

JUNE 2011
Volume 3 • Issue 1

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



4TH OF JULY ON HALF MOON LAKE

**SATURDAY, JULY 2ND
DUSK AT THE BEACH**

**FAMILY MOVIE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY
PRESENTED BY THE MILLTOWN LIBRARY AND THE
HALF MOON LAKE DISTRICT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MILLTOWN TOWNSHIP AND VILLIAGE**

**MONDAY, JULY 4TH 1:00
HALF MOON LAKE BOAT PARADE**

**** pick up free biodegradable balloons at the beach -
starting July 2nd.**



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL HALF MOON
LAKE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR 4TH OF JULY FUND**



Letter from the Chairman

by PAT MCMAHON

Hello Again Friends. The Longest Winter Ever is Over! "Great things come to he who waits." If this is true, we will have the best summer ever. We are ready!

The four-year nutrient study of Half Moon is complete. A short report appears in the newsletter. For some reason Half Moon is low on nutrients. Because of this - all run-off has a tremendous affect on lake quality. We should all be aware to use non-phosphorus fertilizers on our lawns. We are finding that ANY runoff contributes to this problem. Steve Schieffer, from Ecological Integrity Services LLC., has been conducting this study. The board will host an informational meeting - detailing the results on Saturday, August 13th., at 9:00 at the Milltown Fire Hall. Please come to hear more about the future of your lake - and what each of us can do to help. One answer is shoreline protection. In a sense, we are all 'waterfront landowners' because we all live in a watershed. Even that storm drain at the end of the driveway or street eventually leads to a waterway. Storm water flowing over roads, lawns, and yards picks up dirt, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, toxic heavy metals pet waste and other pollutants that do not belong in our lakes and rivers. Whether you own property on a large lake or a small stream, the water and shore lands are altered by what happens on your home turf. When natural shore lands are replaced, an important filtering system is lost, allowing polluted runoff to flow directly into the lake or stream. You will be hearing a lot about shoreline buffer plants and how the work.

Because buffer plants are becoming so important - a special seminar has been arranged for all Half Moon Lake

Members - on Monday, August 1st, at 1:00. Dean Jaulhaber, owner of Wood River Garden Store near Grantsburg, will instruct us on buffer plantings and provide a nice discounted price on all plants. Please sign-up at the annual meeting or call 715-825-2148 to reserve a spot.

July 4th is coming, and we are ready. Check the calendar for times and places. Thanks to Harlan Hegdal and the Milltown Township for partnering in this evening. A huge thank you Half Moon Lake members and advertisers who donated to our Fireworks Fund. If you did not attend last year's movie night - it was a blast. The Milltown Library will again provide our movie, with the fireworks display to follow. All takes place at the beach.

The board has purchased biodegradable water balloons for the boat parade. Please use these. Josh, our beach inspector, will distribute these to all lake members starting the week-end of July 2nd. One package per household.

The Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting for 2011 is Saturday, July 16th. at the beach. This year we begin registration at 9:00 am. Bring your own coffee, we will supply donuts - and visit our vendor booths, the Loon Lady Clothing, and meet your neighbors. The meeting will begin at 10:00, with a family picnic at noon. Proper meeting notification appears in this newsletter.

Thanks for Reading,

Pat McMahon, Chair of Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER 2011

Saturday, June 25th • 9:00am
Board Meeting Milltown Fire Hall

Saturday, July 2nd
Family Movie followed by Fireworks Display
Dusk at Pubic Beach

Monday, July 4th • 1:00pm
4th of July Boat Parade on Half Moon Lake

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
ALL ACTIVITIES HELD AT PUBLIC BEACH

Saturday, July 16th
9:00 Registration
10:00 Annual Meeting
12:00 Family Picnic

Monday, August 1st • 1:00
Buffer Plants Seminar and Sale
Wood River Garden Store
12099 State Hwy, Grantsburg
** to car pool, meet at The Wren in Luck at 12:30

