



JUNE 2010  
Volume 1 • Issue 2

# Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

## WHEN BEARS ARE *too close* FOR COMFORT

### IT'S NO PICNIC TO MEET A HUNGRY BEAR

Bears are big mammals, second only in size to elk in Wisconsin. An adult black bear may weigh 250 to more than 500 pounds, bears have lost approximately 25-40 percent of their body weight and emerge from winter dens really hungry, looking to replenish reserves depleted over the winter.

In the spring, food may be limited and difficult to find, especially for young bears who are wary and alert as they wander into new territory, cross roads, or encounter cars and people just as vegetation is beginning to grow. They are up to the task. Bears can swim, easily climb trees and can run up to 30 miles per hour.

In their drive to find food, bears will take advantage of any readily available

food sources, whether natural or from human activity. Even though bears are naturally shy creatures that avoid people, a hungry bear exploiting a food source can quickly learn to associate humans with food and can become a nuisance. The bears are merely responding to their need to consume large amounts of food.

The southerly dispersal of bears coupled with the growth of recreational and residential land development in open areas increase the potential for human-bear encounters. Further, the bears can be attracted to a number of artificial food sources such as bird feeders, greasy grills, dog food, garbage, gardens and compost piles. While it is exciting to see a bear in your backyard and you might sacrifice bird seed for the chance to watch a bear up close, the encounter comes with a high cost: Once a bear associates people with food, it will be bolder, escalate efforts to obtain food and may pose a safety risk. Though bear attacks on people are relatively rare, they can be serious. Most often, these attacks are defensive when a bear has been startled. Learn to minimize the foodstuffs that attract bears and you can avoid the problem encounters.

State law prohibits recreational feeding of bears. Even inadvertent feeding is illegal. A 2007 law requires that you cease baiting and feeding activities for other animals, such as deer or birds, for at least 30 days



if bears are known to visit the feeding sites. Baiting bears in Wisconsin is only legal by permit when associated with hunting activities, which are viewed as an important means of controlling growing bear populations.

If you encounter a bear, remain calm. Bears are shy and if not conditioned to humans, will usually flee quickly. If you see a bear in the woods, make noise so the bear knows you are there. Slowly back away and allow the bear a clear exit that doesn't intersect your path.

### BIRD FEEDERS

Bears love bird seed. If you live in prime bear habitat, take down your feeders in early spring and do not replace them until late fall. If you must feed birds during months when bears are active, make the bird feeders inaccessible to bears. Hang feeders at least 10 feet off the ground and five feet away from tree trunks on a limb that will not support a bear. You can refill the feeders easily by using a pulley system. If a bear visits your

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**REDUCING CONTACT AT HOME**  
*Never feed a bear! The bear will not forget the feeding experience and will tend to get more demanding with time.*



# Letter from the Chairman

by PAT MCMAHON

## Summer 2010 has arrived with a SPLASH!

This was perhaps the nicest Memorial Day week-end ever. If you were lucky enough to be at the lake – you had sunny days, lots of lake activity, and warm water to swim. Simply wonderful.

My in-laws, Martha and Art McMahon, loved Half Moon, and they loved nature. As long as I can remember, we have had a running list on our cabin bulletin board entitled, "Flora and Fauna Found on McMahon Property." This list has been included in the newsletter for your family to enjoy. Have fun adding your own findings. E-mail additions to Sarah Sawyer – and an updated list will appear in each Spring Newsletter. This is a great family project.

Some of you may have heard that on May 20th a beaver dam was being removed three miles east of Milltown. The dam gave way, and a large amount of water was released from a private pond on Steven Williamson's property. This quickly made its way to Harder Creek. What impact this has had on Harder Creek or on Half Moon is not yet known. We have Steven Schieffer from Ecological Integrity Services and the DNR monitoring this. When we learn more, we will pass this information on to you.

Our October Clean Boats/Clean Waters Grant application was denied. Dan Leh and I went to Spooner and met with the DNR to understand the application process. After a second application in February we were awarded a grant of 50% for the Ilids Camera Project at the beach. With funding so tight, we are thrilled with this 3- year grant.

A Clean Boats/Clean Waters inspector for the week-ends has been hired, and the camera will be in operation by mid-June. The Weed Rangers have started the season monitoring for good weeds and looking for any Aquatic Invasive Species. We continue to make these two initiatives a priority.

In April, Dan and I drove to Green Bay to

attend the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention. We attended an all day Lake District Commissioners Training Workshop. Topics covered were:

- 1) How to comply with open meetings and open recording
- 2) Running board and annual meetings
- 3) Proper meeting registration
- 4) Voting eligibility
- 5) Membership communication
- 6) Lake district budget specifics
- 7) Bookkeeping practices
- 8) Funding methods

The aftermath is that to properly follow Wisconsin Statutes 33 on lake districts, some new practices need to take place. All of these changes are good – meant for better efficiency – and also to offer more control to the general membership. Taking baby steps, we will start to implement these at this year's annual meeting. A more detailed report and budget will be mailed prior to the annual meeting.

