



NOVEMBER 2010
Volume 1 • Issue 3

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



Fourth Grader Sarah Miller enjoys cataloging Half Moon Lake's weeds and is helping to keep our lake clean and healthy — by Kim Butler

We've all heard the expression "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." A Half Moon Lake version of this adage might go something like, "A new Weed Ranger doesn't fall far from the rake"

This is truly the case of 9 year old Sarah Miller, who's already following in the footsteps of her dad, Rick Miller, a dedicated Half Moon Lake "Weed Ranger" since the program began in 2009 as part of the "Clean Boats/Clean Water" initiative. Approximately 6 lake residents volunteer to sample weeds from 5 locations around the lake several times each summer month. Sarah is probably the youngest "Weed Ranger". She and her parents Rick and Pam Miller have a cabin on Oscar Lane, and Sarah is the third generation of her family to enjoy summers on Half Moon.

This past summer, Sarah began accompanying her dad on all his weed collection trips on the lake. She showed an interest in the weed gathering, and began her own collection of lake weeds. She added, "I just thought it was fun." Sarah's elementary school in Inver Grove Heights, MN has an annual Project Fair each year, and she and her parents realized that Sarah's interest in lake weeds would make an excellent project. And so,

Sarah's Half Moon Lake Weed Scrapbook began.

Sarah explained that she has 25 weeds in her book so far, and fortunately she has no bad weeds. The process is pretty easy according to Sarah, "You get a rake and catch weeds." She and her dad collect weeds from the lake early in the morning when the lake is quiet, sometimes with the help of neighbor Brian Belanger. Sarah then puts them in a cooler to keep them fresh till they get home. Then Sarah rinses off the weeds and dries and presses them between pieces of scrap granite. Once dry, the weeds are laminated and go into her scrapbook.

Her dad helps her identify them but Sarah is conversant about lake weeds herself, noting that "Water Celery looks like long grass and grows to about 6'." She thinks collecting weeds "is fun, and keeps the lake clean and healthy."

She explained that the bad weeds they don't want to find are Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pond Weed. According to Sarah, bad weeds like these "make it not as much fun to play in the water and it costs a lot of money to get rid of them." She's right. These 2 weeds are particularly invasive, non-native species which can clog lakes and lower property values an average of 13%.

Lake Minnetonka and the Minneapolis lakes in Minnesota have been particularly hard hit by Eurasian Water Milfoil. Closer to home, Bone, Balsam, and Deer Lakes all have evidence of Curly Leaf Pond Weed growth, which is costly to control and impossible to eradicate according to CB/CW Committee Chair Dan Leh. He also noted that some other county lakes are finding Eurasian Milfoil as well. Sarah knows that if she and her dad find either of these 2 weeds, they should contact Dan and Jeremy Williamson at the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department.

When asked what else she likes about collecting weeds, Sarah noted "It's fun, and it's quality family time. And you get to meet new people."

In closing, Sarah stressed, "We need more Weed Rangers."

If you would like to be a volunteer Half Moon Lake Weed Ranger, please email Dan Leh at halfmoonlake@hotmail.com. Training is available in May 2011, and volunteers are provided with 2 weed identification books, a video, and a hat. Dan stressed that being a Weed Ranger is not a time consuming commitment, "It's something you can do as you boat — you're on the water anyway." Sampling weeds takes about half an hour a few times a month. The other part of the CL/CW initiative involves monitoring boats and educating boaters entering Half Moon Lake at the Public Beach Boat Landing.

Look for Sarah's scrapbook on the halfmoonlake.net website in the near future.



Letter from the Chairman

by PAT MCMAHON

November 7, 2010 - As I write my letter to you - I look at a calm lake, beautifully reflecting the opposite shore. It is a sunny day, and the temperature is 68°. I won't get too excited - 6" of snow is predicted on Saturday. This is Autumn on Half Moon Lake.

2010 has been a great year for all of us on the board. We welcome two new board members: Kim Butler and Diane Erickson. Their bios appear in this issue, as do all committee reports.

Our summer started with the installation of the I-Lids camera and the hiring of our week-end launch inspector. We were amazed by the amount of boat traffic on our lake. This has been a huge success - and we are the first and only lake in this area to have this technology. I can also report that Half Moon Lake is still free of Aquatic Invasive Species. Again - the only lake in the area. Thanks goes to Dan Leh and his Weed Rangers. Also, thanks to you as our members, for giving such overwhelming support for this fight. Please consider joining these dedicated volunteers in 2011.