Saturday, August 13th. • 9:00
Nutrient Study Results Milltown Fire Hall



Editor's Column

by Sarah Sawyer
Newsletter Editor

Well spring FINALLY arrived this year. Quite a change after the early spring weather that we had in March of 2010. Our winter was a snowy one but beautiful as well. One of the winter highlights for me was seeing a beautiful silver fox one night in his shimmering, and magnificent winter coat majestically standing right outside my front window. And now the spring rains. My garden and trees are loving it. The night before last and yesterday morning totaled 6 inches in my rain gauge. For part of the day, I also had a lake out my back door as well as in the front. As a result of all of the water flowing from around and behind my house, my dock is now resting on the surface of the lake and I can literally just step off the end to swim...a new experience!

For those of you that are elsewhere when the ice goes out each spring, you may not know that the loons always return to Half Moon within 24 hours or less of when the ice finally melts. We know when they arrive because upon returning, they are always very vocal letting us know how happy they are to be back at their summer home. We don't know exactly how many are permanent loon residents Half Moon has from year to year as the number seems to vary. Jane and Phil Swanson reported seeing 6 loons on the lake last week. From what we can tell, there is no evidence of any nesting activity this year on our loon nest or elsewhere. Please let us know if any of you have seen any evidence to the contrary.

We have a full and a very interesting newsletter in this spring 2011 issue and we hope that you will find it informative and educational as well. We continue to get wonderful comments about our Loon Lines and are very pleased that you all are enjoying it. Please keep your comments, news, and suggestions coming, as this is your newsletter and we encourage your input.



MILLTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

heaps of resources for the whole family

by Jen Feske,
Milltown Librarian



If you are not already aware of the great libraries in your area, let me be the first to invite you! Speaking on behalf of the Milltown Public Library, we are excited to offer residents in and around Milltown thousands of books, CDs, movies, audiobooks, on-going and special programs, magazines, as well as local and state newspapers.

Library users are no longer limited to our current collection at any one time. As a member of the MORE Consortium of libraries, Milltown Library card holders have access to the oodles of resources found at over 50 other libraries in West-central Wisconsin. By accessing our online catalog (www.more.lib.wi.us), you and your family can request materials from any participating MORE libraries to be sent here for pick up. Not only that, but card holders can also download digital editions of books and audiobooks for their personal reading or listening devices.

Don't have internet service at the cabin? Computer on the fritz? By becoming a MORE library card holder, you and your family have access to the Library's myriad of resources including the public access computers. The Milltown Library also makes available free WiFi and several comfortable seating options for laptop users. We even offer a free Computer Basics Lab every Wednesday. Call 715-825-2313 to reserve a spot!

The Milltown Public Library provides several on-going and special programs—especially for families. The 2011 Youth Summer Reading Program for youth of ages birth -18 years runs June through August with details available online at www.milltownpubliclibrary.org. Some of the special events this summer including an entomologist (a.k.a. Bug Guy), special storyteller, and mad scientist visit! Plus, Pajama Storytime is offered every Tuesday at 6:00 PM. Preschoolers and early elementary aged children enjoy stories, songs and small activity. (Pajamas not required, but welcomed!)

To top it off, the Milltown Library is hosting a few outdoor movies in and around the Milltown community this summer. Partnering with the Township of Milltown and the Half Moon Lake District, the Milltown Public Library is tickled to announce the next movie will be on Saturday, July 2 at the Half Moon Lake Landing. The film starts at dusk, with one of the best movie intermissions ever—fireworks over the lake! Check the library website for more movies and inclement weather rescheduling.

Rained out at the cabin?