Put Saturday July 17th on your calendar for the next Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting and Picnic at the public beach. The meeting starts at 10:00, but do come early to register and visit various booths. A catered lunch will be served at 12:00. If you have never attended this meeting before, please RSVP to me at 715-825-2148, so we have a count for lunch.

The donations are still coming in for the 2010 Fireworks and Family Movie Night. If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to Suzy Bank. A list of 4th of July activities appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

Don't hesitate to call anyone on the board with questions or concerns.

Thanks for reading and have a great summer!

Pat McMahon, Chair

### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Here is your Spring 2010 Newsletter packed with all sorts of news, great articles, and information. We certainly had fun putting this all together and as you will notice, this newsletter is bigger and fatter than the last! It is amazing to me how much transpires on and around Half Moon Lake. Because of this, we try to limit our published content to those things having to do directly with the Lake with the understanding that all of the non- Half Moon events going on around us are well posted elsewhere.

Many thanks to Bill Igoe and family who after reading the Fall of 2009 issue, voluntarily wrote and sent in two articles to be published in this newsletter. We always welcome all of your input, articles, stories, and ideas! Thank you also for the many who gave us such great feedback on our Fall issue. We are thrilled that you liked it!

And finally as editor, I would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped in every way to get this issue out to all of you. This is truly a group effort and we are blessed to have so many who are so willing to help.

Enjoy, and have a GREAT summer on our beautiful lake!

■ Sarah Sawyer

## FYI...

**FYI and Safety: There are new stop signs at the corners of 120th and 190th Avenues on the East side of Half Moon Lake. This corner is now a 3-way stop. For everyone's safety, please remember to look for these and stop and look before proceeding at this very busy corner between Half Moon and Balsam Lakes.**

## THANK YOU!

## WHEN BEARS ARE too close FOR COMFORT

feeders, discontinue all feeding for at least 30 days. When you bring your bird feeders in, remember to clean up all spilled seed or suet below the feeding area.

### GARBAGE

Don't let garbage pike up and place garbage, especially food wastes, in cans with tight-fitting lids. Empty garbage cans regularly and occasionally don some rubber gloves, wear eye protection and wash down the cans with sudsy ammonia and water. Let the solution sit in contact a few minutes, then scrub the inside walls and bottom to minimize odors. Rinse and air dry the containers to make the trash cans less attractive to bears. Store garbage cans in a sturdy building until pick-up or disposal day.

If bears are raiding your garbage, consider using a commercially available bear-resistant container or 55-gallon drum with a locking-ring lid.

Don't discard cooking grease in your yard. Collect cooking fats in a glass or metal container with a sealable lid. Transfer to a plastic bag and seal tightly when ready to



**WHEN YOU GO OUT IN THE WOODS TONIGHT...  
Keep your distance - Do not approach a bear in the wild. If you encounter a bear, let it know that you are there. Slowly back away. Do not run or climb a tree to get away from a bear.**

dispose.

### GRILLS

Don't leave food cooking unattended. Burn off greasy residues and any remaining food. Scrub grease off grill racks, smokers and other outdoor cookers after each use.

### COMPOST PILES

Compost piles may attract bears. If you do compost, place the pile a safe distance from the house. Do not compost meat, fish or other pungent scraps in compost piles. Electric fences are an effective way to keep bears out of compost piles. Follow appropriate safety precautions.

### PETS

If feeding your pet outside, only feed enough

so all pet food will be completely consumed at one feeding and not left in the dish. Bring in any un-consumed pet food at night and store pet food in sealed containers in side a sturdy building. Do not leave bones or scented chew toys laying in your yard.

### VIEWING AND PHOTOGRAPHING WILDLIFE

Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephone lenses to get a closer look at bears. If a bear approaches, back away slowly to maintain a safe distance. Never approach a bear to get a closer look or a better picture. Never sneak up on or surprise a bear to move to a different location. Try to avoid direct eye contact with a bear; it may be interpreted as a threat. Stay away from cubs and dens.

### HIKING

Walk in groups, if possible. Always let someone at another location know where you will be hiking and when you expect to return. Avoid hiking at dusk and at night when it is easier to startle a bear. Keep children and pets close at all times. Keep your dog on a leash or leave it at home if you know you will be traveling through bear country. Make plenty of noise - talk, sing, clap, rustle leaves while hiking.

Make a little time to understand bears' habits. Take these preventative steps and you can enjoy seeing bears while lessening the likelihood of problems should you encounter bears near your home or on your travels.

Linda Olver is the assistant bear and deer ecologist in DNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management.