4th of July on Half Moon Lake was - EXPLOSIVE! Over 100 attended our first family movie night. I received a count of 132 boats for our fireworks display - and the boat parade was the biggest in recent years. Thanks to Harlan Hegdal and Suzy Bank for organizing this wonderful celebration. Check out the Calendar of Events in this issue for dates and times for next year. Sue Schneider and Suzy Bank have worked hard to gather advertisers for our newsletter. All ad revenue will go in our 4th of July fund. It is our goal to make this celebration self-funded in one year. In order to succeed - we still need your help. Donation cards are included in this issue - and all participants will be listed and thanked in the June newsletter. If you would like to place an ad in the next issue - contact Sue Schneider at halfmoonhealth@gmail.com. or Suzy Bank at suzybank@msn.com. for information.

The 2010 annual meeting was well attended. Your support and kind words were greatly appreciated by all of us on the board. Our new format for registration went

well, as did the voting cards. A reminder of "Who Can Vote" appears in this issue. I encourage all Half Moon Lake members to attend next year's meeting:

Saturday July 16, 2011 at the public beach.
Registration 9:00 - 9:45
Meeting 10:00 - 12:00
Picnic 12:00

We have a new Town Crier for our lake. Jim Smith has agreed to compile a list of HML e-mails. He will routinely send-out bits of lake news as it happens. Many gave us e-mail addresses at the annual meeting. The problem is - some were very hard to read. If you don't receive an e-mail under the heading "Half Moon Lake Town Crier" soon, notify Jim at jimsmt@lakeland.

Communication is a top priority with your board. With the newsletters, Rick Miller's website: www.halfmoonlake.net, and now the Town Crier, we hope to keep all of you better informed on lake business.

We are lucky to have many "worker bees" on the lake. Thank you's to:

Dan Hale - Dan donated his time and talents to organize the I-Lids installation at the beach.

Mike McMahon - Mike is compiling all data received from our camera and inspector. This is for our grant.

Bob and Jeanne Cutshall - for putting in and taking out the buoys on what my family calls "Disaster Bay". We need your help in the next year. Please consider being on a lake committee, board member, or weed ranger in 2011.

I'm sorry to report that Kent Bank died in a hunting accident on October 16th. Kent was a native to the Milltown area, and lived on Half Moon Lake for 38 years. He served on many lake committees, and acted as lake district chairman in the early 1990's. Kent will be missed by all on Half Moon Lake.

Thanks for reading, and have a great Holiday Season.

Pat McMahon
Half Moon Lake District Chairman

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

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Kathryn Kienholz, County Representative
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Biographies of New Commissioners

DIANE ERICKSON

My husband Chuck and I bought our cabin on Half Moon Lake in May 2005, where our favorite "room" is the screen porch overlooking the lake at sunset. We use our cabin year round, and enjoy fishing and ice fishing whenever we can!

Chuck is a pharmacist and I am a gift buyer and pharmacy technician in Arden Hills, MN. We have 3 daughters, 1 son-in-law, and a beautiful new granddaughter!

KIM BUTLER

My husband David and I built our house 9 years ago, and bought our cabin about 6 years ago. I have 2 children: Sam is in 5th grade at Unity Elementary and Margaret is in 4th grade. We moved up from Minneapolis where I was a TV Producer for KTCA/PBS, The Discovery Channel, and Channel 23, among others. My husband David runs Greatmats.com, an internet-based specialty flooring company in Milltown. In addition to managing a busy family, I run our local soccer program, and am a troop leader and treasurer for Unity Girl Scouts. I am also on several school committees and volunteer in the classroom and as a driver for Interfaith Caregivers. David's family has several cabins on the lake, and my mom lives down the street from Bone Lake. Even though our cabin is just a mile away from our home, it feels like a world apart, and one of my favorite places on earth is sitting on my screen porch, with a good book, watching the lake and the loons.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Half Moon Lake Calendar of Events 2011

Saturday May 21, 2011 9:00a.m.
Board Meeting Milltown Fire Hall
Saturday June 25, 2011 9:00a.m.
Board Meeting Milltown Fire Hall

4TH OF JULY EVENTS

Saturday July 2, 2011 dusk at public beach
Family Movie and 4th of July Fireworks Display
Monday July 4, 2011 1:00
4th of July Boat Parade on Half Moon Lake