Come in to pick up some movies or play with our in-house board games. Remember, seasonal residents, this is your library too! We hope everyone has a fun and safe summer. And, please, let us know how we can help you in any of your information or entertainment needs!

www.milltownpubliclibrary.org
715-825-2313
61 W Main St | PO Box 69 |
Milltown, WI 54858

REGULAR HOURS

Monday	10-7
Tuesday	10-7
Wednesday	10-7
Thursday	10-7
Friday	10-5
Saturday	10-2
Sunday	Closed



CLEAN BOATS/ CLEAN WATERS!

by Dan Leh
Chairman, Clean Boats/Clean Waters



CLEAN BOATS

The 2011 boating season is upon us and the CBCW teams are working towards protecting our beautiful Half Moon Lake. This year we were ahead of the curve and were able to install the I-lids camera before the fishing opener. We also started inspecting boats at the launch Memorial Weekend. Josh Hatton (CBCW Ambassador) has returned this year to greet each boater and observe for weeds on trailers at the main launch. Last season Josh spoke to over 600 boaters and was able to get the message out regarding Aquatic Invasive Species. With everything in place early this year we expect the number of educated boaters to climb. You can also help this year by educating your family, guests and neighbors on the importance of stopping Aquatic Hitchhikers. Here are the basics:

INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment and **REMOVE** visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud before leaving the water access.

DRAIN water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the water access.

REPORT new sightings.

DISPOSE of unwanted bait and other animals or aquatic plants in the trash.

SPRAY, RINSE, or DRY boats and recreational equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when leaving a waterbody.

To learn more information check out the University of Wisconsin-Extension website: www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/



Curly leaf pondweed

CLEAN WATERS

Last year at the summer picnic several of you reached out to us and indicated you would like to volunteer and become a Weed Ranger. We would like your help and are planning a Weed Ranger training session for 1 hour at the main boat launch in July. Please contact me directly if you would like to assist in this effort. You can expect your total volunteer hours for the season to be around 3 hours. What do the Weed Rangers do? We are the first line of defense to warn against an Aquatic Invasive Species entering and taking root in our waters. We monitor the boat launches and several other spots on the lake to visibly look for any sign of AIS. We are most concerned with identifying Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Purple Loosestrife. As of today's date there has been no sign of any of these AIS in our lake but we do know they are present in Polk County waters. Bone Lake, Balsam Lake and Deer Lake all have Curly Leaf Pondweed. In Polk County alone there are 35 lakes with AIS. Half Moon Lake currently hosts the Banded Mystery Snail and the Chinese Mystery Snail. No one currently knows what damage these little creatures have on lakes. See you on the water!

Contact Dan Leh
612.490.1002

**We could use
your help;
volunteers are
needed and
welcomed to
prevent any-
more AIS to
enter our lake.**



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**Polaris Open House
11/19/10 - 11/27/10**



ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

NOTICE

2010 Annual Meeting

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Pursuant to Section 33.30(2) Wisconsin Statutes and the Bylaws
of the Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District,
the annual meeting and budget hearing will be held at:
Place: Half Moon Lake public beach, (200th Ave) East of highway 46.
Time: Saturday, July 16th, 2011 at 10:00am
(Sign in table begins at 9:00am)



AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order
2. Approve minutes of last year's annual meeting
3. Chairperson and committee reports
4. Treasurer's report
5. Presentation and submission of the annual audit
6. Report on consideration of projects or other actions
7. Review and approval of proposed budget
January 1, 2012-December 31st 2012

REVENUES

Tax Levy	17,835
Other	75

Carryover

Total Revenues: 17,910

COST OF OPERATIONS

Administration	870
Info & Education	7,810
Lake Management	9,155
Total Expenditures	17,835

NON-LAPSABLE CAPITAL FUND

Balance on June 17th, 2011
CBCW equipment/supplies (50,587.12)

PROPOSED 2012 TAX LEVY

Operating Budget Tax Levy	17,835
Capital Budget Tax Levy	0
Total Proposed Levy	17,835

8. Approval of corresponding tax levy
9. Election of commissioner
-One Committee Chair (newsletter) position open
Sarah Sawyer running for re-election, other nominations welcome
10. Old business
11. New business
12. Adjourn meeting

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.