## TRUDY'S TIPS by Trudy Gores

### BLUEBERRY MUFFIN RECIPE

From The Muffin Lady

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/2 Cup margarine melted | 1/2 teaspoon salt         |
| 1 1/2 Cups of sugar      | 2 teaspoons baking soda   |
| 2 eggs                   | 2 Cups of flour           |
| 1/2 Cup milk             | 1 1/2 Cups of Blueberries |

Mix all ingredients by hand except Blueberries. Fold in Blueberries after mixing other ingredients. Transfer to muffin tins. Sprinkle top of muffins with sugar. Bake at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Makes 16 muffins. For Texas muffins increase baking time as needed.

## Helpful Hints

### FOR BAKED ON FOOD:

**Place a fresh dryer sheet in the bottom of the pan. Add warm water. Let set overnight. Then clean in the morning.**

**A mesh tea basket works great to sift powered sugar on baked goods.**

**Did you know only C&H Brown Sugar is true brown sugar? All other brown sugars are a blend of molasses and white sugar. So if your caramel corn, candles or caramel rolls are not quite what you expected, try C&H Brown Sugar.**



# Meet Your Neighbor

by Bill Igoe

## THE BILL IGOE FAMILY CABIN

I have been lucky enough to have inherited the family lake cabin. This cabin has been in the family since my parents purchased it in 1951.

The background for this purchase is a story of romance. My mother and father met each other at a summer resort on Balsam Lake in the summer of 1916. This resort catered to young singles. The women had separate cabins from the men and they all ate and danced at a central dining hall.

When my father retired 36 years later they decided it would be nice to buy a cabin on their favorite lake; Balsam Lake in Wisconsin. I remember helping them look for cabins on Balsam to no avail. Finally the real estate salesman said he had a place on an adjoining lake called Half Moon. The building was two years old, measured twenty by twenty, smelled of new wood inside and was thirty feet from the waters edge. It came complete with an outhouse, outside pump and no electricity. It was just a hook-up to Co-op Electric Company, get rid of scary gasoline stove and bring



in a refrigerator.

Wisely my dad started a log book in 1951 and recorded memorable events as they happened. Improvements were noted in the log and guests were requested to write a comment before departing. We have continued this legacy and today we are on our fourth log book of memories.

Every year the annual spring ritual is putting in the dock. In the beginning it was a painful process of pounding posts into the sandy bottom. Each year our dock design

improved and finally evolved into the present roll-in version. It is a family tradition for everyone to show up in April for the dock launching and spring cleaning. Some years we have had all twenty members of the family, and five dogs. It is great family get-together and many hands make the work fun. We repeat this process in the fall, taking the boats and dock out of the water.

These annual work groups bring the family together. We reminisce about the past summer and the summers before.

## Four Footed Friends

by Bill Igoe

### ABANDONED AT THE LAKE

I was a runaway from a family that didn't care about me. Being homeless was tough. I wanted to be friends with everyone I met but I still couldn't find a permanent home. One day I thought I had found a new home but this family took me to their lake cabin and just turned me loose. I was hungry, homeless and lonely. In my search for food and attention, I heard a large family of kids playing by their lake cabin. I went into the group wagging my tail and was welcomed by a lady who saw how hungry I was and fed me. This family was very friendly so I hung around them all day.

When it was bedtime all the lights went out but I was left outside. Then it started to rain. Luckily I found that the basement door was left open so I found a dry, cool place to sleep. The next morning the family was



surprised to see me dry, running, jumping and wagging my tail. That same lady fed me again. I liked her a lot and was sure she was the one who left the basement door open.

By afternoon all the families began to pack and drive away. I was afraid I would be homeless again. The last one to leave was a man named Mark. I took a chance, leaped into his truck and sat in the front seat. He looked at me and said, "Well, we

need to find your owner." He took me to several cabins and finally found the couple that brought me there. They said they had a pet and they took me to the lake to spare me a trip to the Rescue League and certain death. They hoped someone in the country would adopt me. Mark said, "I guess that someone is me." I was so happy, I wagged my tail and licked his hand.

Mark's lake place was my favorite. There was plenty of space to run, chase chipmunks, swim with all those kids and just hang out with his friendly family. There was a grandpa there and if I sat next to him at the dinner table I could mooch food from him. Each morning he and I would take a walk. I would push open his bedroom door with my paw, whine a little and he knew it was time for our morning walk. If he walked one mile, I ran three.

Now I am a senior citizen. My joints are stiff and achy so I lay around a lot dreaming of the good old days at the lake. I never bit anyone and bark only when I have setting important to say. I have made a lot of friends, some four legged and more two legged. It has been a good life.

## 2010 NEW BOATING LAWS

### There are two new state boating laws in effect this year:

#### ■ SLOW-NO-WAKE SPEED

Beginning with the 2010 boating season, it is illegal to operate a motorboat at greater than slow-no-wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline of all lakes (see p. 15 of the boating regulations). This new boating rule is designed to make lakes safer while protecting shorelines and improving water quality. The law prohibits boaters from operating their boats at speeds greater than slow-no-wake within 100 feet of lake shorelines. The law applies to all lakes, including the lake areas of flowages.