Saturday July 16, 2011 9:00-9:45 Registration
10:00 Half Moon Lake Protection and
Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting
Public Beach



Editor's Column

by Sarah Sawyer
Newsletter Editor

What a beautiful summer and fall that we have had. It has been eventful for sure. In addition to the ever-increasing list of summer activities and fun events that we all enjoy, Half Moon experienced three very major storms. And just yesterday, our first snow storm which also brought down many more limbs and branches. Most everyone had some kind of property damage, loss of power, etc. from at least one or two of them. In this issue, Jim Smith has shared some of the photos that he took on the day of the September 21st storm. We are fortunate that there are no personal injuries as a result of any of these storms. Hopefully we on Half Moon are now ahead of our quota for really bad storms for a couple of years to come at least!

We are sad to report the recent deaths of three long-time Half Moon residents in October of this year. Kent Bank, husband of Suzy Bank, was killed in a hunting accident on October 16, 2010. Linda Johnson Sigveland, sister of Sarah Sawyer who grew up on Half Moon as a child and young adult, lost a long battle with cancer and passed away October 17, 2010. And, lastly, Richard Kaiser who lived on the lake for 52 years passed away on October 9, 2010. We will miss them all and extend our sympathies to all of these families. Please notice that we do have a new obituary column, and if you have lost a loved one who has lived on Half Moon Lake, we ask that you please get this information to me so that we can remember them and their families in our newsletter.

Half Moon Lake fisherman will be excited to read the fishing report with news of the DNR's walleye fish stocking in 2011. We are excited that Half Moon Lake has been chosen to be a part of that study.

Our Spring 2011 newsletter will be mailed out to you at the end of June 2011. As always, we are seeking your input, ideas, and any suitable articles that you would like to see printed, etc. Please submit any entries to me, Sarah Sawyer, at sarahwyls@hotmail.com or by fax: 715-825-1128 or by mail: 1933 Oscar Lane, Balsam Lake, WI 54810 by the cut off date of June 11, 2011.

Lastly, I wish you all a wonderful winter wherever you might be. Half Moon is a beautiful jewel in the wintertime as well and it is a privilege to be able to watch the seasons change with the many new experiences that those changes bring.

Who Can Vote

At any annual meeting of the Lake District and/or special meetings of the Lake District where voting will take place, voter registration is required. The Lake District gets its registration list from the Polk County Treasurer, who gets this from the Real Estate Tax Rolls. In some cases, the county treasurer has only one name listed as the owner of the real estate, even though in reality, more than one person, usually the spouse of the listed owner, also owns the real estate.

This creates a problem at registration time, since property owners may have up to two votes if the property is listed in two names. If the property is in a trust, then it would be listed as: John and Mary Doe Family Trust, or some similar wording.

A person or persons who own more than one piece of property are entitled to no more than one vote. Renters and lessees must bring proof of their eligibility to the registration. There are no absentee ballots or proxies.

Please contact the Polk County Treasurer if you have any questions.



Storm of 2010

September 21, 2010 storm damage on Half Moon Lake - photos courtesy of Jim Smith.



CLEAN BOATS/ CLEAN WATERS!

by Dan Leh
Chairman, Clean Boats/Clean Waters

CLEAN BOATS

The clean boats program was launched in June 2010! We hired Josh Hattan to inspect and educate boaters visiting during the weekends of June, July and August. Josh documented and asked boaters several questions regarding the Aquatic Invasive Species Law. He spoke with 565 boaters and observed 45 boats with weeds present, either entering or leaving the water. He suggested removal of plants and assisted with the removal if necessary. Josh became the Ambassador of the Lake each weekend and enjoyed meeting all of the lake visitors. He educated on the importance of keeping the lake free of Aquatic Invasive Species. Aiding Josh's efforts was the installation of the I-Lids camera. The camera captured all boat launches 24 hours a day and was an educational tool in itself. Many a boater was viewed stopping and removing weeds off their trailers. One interesting fact revealed by the camera was the amount of boats entering the lake each day. On a typical weekday 15-20 boats entered the water. On the weekends and holidays that number could reach 45-50. Boats were launched late into the evening and many were leaving the water between 2:00am - 4:00am. The camera made the local newspaper as the first boat launch camera in Polk County. We have made contact with the local DNR and they have agreed to contact boaters who launch weeds into the lake. We are looking forward to our second year of monitoring and working with the camera. We look forward to seeing you smile as you launch your boat this spring to start the 2011 boating season.

