

FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

EMAIL: FISHHOOKLAKEANDRIVER@GMAIL.COM

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



President's Letter by Tom Harmon:

Your help is needed to protect Fish Hook Lake and the Fish Hook River.

Our 2018 Spring Newsletter reported that the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) said the primary cause of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species – i.e., Curly Leaf

Pondweed, Starry Stonewort, Zebra Mussels, etc.) is their introduction to our lakes & rivers through the Boat Launch Sites. Fish Hook Lake and River have two primary Launch Sites, one at Heartland Park on the River and one at Fish Hook Lake West (on Route 71 just north of town).

The DNR developed a program to train persons to serve as Boat Launch Inspectors who check each watercraft as it comes to and leaves from the Launch Site. In 2020 the Hubbard County provided funding for 7,600 Inspection Hours which was divided up among thirty of the County's lakes.

Fish Hook Lake and River were allocated 680 Inspection Hours in 2020 and again for 2021. This number of hours is divided equally between the two Launch Sites. Our Board of Directors voted to pay \$6,000 to purchase an additional 286 Inspection Hours thus increasing our total to 966 Inspection Hours for 2021 (each hour costs approximately \$21.00).

Each year we ask that in addition to the \$35.00 Annual Association Dues that you also consider making an additional contribution to the AIS Fund. This Fund pays for the additional Boat Inspection Hours, water testing, and other actions directly related to preventing AIS in our Lake and River.

Your contribution to the AIS Fund can be included with your Lake Association Annual Dues, or, if you prefer to make a tax-deductible contribution a separate check can be made out to: City of Park Rapids Treasurer and referencing "Fish Hook Lake & River AIS Fund" on the Memo Line (or abbreviate it to: FHL&R AIS FUND). Please mail both payments to: FHL&RA, P.O. Box 225, Park Rapids, MN 56470.

Thank you. See you on the water. Tom Harmon



Annual Meeting: We will hold our ANNUAL MEETING in conjunction with the 2nd ANNUAL PIG ROAST* on **Saturday July 10th beginning at 5:00 p.m.** We will meet at Richard & Gwen Zent's home located at 20725 County Road 1. There will be a short social time prior to the meeting. The meeting will be short. Then we will eat following the meeting. Please bring your own beverages. We ask that your RSVP to fishhooklakeandriver@gmail.com **no later than July 6th.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4th – Boat Parade @
11:00 Red Bridge Park

July 10th– 5:00 pm FHL&R
Annual Meeting & Second
Annual PIG ROAST

Sep 11th– 5:30 pm Fall
Dinner Y-Steakhouse (rsvp
by 9/8/21)

AIS team report – Don Rumpza: In the spring of 2020 curly leaf pondweed was not found during the inspection with the DNR. Therefore, we were not able to get a permit for treatment. Water craft inspections are scheduled to start the week of May 9th. Our lake association increased its contribution to \$6,000 toward

additional hours for the 2020 season. Water sampling and veliger testing will be done again this year. As a reminder, the decontamination site is located near the Hubbard County transfer Station (812 Henrietta Ave. S. Park Rapids, MN). It is available 7 days a week by appointment call 218-252-6738.

Special thanks to our AIS team members: Bob Stelter, Dave Mohn, Don Rumpza and Peter Dieser. They could use some help. If you are interested reply to our email.

Remember we all have a part to play to prevent AIS.

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY

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.

Fish Hook Lake and River remains AIS free at this time. We thank everyone for their assistance in keeping it that way and encourage you to Clean, Drain, & Dry boats, trailers & gear. Dispose of Unwanted Bait in the Trash. Use bottled / tap water to preserve bait. Dry Docks, Lifts & Swim Platforms at least 21 Days before placing equipment into another waterbody – see the MN AIS Laws. Decontaminate your boat / trailer / gear when going between lakes – Complimentary Service in Park Rapids. Call ahead 218-252-6738 for your appointment mid-May through mid-September.

COLA's Website is Loaded with Information their website is continuously updated with current information. Check it out here: <http://hubbardcolamn.org/index.html> you will see news, announcements, events and our meeting schedule. The HC COLA meets on the last Thursday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwoods Bank Community Room. You are invited to attend.



Update on Line-3 Pipeline from NPR News:

Note: It is hard to find an objective article regarding the Line-3 pipeline. Care 11 news has done a recent article that includes interviews, pictures and a description of where the project stands currently. Here is a link to that site: <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/in-northern-minnesota-the-line-3-oil-pipeline-remains-a-lightning-rod-for-debate/89-06e0f03b-94d6-473c-a96f-8943c58d7a56> (Photo from Care 11)

More information is available at Friends of the Headwater's website at www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org and the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters>.

Fishhook Lake & River Curly Leaf Pond Weed Update

Curly Leaf Pond Weed or CLPW is an Aquatic Invasive Species that when not mitigated can threaten and cause significant damage to our lakes and rivers. While it has been a concern over the last number of years, it has not risen to a level that the DNR would be able to issue a permit for chemical treatment. The FHLRA Board of Directors has applied for such a permit the last three years in a row. For 2021 we expect we will again dodge a bullet as our neighbor to the west, Portage Lake, has made significant progress in mitigating CLPW. We will continue to work closely with the DNR in monitoring any growth or spread particularly in the North West corner of the lake. Anyone who spots or finds what they suspect is CLPW should take a sample of it to the DNR Office (603 1st St W, Park Rapids, MN 56470) for inspection.

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 \(state.mn.us\)](#)



Sunrise on the river-Photo by Nancy Jordheim

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 friend

JOIN THE FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN FOR 2021 (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. You can 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, Julie Lovin, Peter Dieser, Liz Stone, 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.

FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSOCIATION PO Box 225 Park Rapids, MN 56470