2009-2010 Half Moon Lake Nutrient Study Synopsis

by Steve Strieffer

During the summers of 2009 and 2010, a nutrient study was conducted for Halfmoon Lake. The study encompassed two years due to the severe drought conditions in 2009, which led to the lack of flow in Harder Creek. In order to get a better measure of the typical influx of nutrient from all sources, the data collection extended to 2010 in hopes of more normal conditions. It is evident that Halfmoon Lake is a low nutrient lake with very high water quality and clarity.

The sources of phosphorus (Halfmoon Lake is limited by phosphorus) into Halfmoon Lake that were evaluated were: tributaries (Harder Creek and tributary into Tamarack Bay), precipitation, internal (from lake bottom sediments), and non-point sources from surrounding watershed. The contributions from the tributaries and the internal loading were measured with field data, with the remaining estimated using a computer model. The summer of 2010 was very wet, resulting in high flow values and large nutrient contributions from the tributaries, especially Harder Creek. The results reflected two very different years in terms of nutrient loading sources. This included a beaver dam failure in the spring 2010 on Harder Creek, which resulted in a large sediment release into the lake.

Since the two years were really two extremes in conditions, the values from each year were averaged. This hopefully reflects the “average” year for nutrient loading into Halfmoon Lake. The following breakdown of the sources and the percent contribution to the total phosphorus load are as follows:

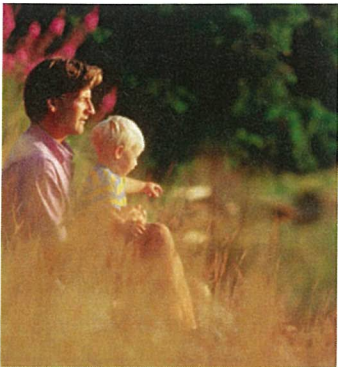
Harder Creek	33%
Tamarack Bay	21%
Precipitation	14%
Internal load	8%
Remaining Watershed	24%

Little can probably be done with Harder Creek since most of the land use is forest, which has the lowest phosphorus load capabilities. However, the wetland around Tamarack Bay could help reduce the influx of nutrients by slowing the water flow into Halfmoon Lake. As a result it would be good to encourage land use practices that have little nutrient loading capabilities as well as keeping the wetland in tact to slow flow. Internal loading is difficult to manage and precipitation cannot be reduced, therefore the remaining watershed is important as a contributor.

Since Halfmoon Lake is low in nutrients, small increases in phosphorus could affect the lake immensely. It is important for residents of the lake be very careful to reduce any practices that can increase phosphorus into the lake. Since this is the nutrient source that is most easily managed, the results could be substantial. These practices could include: no fertilizer application to lawns, creating a buffer zone to reduce runoff from lawns, driveways and sidewalks, installing rain barrels and rain gardens, avoid placing plant material such as leaves and grass clippings in the lake, and make sure you have a proper functioning septic system.

Through simple management practices, Halfmoon Lake can be maintain as the beautiful lake that it is for many years to come.

About Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers



Polk County is known for its abundance of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands – water resources that provide important wildlife habitat, cherished recreational opportunities and a highly desirable quality of life for residents and visitors alike. But our lakes and rivers are experiencing unprecedented pressures from development and overuse. Consequently the need for good management is critically important. Active since 1985, PCALR brings together interested individuals and representatives from lake management districts, lake associations, P&R districts, river protection groups, and other organizations from throughout Polk County.

PCALR provides a forum for county lake and river groups to share information, ideas and resources for managing, protecting and restoring their lake, river or stream. The organization works in concert with Polk County Land and Water Resources Department to provide information and education to the public on rules, regulations and ways to help preserve the vitality of our waters.

PCALR strives to contact and inform public officials of specific problems and issues deemed critical by the members.

PCALR... Offers quality programming from state and county agencies and educators as well as private organizations

Maintains www.pcalr.org with information about management and protection of Polk County waters

Publishes the Who's Who... Contacts for your Waterfront Property Questions (pdf) brochure

Provides scholarships to the annual 3-day Wisconsin Lakes Convention

Publishes and distributes information and education materials to Polk County shoreland property owners and visitors

For additional information about PCALR, please visit www.pcalr.org

*Recently, the Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District joined PCALR.