CLEAN WATERS

I am pleased to report that the summer of 2010 found no Aquatic Invasive Species in our lake. The Half Moon Lake Weed Rangers spent many volunteer hours identifying the aquatic vegetation that is native to Half Moon Lake. Our efforts to monitor the two boat landings and the river inlet/outlet found only good aquatic weeds. We will be conducting a Weed Ranger training session in May to train all the new volunteers that identified themselves at the July District meeting. If you would like to volunteer as a Weed Ranger please email me at halfmoonlake@hotmail.com.

Thank you again for your support of the Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program. Please send me any suggestions or advice that could assist in our efforts. We will be attending the April 2011 Wisconsin Lakes Association convention in Green Bay and will report back all the combined knowledge from all Lake Districts in Wisconsin.





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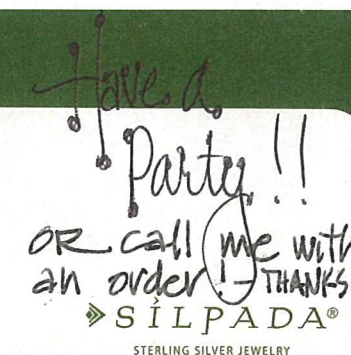
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Fishing News

by Diane Erickson

Water temperature: 64 degrees
 Air temperature: 81 degrees
 Number of loons spotted on the lake: 4
 Beautiful, warm, sunny day (the second weekend of October) enjoyed on the lake: Priceless!

For those of us who were able to be up at Half Moon Lake the weekend of October 9th and 10th, we had the most spectacular fall weekend - it was like late August, not fall! Who would have thought that the water temperature would RISE from late September to early October? We even saw someone swimming in the lake on Saturday!

The 4 young loons were very busy fishing to fill up for their journey south. Many fishermen (and women) also enjoyed fishing on the lake that weekend. While we only had moderate success on Saturday, we still enjoyed the beauty of the day - pretty hard to beat!

In September, a few of the lake's avid fisherman got together to discuss

upcoming events. The first topic, lake stocking, brought us the news that the fishery that we had signed up with to get walleye fingerlings did not have a sufficient harvest this year, so we will not be getting any for this year. For next year, we will check into other fisheries in case this happens again.

UPDATE: Good news from the DNR! The DNR will hopefully be stocking about 5790 large fingerling walleye in 2011 (providing that many are available). The DNR has asked for them and Half Moon Lake is a priority for them at this time. Half Moon Lake was also chosen as a research lake as part of a larger DNR effort to try and figure out what is causing the decline of the local walleye populations on local lakes. As part of that effort, research lakes will receive large fingerling walleye from DNR hatcheries every other year.

We also discussed items we would like to see for next year, such as a fishing clinic, pursuing a fee for fishing tournaments, and we would also like to



encourage everyone to dispose of all lead sinkers. We will keep you informed as we progress with these items.

One final note as we say farewell to boating on the lake and move towards ice fishing season - please be sure to remove all trash from around your fish houses, and encourage other ice fishermen/women to do the same. Otherwise, trash left behind only ends up in the lake when the ice melts!



The History Corner

by David Butler

We all mourn the loss of Kent Bank, a one of a kind on Half Moon Lake. I met Kent soon after we bought our lake cabin in 1980. He served on the Lake District Board and was bothered when people said the lake was deteriorating. He initiated the Barr Engineering Study in 1991 that concluded in its 1994 report with a finding that the quality of the water in the lake had remained constant. When he decided in 1992 to retire as chair of the board, he asked me to serve on the board. He urged me to continue the work he had started to have the Board adopt a long range plan for the lake. At my first meeting of the board to elect officers I nominated Phil Siegle to serve as chair. Phil responded with, "Well no, Kent said you had agreed to serve as chair", so I did and I served for nine years.

Kent's grandfather, Mads Bank, who lived in Milltown at the time, was the first developer to lay out lots for lake cabins on

Half Moon Lake. In 1920 he, along with Charles Johnson, platted the area called Pine View Beach on the north end of the lake, west of County Road G containing 18 lots. In 1923 he platted the area called Half Moon Beach, containing 14 lots, extending north and south along the east shore of the lake to the north end of what is now called Oscar Lane.