This change is in addition to current law which already prohibits boaters on lakes from operating at speeds greater than slow-no-wake within 100 feet of docks, rafts, piers and buoyed restricted areas. Personal watercraft (PWC) operators must also follow these laws in addition to speed restrictions that apply specifically to PWCs. PWC operators cannot operate at a speed greater than slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake. They also are required to cut back to slow-no-wake speed when passing within 100 feet of other boats, including other PWCs.

Read more at: [http://dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews\\_article\\_Lookup.asp?id=1417](http://dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews_article_Lookup.asp?id=1417)

#### ■ INVASIVE SPECIES LAW

Also new for 2010, it is now illegal to transport invasive species (see p. 14 of the boating regulations). While boaters and anglers have long been advised to clean off their boats before leaving the landing, a new law prohibits boats from leaving the launch "dirty." It is illegal for people to drive away from a boat landing with aquatic plants or animals attached to their boat, trailer or vehicle.

Read more at: [http://dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews\\_article\\_Lookup.asp?id=1436](http://dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews_article_Lookup.asp?id=1436)

#### ■ TAKE A BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION COURSE

Anyone born after 1988 is required to take a boater safety course to legally operate a boat. But boaters of all ages can learn rules and safe operating tips that just might save your life. And you can get certified in as little as three hours from the comfort of your own home. Learn more about boater safety courses offered by the DNR at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement/safety/boatsaf.htm>



## ANNUAL HERBICIDE NOTICE FOR POLK-BURNETT MEMBERS

Polk-Burnett will continue their herbicide program this summer of spraying herbicide on rights-of-way vegetation on Half Moon Lake lakeshore property. This spraying program will begin June 7, 2010 and continue until September 15, 2010. If you do not want to have your property sprayed or have any questions regarding this program, please contact, Rick Kosloski, rights-of-way manager at 800-421-0283.



## WHY ARE WATER LEVELS ON MY LAKE LOWER?

Low water levels are occurring in many places throughout the state and the reasons why vary according to the type of lake and circumstances. Lakes where water levels are controlled by a dam or other structure may not experience as drastic a drop as natural glacial kettle lakes common to northern Wisconsin and the central sands area. These lakes typically have water levels that are controlled by the elevation of the groundwater table, which in turn reflects the amount of rain water and snow melt that soaks into the ground and eventually reaches an aquifer -- minus the amount of groundwater discharging from the aquifer to lakes, rivers and wetlands and public and private water wells. Lower water tables occur if less water enters the aquifer or more is taken out, or both. A drought, changes in land use that allow less water to soak into ground, increases in pumping -- all can affect groundwater table levels, and in turn, lake levels. Often, it's a combination of all three: lean water years due to natural conditions like a drought are exacerbated by human actions; people withdraw more water, or pave over more land and destroy wetlands, decreasing the water reaching aquifers. Groundwater monitoring well records in some areas indicate that water levels today are nearing the low levels seen in the late 1950s to mid-1960, and which contrast to the high peaks seen in the early 1990s.

### What causes water levels to go up and down?

Lake water levels can fluctuate naturally due to rain and snowfall, which varies widely from season to season and year to year. While some lakes with streams running into them show the effect of rainfall almost immediately, others, such as seepage lakes, may not show the effect for months. Seepage lakes are landlocked water bodies that do not have a stream coming into or out of them but get most of their water from precipitation or runoff, supplemented by groundwater. Seepage lakes are the most common type of lakes in Wisconsin and many of them in northern Wisconsin are now experiencing lower water levels. Although changes in water levels may be perceived as a problem for property owners, it is natural for lakes to go up and down in cycles that are decades long.

### Are low water levels bad for lakes?

The short answer is no. In fact, periodic low water conditions can be beneficial for lake ecosystems. It consolidates sediments, allows new plants to colonize the lake bed and it provides habitat for rare plants and shorebirds. In fact, one of our rarest shoreline plants, Fasset's Locoweed, dependent upon periodic fluctuations of water levels to grow. This plant is only found in a handful of lakes on the planet (all in Wisconsin) and all of these lakes are subject to wide fluctuation in water levels.

When water levels return, this expansion of plants becomes habitat for fish and wildlife, remove nutrients from water, and can increase water clarity. However, human actions that cause water levels to drop farther than this natural variation, or prevent the lake from returning to normal conditions, may harm the lake and its inhabitants over the long-term.



### Is it OK to "clean-up" my beach or remove vegetation on the exposed lake bed during low water periods?

In general, it is best to avoid disturbing the exposed lake bed. Shorelines and shallow areas of lakes play a vital role in providing habitat for fish and wildlife and for protecting water quality. A diverse native plant community provides the best habitat and defends against invasive species getting established. Until water levels return to normal, it is important for shoreline owners to avoid inadvertently harming exposed lakeshore areas.