Light Pollution

by Kurt Sroka

Light pollution has been deleting out view of the Milky Way galaxy and the universe beyond since the 1950s. It's as though we've been building a shield of light around the planet afraid, perhaps to view the infinite that surrounds us even as we seem to fear the dark here on Earth.

Light pollution is evident everywhere. Even in a rural state like Wisconsin, the ubiquitous light domes of our communities are conspicuous.

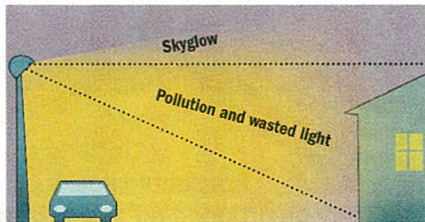
Light pollution, defined by the IDA as “excessive and inappropriate artificial light” has four components that can act independently or in combination:

LIGHT TRESPASS describes when light falls in places where it isn't intended, wanted or needed. Examples include home security lights that spread a wide beacon and stray onto neighboring properties, street lights that are poorly collimated and illuminate much more than the streets, and parking lot lighting that wanders away casting light in too wide an area. GLARE is excessive brightness. This causes visual discomfort. CLUTTER is a profuse grouping of light sources.

Urban sky glow is the brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas. This is what I see from my rural home in western Wisconsin. Since the first campfires and the feeling of safety and warmth they brought, people have practiced a philosophy that “more is better.” Homeowners, lighting contractors, builders and community officials alike are often still stuck in a rut that bright night lighting is “the way we've always done it”. We play on fears

DARK SKY TIPS

- **Use light only when and where it's needed.** Turn off lights when they are not needed and create a curfew for lights-out. Use timers and motion detectors to minimize light use.
- **Use only as much light as is needed.** Excessive lighting reduces the eye's ability to see outside of the lit area. Excess light can also produce glare, which reduces visibility. Select the correct lamp wattage for your needs to increase safety and reduce energy costs.
- **Shine lights down, not up.** A well-designed fixture will direct the light where it's needed most — at the ground. Select new fixtures that are fully shielded; retrofit or replace poor quality fixtures. Look for fixtures recommended by the International Dark-Sky Association Seal of Approval program.



Conventional floodlighting



Shielded lighting designed to direct light to the ground

- **Use efficient light sources for outdoor lighting around homes and businesses.** Consider LED and compact fluorescents for good, energy efficient, economical lighting. Low-wattage lamps give plenty of light for most properties and applications, and in a fully shielded fixture, make an excellent choice. When higher wattage lamps are necessary, be sure that they are fully shielded and energy efficient.

From the International Dark-Sky Association

and believe that more lighting prevents crime. In fact, nobody really knows. Still, the ideas are well entrenched and it's difficult to convince people to cut back or to contain night lights.

Yet practical solutions for halting light pollution are available now. Around your home, use lighting only where and when it's needed. Timers and motion detectors can help achieve this end. Consider where and what you are illuminating and why you are doing so. Think about how your lighting affects neighbors just as you would try to control noise to minimize disturbances.

Shine lights down rather than up. Well-designed fixtures aim light where it's needed...towards the ground. They are fully shielded and can include “cut-off” units that don't allow light to leak towards the sky.

Use efficient light sources. Because fully shielded fixtures direct the light to only where it's needed, lower wattage lamps can often supply sufficient light for the task. This is good for the environment, good for the wallet and provides more efficient, effective and pleasing outdoor lighting results.

RECYCLING IN POLK COUNTY by Kim Butler

Wisconsin state law requires residents and visitors to recycle. Paradoxically, few, if any trash haulers that serve the Half Moon Lake area offer curbside recycling pick-up. So, it is necessary (and law-abiding) to haul your recyclables to a central pickup location. Once you get in the habit of combining this chore with other errands, it can become routine.