At the hearing in 1926, before the Railroad Commission of Wisconsin, on a petition to build a dam on Half Moon Lake, Mads Bank testified as follows:

Q. MR. BANK, TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SITUATION.

A. Well, I ought to know a little, I have been here for thirty-four or thirty-five years now. I have known Half Moon Lake for thirty years, I lived up there ten years, and I know a little about the water.years before I know I been there at the outlet, went out fishing.

I fished there as much as anybody around, I do know the time I lived there the lake would vary not over 2 1/2 feet from the spring to the dry times of summer.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THAT OUTLET HAS BEEN LOWERED?

A. I don't know. In behalf of the Polk Electric Light Company we are interested, are entitled to the flowage of Balsam Lake, that is our point. I am not in favor of lowering Half Moon Lake from the standard or raising it, leave it standard, as it was in the old days. I have nothing against it. We will get rain from now on for a month or two to fill up the reservoir - it will run down and raise us in Balsam Lake, each inch on Half Moon Lake gives us 78 hours' run, so that there is quite an item for us to get the water.

The yet to be researched question is: who built the first earthen dam that raised the lake level three feet and why did they do it and when did they do it? It must have been sometime after 1854 and before 1900.

Obituaries



RICHARD KAISER

Born July 24, 1924, and died on October 9, 2010.
 Richard and his wife, Lucy have lived on Half Moon Lake for 52 years. Richard is survived by his wife, Lucy - 5 children, Nancy, Richard, Robert, Mary, and Jennifer - 14 Grandchildren - and 3 Great-Grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to:

Lucy Kaiser
 1315 County Rd G. • Milltown, WI. 54858

KENT M. BANK

Born March 16, 1942 and died on October 16, 2010.
 Kent lived on Half Moon Lake for 38 years. Kent is survived by his wife, Suzy - 3 children, Chris, Katy, and Adam - and 4 Grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to:

The Bank Family
 1981 124th • Milltown, WI 54858

LINDA SIQVELAND

Born September 18, 1944 and died on October 17, 2010.
 Linda grew up on the lake and spent her childhood summers on Half Moon with her parents Al and Alice Johnson and sister Sarah Sawyer and brother Ross Johnson. She is survived by both her siblings plus her three children, Amy, Andrew, and Ann Siqveland.

Cards may be sent to her children and siblings in care of:

Sarah Sawyer
 1933 Oscar Lane • Balsam Lake, WI 54810

If you would like your friends on Half Moon Lake notified of a family death, please contact Sarah Sawyer. Notification will appear in both fall and summer newsletters.

15 WAYS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

1. Pick up pet waste from your yard
2. Use only phosphorous-free fertilizer
3. Know the rules and permits required before you build, dig, or clear vegetation in shoreland areas.
4. Restore and maintain your shore with a thirty-five-foot vegetative buffer
5. Learn the value of native aquatic plants and keep them in place
6. Keep roadside ditches clear of debris, grass clippings and leaves
7. Prevent sediments from reaching waterways
8. Control storm runoff by installing rain barrels, rain gardens, or splash blocks
9. Respect slow and no-wake zones when boating
10. Inspect and maintain your septic system regularly
11. Fire pit ashes contain phosphorous: prevent them from reaching the water
12. Remind visitors of water use and recreation regulations
13. Inform new neighbors of water quality issues
14. Be a good shoreland steward
15. Get involved!

ONE REASON WHY



Polk County Association of Lakes and River with the Polk County Land and Resources Dept. of Wisconsin Association of Lakes



NEW SHERIFF

takes office in January

Pete Johnson wants to improve communication and customer service

By Kim Butler

Laketown resident Pete Johnson won the November 2010 election for Polk County Sheriff, and will be sworn in this coming January. Current Sheriff Tim Moore opted not to run again. Johnson is currently an Investigator with the Polk County Sheriff's Department, and Moore has already begun including him in meetings to get up to speed on the budget and personnel issues. Johnson's worked for the department since 1999. Before that, he held law enforcement positions in Burnett County and Tomah, WI. He's a native of Trade Lake, and graduated from Grantsburg High School. He has a B.A. in Criminal Justice Administration, and lives with his wife and 3 high school aged daughters.



"We need to treat people right...we work for the county"

When Johnson takes office in 2011, he will head Polk County's largest department, with some 76 employees and a budget exceeding \$6 million dollars. He noted that the single biggest expense was personnel, including wages, benefits, and pensions. The Sheriff doesn't decide these expenses; rather the County Board is responsible for negotiating contracts and wage plans with the various unions. Johnson sees the possibility of future cuts, but feels the department doesn't have a lot of "extra" to cut.

