior to 9:00 a.m. in the morning. This is on many weekends a special, peaceful, quiet time as folks crawl out of their beds, enjoy some coffee while sitting on their decks or docks. Avoiding water toys such as jet skis and lawn mowers, etc. during this time would be much appreciated. Enjoy this quiet time with YOUR family and friends.

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SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THE REMOVAL OF THE OLD RAILROAD TRESSEL BRIDGE LAST FALL. IF YOU CROSS UNDER THE NEW BICYCLE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER YOU WILL SEE HOW NICE THE AREA LOOKS THIS SPRING.

From the May 17 New York Times: "People are consistently happier when they are out in nature, particularly near a body of water, particularly when the scenery is beautiful."



Spring bird photos by Neil Jordheim

**JOIN THE FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN FOR 2022 (Jan 1 – Dec 31)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Please check here if you are a current member and your information is current.

Telephone: (lake) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE: **Please provide your email address** and save us postage. We do not share your information.)

**Send this registration and \$35.00 for your annual membership. \* Please include an additional check for \$20.00 or more made payable to City Treasurer, City of Park Rapids to support our AIS efforts. Put "For FHL&R AIS Fund" in the Memo line and include it with your membership check. Please mail both checks to: FHLRA PO, Box 225, Park Rapids, MN 56470.**

**Fish Hook Lake and River Association Board of Directors**

- Tom Harmon - President
- Jim Spencer - Vice-President
- Gwen Zent - Secretary
- Stuart Larson - Treasurer
- Stuart Larson - COLA Representative
- Members-at-Large: Jim Knox, Peter Dieser, Paul Thompson, and Denny Ulmer

Neil Jordheim - Newsletter Editor (not a board member)

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Fish Hook Lake & River Association shall be an advocate of the environment of our lake/river systems. We shall be a partner with other lake associations and agencies which have an impact on water quality. We shall act as an educator in community understanding of the issues and goals of our association. The objectives of our efforts are better water quality and property values for everyone. As a group, we have a stronger voice than as separate individuals.