The closest location is the 2 big blue bins, just east of the Polk Co. Government Center in Balsam Lake, on the northeast corner of Highway 46 and West Main St. Open 24, you can drop off mixed glass, aluminum, tin cans, and #1 & 2 plastic in one bin, newspapers and magazines in another bin, and cardboard and boxboard (cereal and food boxes) in the third bin.

Aluminum cans can also be separated and donated to numerous charitable groups. Two nearby ones are the Knights of Columbus bin in the parking lot of Our Lady of Lakes Church in Balsam Lake and the Milltown Skate Park bin in near the Holiday Gas Station parking lot in Milltown.

The Polk County Recycling Center on Highway 8 (715-483-1088) is open weekdays from 6:30am to 4:30 pm and the first Saturday of each month from 9am to noon.. In addition to what they take in the blue bins, you can also recycle mixed paper/junk mail, phone books, and shredder paper. I keep a bag under my desk to recycle mail, bills, receipts, scrap paper, and the contents of my shredder. They also do free

recycling of motor oil, antifreeze, cooking oil, thermostats containing mercury, auto batteries, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, and inkjet and toner cartridges. The Center also takes appliances, tires, and household batteries for a fee, and you can sell your aluminum cans there too. In May and September they have Hazardous Waste Collection events.

Clothing and household goods can be dropped off at the Family Pathways Thrift Store on Highway 8, between Marketplace Foods and Lamperts (715-483-2919, www.familypathways.org). This is an actual 501(c)(3) non-profit that offers tax deduction receipts. Pull in around back and nice volunteers help you unload your vehicle. I bring my garage sale leftovers here, and am glad to know that it's helping families in Polk County. There are also private thrift stores in Balsam Lake and Milltown that take donations.

An option next door to Family Pathways is the new Wilddrivers Habitat for Humanity Re-Use Store (715-483-2708.) They accept almost anything that goes into a house except clothing and appliances containing Freon (like air conditioners and refrigerators.) They will even take non-working electronics (tv's, computer monitors, etc.) for free. Excess or old, usable building materials, from tile to light fixtures,

sinks, doors, etc. as well as furniture, usable paint and stain are just some of the things they accept. A full list is available on their website at www.wilddrivershabitat.org. They are open W-F from 10-6, and Saturday from 9-3, with expanding operating days coming in July. Profits help build Habitat homes in Polk County.

Menards on Highway 8 offers free recycling of unbroken compact fluorescent light bulbs (the ones containing small amounts of mercury.) The Pack and Ship store next to Uncle Donuts on Hwy, 8 on Glacier Drive will recycle packing peanuts and bubble wrap.

Walmart, Marketplace and Family Pathways all have bins at their entrances to recycle plastic shopping bags.

Deer Park Automotive Salvage (715-483-3388) and Anderson's on Highway 8 will pay for aluminum cans, scrap metal, and car and marine batteries.

I haven't discovered free recycling for small batteries yet, so I save them up and give them to a relative who recycles them for free in the Twin Cities.

Recycling in Polk County takes a little more effort, but once you get in the habit, it is almost effortless.



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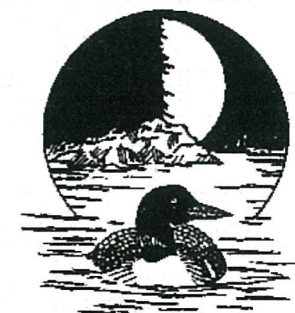
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Loon Ladies!



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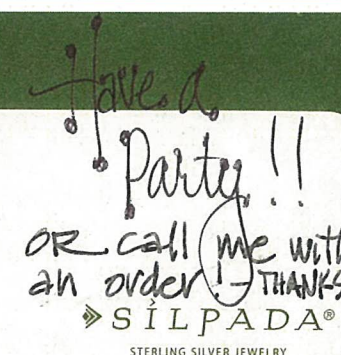
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Fishing News

by Diane Erickson

It sure was a slow start to spring/summer, but it's finally here! The late ice-out has certainly caused a slow start for all of us to get out on the lake, but now we're seeing plenty of lake activity!