There are some activities which may be necessary to maintain access, control invasive species, and reduce nuisance accumulations of biological material. The following fact sheet on Beach Maintenance may help you <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/lakes/images/FassetLocoweed.JPG> or do these activities in a way that minimizes harm to exposed lakeshore areas. => Beach Maintenance.

Most activities conducted on the exposed lake bed including beach grooming and cutting or chemically treating plants are regulated by the DNR, but there are a few activities that don't require a permit. For example, some minor vegetation management (except for wild rice) and other activities done by hand do not require permits from the DNR. Please be careful to avoid cutting any threatened or endangered plant species, which are protected by law because they are located on the lakebed, which is public property.

The following activities require a permit: cutting an area larger than 30 feet wide, driving a motor vehicle on the lakebed, tilling, and chemically treating vegetation if the area is wet. The permits are designed to assure that the activity does not damage the lake or the sensitive exposed habitat. Visit the following website for more information about permits.

Information courtesy of the Wisconsin DNR, for more information please visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/lakes/commonquestions/>

# Half Moon Lake 4th of July Celebration – 2010

Sunday, July 4th • Boat Parade  
Meet in Breezy Bay  
at 1:00 p.m.  
Sunday night, July 4th

Fireworks at Dusk at the Public Beach!!  
Free Family Movie at Public Beach prior to Fireworks

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED  
TO OUR FIREWORKS FUND AS OF JUNE 1, 2010:

Harold & Steven Ameter  
Mary Beth & Eric Johnson  
Betty & Reynold Anderson  
Janice Kispert  
Pam & Denny Armstrong  
Jim Larson  
Sarah & Dave Balestri  
Sue & Tom Lennartson  
Suzy & Kent Bank  
Scott Lessard  
Pam & Jeff Belair  
Melissa & Joe Lonsky

Allison & Aaron Benike  
Loon Ladies  
Pat & John Blake  
Pat & Mike McMahon  
Linda & John Briegel  
Karen & Steve Melena  
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Karen & Warren Smallidge, Sr.  
Susan Grothe  
Donna Stelmazewski  
Half Moon Lake Rehabilitation District  
Santee Stenzel

Cheryl & Bob Horeck  
Jane Kotch Swanson  
Jean & Kent Hrbek  
Sheila & Don Waldoch  
Lara & Todd Huberty  
Katie & Bill Winn  
Bill Iggoe  
Kathy & John Ziegenfuss  
Millie & Bill Johnson  
Katy & Chad Johnson

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION, PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION TO:  
SUZY BANK  
1981 124TH ST. • MILLTOWN, WI 54858  
Please include name, address and amount





## Flora and Fauna FOUND ON AND AROUND HALF MOON LAKE

### TREES

Paper Birch, Red Oak, White Oak, Red Maple, Silver Maple, American Elm, White Pine, Red Fir, Balsam Fir, Basswood, European White Alder, Common Cottonwood, Big tooth Aspen, Black Ash, Spruce.

### BUSHES

Sumac, Blackberry, Blueberry, Gooseberry, Lilac, Dogwood, Black and Red Raspberry.

### FLOWERS

Blue Flag Iris, Large Leaved Blue Aster, Clover, Butterfly weed, Two-flowered Cynthia, Groundnut, Tall Meadowine, Hog Peanut, Marsh-marigold, Clintonia Lily, Trillium, Spotted Touch-me-not, Columbine, False Solomon's Seal, Wild Lily of the Valley, Wild Calla, Lance Leaved Coreopsis, Trumpet Honeysuckle, White Lettuce, Indian Pipe, Pinesap, Poison Ivy, Day Lily, Wild Rose, Turtlehead, Bladder, Campion, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Wintergreen, Orange Hawkweed, Ox-eye Daisy, Winter cress, Anemone, Violet, Bellwort, Ground Ivy.

### BIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Catbird, Black-billed Cuckoo, Least Fly-catcher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-backed three-toed Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Hummingbird, Phoebe, Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Redstart Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, purple Finch House Finch, Ruffed Grouse, Cardinal, Olive-backed Thrush, Flicker, Barn Swallow, Wren, Scarlet Tanager, Bluebird, Pine, Siskin, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Junco, Fox Sparrow, Kingbird, Robin, Blue Jay, Grackle, Crow, Wild Turkey, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Morning Dove, Great Crested Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrow, Cowbird, Chickadee.

### WATER BIRDS

Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, American Bittern, Common Loon, Grebe, mallard, Coot, Wood Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Hooded Merganser, Cormorant, Sandpiper, Canadian Goose.

### BIRDS OF PREY

Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Red-tiled hawk, Great Horned Owl, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Barn Owl.