One of Johnson's immediate goals, in addition to ensuring a smooth transition, is to step up the customer service aspect of the county's law enforcement. "We need to treat people right...we work for the county" he explained, adding that a citizen needs to be treated properly whether or not they've done something wrong. Johnson is considering appointing

a liaison officer for each township. He noted that a deputy currently resides in almost every township, and he believes this would be a way for residents to bring their concerns to someone they know. The officer might attend township meetings, and would certainly stay in contact with the town chair and other board members. Citizens can always get their concern addressed by calling the Sheriff or Sheriff's Department, but might feel more comfortable bouncing ideas or concerns off an officer they knew.

Johnson, like Sheriff Moore, recommends keeping an eye out for your lake neighbors and reporting any unusual or suspicious behavior to his department.

To contact Pete Johnson, you can find him on Facebook (Elect Pete Johnson Polk County Sheriff 2010) or by email johnson.peter.m@gmail.com

WEBSITE ADDRESS

For updates, pictures, and other great information, don't forget to visit our website at

www.halfmoonlake.net

County News

by Kathryn Kienholz, Supervisor, District 6, Polk County, Wisconsin

The annual budget cycle for the county is almost finished, with the public hearing on the 2011 budget on Tuesday, November 9, at the government center in Balsam Lake. According to the proposed budget published at the Polk County website (<http://www.co.polk.wi.us>) and click on "Budget/Financial Reports" in the first column) the total levy increased by slightly less than \$380 thousand over 2010, or roughly 1.8%. Having such a small increase is a huge achievement, given the constantly rising fixed costs to which the county is subject, and it is entirely attributable to Dana Frey, our new county administrator and who assumed that position June 7. His vast knowledge and many years of experience are a tremendous asset to Polk County. In the past few years the finance committee, on which I sit, has struggled to limit the levy increase to 3% before debt service and Act 150 payments. A total increase of only 1.8% is remarkable, particularly since he did it without cutting any programs.

The county board passed a new non-smoking ordinance at its October meeting that streamlines the process to enforce the state's smoking ban that went into effect in July, plus it allows the bulk of any fines levied to be retained by the county.

Township Update

by Harlen Hegdal

As town Chair for Milltown I am happy to report that we are in good shape both financially and equipment wise. We are having our budget meeting Monday the 8th of November and I do not anticipate any big changes in our budget or mill rate. Due to finances some of our neighboring Townships have stopped tarring or rebuilding roads but we have been able to tar at least 2-3 miles of our 64 miles of roads each year.

We are trying to get funding to rebuild the fishing dock at the beach. We did remove the swim raft because of the vandalism. My phone is 715-205-7829 so please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.



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by Trudi Gores

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- 1/2-can (6oz) of Beer

From
The Muffin
Lady

Mix well and add 2 cups of shredded cheese.
Serve with small pretzels

Helpful Hints

#1 Rub a fresh caught fish with vinegar. The fish will scale easier and the vinegar will help stop the fishy odor on your hands.

#2 Two Tablespoons of vinegar added to cooking pot when frying or boiling fish will decrease the fishy smell and taste. It will also keep the meat soft.

BE A GOOD LAKE STEWARD!

With snow and winter activities almost upon us, please avoid littering while ice fishing, snowmobiling, skating, skiing or just walking on the lake. Remember to keep Half Moon beautiful by picking up after yourself in the winter months as well as in the summer.

News from Half Moon Lake Conservancy

by David Butler

The current focus of the Conservancy is on Tamarack Bay, one of the major parts of the watershed area of Half Moon Lake. Following the gift to the Conservancy from Mark Rostvold of 31 acres of wetland in Tamarack Bay, the Conservancy is working with the Polk County Parks and Forestry Dept. and Unity School on a plan to inventory the area and determine the feasibility of having the area set aside as a Nature Reserve. Brian Collins, the biology instructor at Unity, is helping put together a plan to involve his students in the study.

The Conservancy Board expresses its appreciation to Richard Kaiser and family for their efforts in preserving the integrity of Harder Creek over the years as it flows through their property on the north side of Half Moon Lake. Harder Creek is another major area in the Half Moon Lake watershed. Richard died earlier this year.





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