We have confirmed with the Fisheries Supervisor from the St. Croix Basin that we are on target this year to get fingerling walleyes if the DNR hatcheries can certify enough fish to stock. This is because Half Moon Lake was chosen as one of their research lakes to try to determine the cause of declining walleye populations in local lakes. We will contact local DNR approved hatcheries to reserve walleye fingerlings for the District to purchase, should the DNR be unable to certify enough fish to stock Half Moon this year.

Also, the DNR has confirmed additional good news for anyone interested in trying fishing – they now have a one day fishing license! The cost is \$8.00 for Wisconsin residents and \$10.00 for non-residents, and if they want to upgrade to an annual license, the cost of the one day license can be applied towards the cost of the annual license. The upgrades will cost \$12.75 for Wisconsin residents and \$40.75 for non-residents.

Feeling lucky? The DNR and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's America's Pastimes have a promotion that offers anglers fishing in Wisconsin a chance to register for a drawing for Brewers suite tickets and fishing prizes when they pledge online to take someone new fishing in Wisconsin. Pledge online [<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/pastimepromo/>] to take someone new fishing and get entered in the drawing.

Shoreline Restoration

by Jeremy Williamson,
Polk County Land and Water Resources

Shoreline restoration is simply restoring the native plant community in the shoreland or riparian zone. Restorations can enhance the beauty of a lake and provides food and cover for a myriad of beneficial animals. In addition, the extensive root system of native plants prevents erosion on upland slopes, stabilizes the lake-bank soils and absorbs nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

Traditional lawns can lead to shoreline erosion and sedimentation into the lake, excessive plant growth and algae blooms, and a loss of leisure time. Traditional lawns also do not provide habitat for beneficial animals and song birds, and may promote nuisance animals such as geese on your property.

The difference is in the plants root structure. In a lawn water can only evapotranspire (evaporation +

contribution of water plants give off) out of the soil 1 3/10th feet out of the soil. So when the soil is filled runoff goes straight to the lake. In a native plant community water can evapotranspire over six and a half feet. So there is more space in the soil for water and the soil filters it before it reaches the lake.

Because so many Polk County lakes have degraded water quality and wildlife habitat it is imperative that we as lake stewards protect the native plant communities that are intact, and restore and enhance what is not. Half Moon Lake is a gem within the county and it would be catastrophic for it to experience heavy algae blooms or lose the wildlife and fishery that it is known for.

TIP:
Try to divert water as close to the source as possible. It is easier to deal with smaller quantities of water before they pick up speed running downhill.

Water Clarity

by Dave Balestri

On Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th, the Half Moon Lake Water Quality team (the Balestri family) took clarity measurements using the Secchi disk method in the "Deep Hole" area of the lake (approximately 55 feet of water). Clarity on Saturday was 18 feet (we could still see the disk when it was 18 feet down in the water) and 17 feet on Sunday. Factors that can affect day-to-day readings include recent rainfall/runoff, current weather, and boat traffic. There had been no rainfall in the few days prior to the weekend and boat traffic was light on Saturday, busier on Sunday.

These readings are consistent with readings at this time of year over the past five years. The readings in early June over the last several years are:

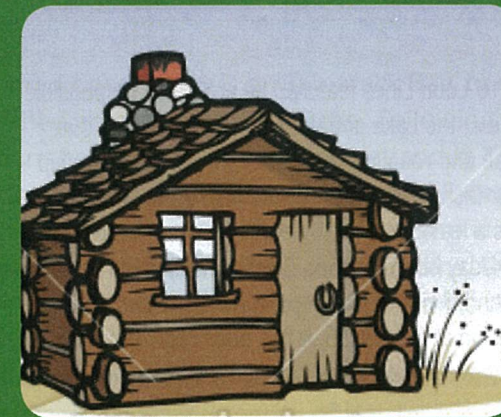
2011: 18 feet
2010: 13 feet
2009: 17 feet
2008: 16 feet
2007: 18 feet
2006: 19 feet

Based on just this simple measurement, the lake appears to be quite healthy. The next set of data will include water temperature and oxygen levels at various depths in the lake and phosphorous levels.