### REPTILES

Snapping Turtle, Mud Turtle, Spotted Leopard Frog, Green Frogs, Brown Frog, Tree Frogs, Green Toad, Brown Toads, Garter Snake, Bull Snake. Water Snake, Wisconsin Rattle Snake.

### ANIMALS

Raccoon, Skunk, White Tailed Deer, Mink, Otter, Beaver, Woodchuck, Porcupine, Chipmunk, Red Squirrel, Grey Squirrel, Black Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Fox Squirrel, Timber Wolf, Bobcat, Red Fox, Black Bear, Rats, Mice, Vole, Coyote.

"environmental values, wildlife, public rights in navigable waters and public welfare are threatened by the deterioration of public lakes, that the protection and rehabilitation of the public inland lakes are in the best interest of the citizens of this state." Section 33.11 of the statute provides, "The primary goal of activity under this chapter shall be to improve or protect the quality of public inland lakes."

With the establishment of the Half Moon Lake District, the Lake Association has no longer functioned on Half Moon Lake as a separate organization. The Lake District, in effect, took over the functions of the Lake Association. Some current issues are bearing out the tensions that can arise in deciding which activities are more for a dues paying Association, and which activities are more for a tax supporting Lake District.

The transition from a dues paying membership club to the Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, supported by tax dollars, occurred in 1975 when landowners around the lake petitioned Polk County Board of Commissioners to authorize the establishment of the Lake District. A map of the District was drawn to include properties on or near the lake that would be benefitted.

Lake Districts were first authorized under Wisconsin Law in 1973. The legislative findings were that

## Be a Good Neighbor

by Sarah Sawyer



Many of us have dogs that we bring up to the lake that are part of our families or families of friends or relatives that come to visit. Just as we need to be responsible for the whereabouts and activities of our children, so are we also mandated by law to be responsible for the whereabouts and activities of our dogs. There has been a request made by the Township that we write something in this newsletter about problems with dogs. Each year the county receives many complaints about dogs barking incessantly and barking at night, dogs running loose, threatening people and other animals, ruining property, getting into garbage cans, etc. In fact dog complaints rank number 2 of all complaints received by the Sheriff. Last

summer one of our lake residents was chased by two big dogs and bitten badly enough to warrant a trip to the emergency room while riding her bike on County G. Others of us have had to refrain from walking or biking on Breezy Bay because of threatening and charging dogs. Some of us have had our leashed dogs attacked by lake resident's dogs as we have walked on the public roads around the lake. This ought not to be! A more chilling fact is that the county also receives reports of free roaming dogs being shot on agricultural property. It is perfectly legal for a farmer to shoot free roaming dogs that are in any way threatening livestock on his own property. The bottom line is you are responsible for your dogs and those of your visitors AT ALL TIMES! If you have an animal who is not friendly and trustworthy with people and other dogs, one who is prone to barking, or leaving your property, it is your responsibility to always keep that dog supervised or confined or on a leash. The county has a leash law for dogs off the owner's property and the fine for non-compliance is \$125 per occurrence plus \$14/day in boarding fees. Even dogs that are everyone's friend need to be under your control and constant supervision every time they are outside. Additionally all dogs are required by the county to be licensed. Half Moon Lake is not the rural wide-open spaces of bygone days and we need to share that fact with our guests as well. Please make it a priority to be the best, responsible, dog neighbor you can be and keep Fido at the cabin or with you at all times.

ON ANOTHER NOTE, some of you may have been surprised to learn about the 2007 Wisconsin law against bear baiting. in the article "When Bears are too Close For Comfort" printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Translated that means if you put birdseed into your feeder for the birds and a bear gets into the feeder, by law you are not permitted to put that feeder out again for a minimum of 30 days. If you do, you are breaking the law and are considered to be bear baiting. Bears will continue to return to where they have previously found food and if that is a birdfeeder in someone's yard, that is very dangerous to all. Many of us walk everyday and it is not uncommon especially in the mornings to come upon a hungry bear or two emptying a feeder in someone's yard (my experience last spring and the spring before). Hungry bears this close in proximity to people and pets is a bad accident just waiting to happen. We owe it to our friends and neighbors and ourselves to not encourage bears to come into our yards by feeding them.



### WEBSITE ADDRESS

For updates, pictures, and other great information, don't forget to visit our website at [www.halfmoonlake.net](http://www.halfmoonlake.net)  
If you would like to receive an electronic mailing of the LAKE CONNECTION newsletter, please forward your e-mail address to [swaldoch@waldoch.com](mailto:swaldoch@waldoch.com) to be added to list.



### LETTER FROM THE SHERIFF

## Tim Moore

Generally, the current crime trends in Polk County are property crimes of opportunity, i.e. all terrain vehicles, riding lawn mowers, sporting equipment etc. The scrap metal/recycling market has increased which has resulted in wire and metal thefts, copper wire being the most predominant.

Internet scams are still numerous, with lottery winners and numerous types of frauds being the majority of those. The Polk County Sheriff's Office lacks jurisdiction to investigate out side of its geographical boundaries. The majority of these types of scams/swindles originate in Canada or countries over seas and request money in advance or personal banking information.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office and Polk County Parks, Building and Solid Waste Department are offering a new service to local residents. A secure drop box has been added in the Justice Center lobby outside of the Sheriff's Office. This lock box is for unwanted, unused prescription medications that residents may have and are unsure of the proper disposal. The prescription bottles may be dropped off 24 hours a day in the secure container. A Deputy will remove them and log them into our evidence room. When a large supply is obtained, they will be transported to an approved facility for legal disposal. This removes potentially dangerous narcotics from children and persons they were not intended for and allows for proper disposal.

The best deterrent to any crime is good neighbors. If something does not look right, feel free to call our office anytime to report suspicious activity. You may choose to remain anonymous simply by making a request to do so.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer on your lake.

SHERIFF TIM MOORE



## The History Corner

by David Butler

### LAKE ORGANIZATIONS ON HALF MOON LAKE

Martha C. McMahon, in her "Memories of Half Moon Lake" relates that Ruth McMahon, not related, told about the activities of the Half Moon Lake Club that was formed in the 1940's to discuss mutual problems. When I first came to the lake in June of 1953, I heard stories about the Half Moon Lake Association. In "Memories" Martha states, "It is noted in the 1961 minutes that the Association dues were raised from two to three dollars." A water safety patrol was authorized that year.





**Editor's Note:** Kathryn Kienholz is our lake area's elected representative to the County Board of Supervisors. Here is her update on a couple of the major issues facing Polk County. Kathy will be available for questions at the Annual Meeting on July 17.

#### ■ ADMINISTRATOR

The new county administrator, Dana Frey, arrives May 27. Mr. Frey comes to us with a wealth of experience. He was the executive director of the Association of Minnesota Counties for a number of years and subsequently the county administrator in St. Louis County in Minnesota. He has spent the last five years in Bosnia-Herzegovina helping that country set up local units of government. The staff and elected officials look forward to having Mr. Frey's experience and expertise available.

#### ■ ZONING

During its last term, the county board approved a new comprehensive land use plan. As a result, the county, and in particular, the land information department, is undertaking a rewrite of all its various land use ordinances – Shoreland, Floodplain, Comprehensive Land Use, etc. – to consolidate and update them. That process has some room for public participation, although most of the participants are appointees of the various political subdivisions that were part of the comprehensive planning process. It is called the "Citizen Advisory Committee for Land Use Ordinances Rewrite" and they meet the last Wednesday of the month at the government center in Balsam Lake.

#### ■ HIGHWAY BUILDING

The highway and property committees of the county board have met jointly to discuss possible solutions to the problem of our outdated highway building in downtown Balsam Lake. They have formed a subcommittee to research possible land purchases. In addition, they engaged an engineering and architectural firm in Menomonie to explore placing a redesigned facility on the existing building; the study did not recommend this course of action because of space limitations and other factors.

## Water Clarity Report

by David Balestri

Since 1993, volunteers from Half Moon Lake have participated in The Wisconsin Citizen Lake Water Quality Monitoring program. The program is a collaborative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin, designed to measure and monitor water quality on lakes throughout the state. Volunteers on about 800 participating lakes take the measurements of water clarity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and chemicals (phosphorous and chlorophyll). The results are then synchronized with satellite imagery to predict the water quality of the other 14,000+ lakes in the state.

From 1993 through 2007, Sherm Gardner took and submitted the measurements for Half Moon Lake. In 2008, he passed the responsibility on to Dave Balestri and his daughters, Erin

and Jill. Once a month, on the weekend closest to when the satellite passes over our "band," they head to the "deep hole" and measure the water clarity (using a black and white "secchi" disk), take the temperature every ten feet, and take water samples to measure the chemicals. On a typical year, the water clarity (the depth at which we can still see the disk) varies from 14 to 17 feet. This past summer, due to the low temperatures and lack of rain, the water clarity was exceptionally good. We missed July, but the measurements for the other months were: May: 17 feet; June: 27 feet; August: 22 feet; and September: 19 feet. The June reading was by far the best since we started the program in 1999.

For more information on the program, and to access reports for Half Moon Lake, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/about.html>.

[www.halfmoonlake.net](http://www.halfmoonlake.net)

## Milltown Library

by Jan Munson *Library Volunteer and Antler Lake resident*

As a property owner, you can get a library card and use it at any public library in Polk County. Use it to check out books, DVDs & videos (for those rainy weekends,) magazines and much more. Use the library's computers (or use a wireless connection even without a library card!) Renew or order materials online too. Milltown Library also has a great summer reading program for kids, with special events

all summer long.

Milltown Public Library is having a book sale Saturday, June 26 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and Sunday, June 27 (12 p.m.-2 p.m.). Get some new titles for your cabin library. Or, if you want to clean out your bookshelves, Milltown Public Library is accepting donations anytime before June 20.

Check out Milltown Library's WiFi, DVD's, and June 26 & 27 Book Sale

## Loon Lines

by Kim Butler

Exciting News! The new loon nesting platform at the southwest end of Breezy Bay is being used by a pair of loons, and there appears to be a nest. If there are eggs, they will take a month to hatch, so keep your fingers crossed, and maybe we'll see chicks by late June to mid-July. Fewer than half the North Central Wisconsin Loon pairs produce chicks annually, and the eggs and chicks are favorite snacks of eagles, raccoons and snapping turtles, so we hope the platform will increase the odds of any Half Moon loon babies reaching maturity.

As tempting as it is to peak at the nest, please remember to keep 200 feet away from loon nests and loons with young chicks. Loons will abandon a nest if people come too close, and boat wakes can wash away eggs or drown young chicks.

My name is Kim Butler, and I have taken over as "Loon Ranger" from Martha McMahon, who put in many dedicated years as our loon monitor and got Half Moon Lake involved in the Upper Midwest loon monitoring program. Please let me know of any unusual loon activity, especially nesting and chicks, by emailing me at [kimb@visi.com](mailto:kimb@visi.com) or calling 715-553-0853. We appreciate photos of our loons for the newsletter too.

The ice was out early April 1, and loons were sighted on Half Moon Lake within a day. In past years, we often saw a loon pair off our dock on the north end of Breezy Bay Road, but this year there is just a solitary loon. It is hard to tell the difference between male and female loons - size seems to be the main indicator, but even that is a subtle distinction. Unlike swans and geese, loons do not mate for life. They are loyal to a lake or nesting site, and if their partner survives migration, and isn't pushed off the lake by a stronger loon, they may mate again with the same loon.

A proposal to ban lead fishing tackle (sinkers and jigs) is moving slowly through the state DNR, and could become law in 2012. Loons, eagles, and other water birds can be fatally poisoned from accidentally eating a single piece of lead. I may do a collection of old lead tackle (or maybe even an exchange) if we do an upcoming dumpster day, since it is a hazardous waste, and shouldn't be thrown in the garbage.

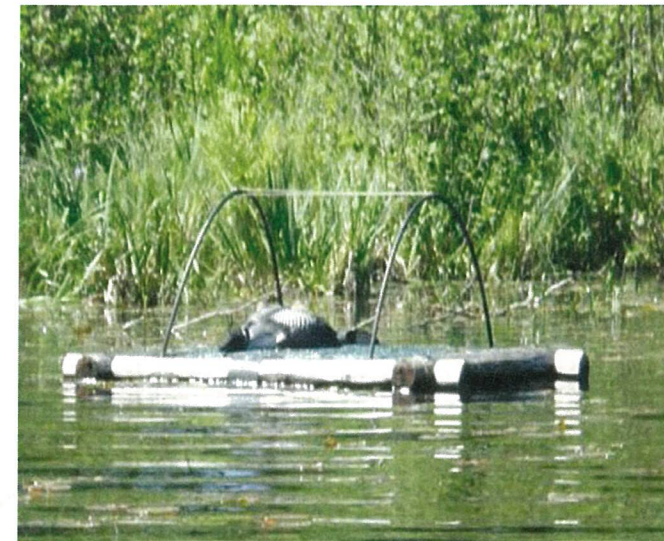
I am working on a Small Group event about loons the weekend of August 7/8. We'll have a speaker from the DNR or another loon group, listen to loon calls, and could share our loon photos and sightings.

If you would like to hear the 4 different loon calls and find out what they mean, check out this website: [northland.edu/loonwatch](http://northland.edu/loonwatch)

## FISH STOCKING

Our Lake District Board (not the DNR) privately paid for and stocked Walleye in the fall of 2009. 1,247 Walleyes ranging in sizes between 4" and 12" inches were placed into Half Moon Lake on October 16, 2009. The stocking was coordinated by Stan and Amy Murzyn. They obtained permits through the DNR and purchased the fish from Stony Hill Fish farms.

Feel free to contact Stan at [stasui@hotmail.com](mailto:stasui@hotmail.com) with any questions or comments regarding the fish stocking. We are unsure (because of budgeting) if we will be doing any stocking in 2010.



A loon nesting on the platform made last year

Taken 5/31/10 by Kate McMahon-Campbell

**HALF MOON LAKE  
PROTECTION &  
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**SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2010  
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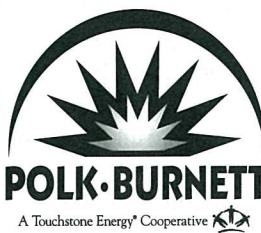
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