For more information see:
<http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater/>

What to do when you get bored up at the cabin?

by Sarah Miller and Margaret Butler



THERE ARE MANY FUN THINGS TO DO!

Some of the things that I like to do are puzzles, making up and telling stories, and even baking! Along with family and friends you can play Charades, Pictionary, Sorry, and I-spy. According to Highlights Magazine (www.highlights.com June 2010) you can run a wacky race.

HERE ARE SOME DIFFERENT TYPES OF WACKY RACES:

- **NO FEET ALLOWED** is a race where your feet can't touch the ground.
- **DON'T LET GO OF YOUR TOES** is a race where you take off your shoes and hold onto your big toes until you get to the finish line.

HERE ARE SOME OF MY FAVORITE JOKES AND RIDDLES:

RIDDLE: What's the up side of being a naughty one eyed snowman?
Answer: You get a lump of coal in your stocking for your other eye.

RIDDLE: What starts with a P and ends with an E and has millions of letters inside? **Answer:** a large post office. Now back to baking! There is a great recipe for Heart Shaped Cake from Betty Crocker's Cook Book for Boys and Girls (1957). The fun thing about this cake is that it comes out in the shape of a heart.

Get your favorite cake mix and follow the directions on the box. The important thing to do is to use two different shaped cake pans – one round and one square shaped. The diameter of the round pan should be the same length as one side of the square pan. When the cakes are done cooking and cooling, cut the round cake in half and put each half against two adjacent sides of the square cake. This makes a heart shape! I wonder what other shapes can be made?

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BE A GOOD LAKE NEIGHBOR!

by Sarah Sawyer

Dogs

Our Spring 2010 Loon Lines featured an article on responsible dog ownership while at the Lake and the leash law and fines that are in place for loose and roaming dogs. This spring, the Township has again asked our District Board to remind lake owners and your visitors that there is a leash law(\$125 non compliance fee per occurrence and \$14/day boarding fee). The Township asks again that lake residents and their guests keep their dogs under their control and supervision at ALL TIMES. It has been reported to us that farmers in the area have a shoot and bury policy on loose dogs that come onto their property.

Another complaint we have been asked to make you aware of is that of barking and howling dogs, particularly at night. We live in fairly close proximity to each other here on the lake. Additionally, noise carries extremely well over water. Given the fact that many of us are light sleepers, letting your dog(s) bark/howl incessantly is not only unkind to your animal, it is very inconsiderate of your neighbors on the lake who are trying to get a good night's sleep.

Bird Feeders

Our neighbors the bears are back this spring and they are becoming more and more brazen and unafraid. They are now showing themselves during the daytime and several seem less wary of people. Remember that it is a Wisconsin law that if bears have visited your bird feeders once, it is unlawful for you to put those feeders back out again for at least 30 days. Observing this law not only saves you on replacing bird feeders, but it makes your yard and property a safer for people and pets.

Additionally, trash pickup day is a favorite for bears as they are very hungry this time of year and they love to forage through garbage. Keeping your garbage in your garage until trash day is a great deterrent from having your garbage spread all over your yard and the road, plus it deters repeat visits from these garbage gourmets.

Weeds

Be a good neighbor this year. If you cut or pull weeds from the lake in front of your place PLEASE DO NOT leave them in the lake to float off to... wherever. Wherever is your neighbor's lake frontage. Every year, the East shoreline of Half Moon is inundated with weeds cut or pulled and left to float across the lake to litter and clog our east shoreline. For those of us oldsters (and there are many of us on the lake), trying to clean up this unsightly and smelly mess is extremely difficult, heavy, and time consuming. Not only do we have to clean our shoreline, but our docks, swimming areas and boats as well. As we all know there are always too many ongoing outside tasks to do to maintain our lakeshore without having to clean up after someone else's thoughtless messes. Below is are two photos that I took a couple of years ago of my dock and shoreline after I had collected only 1/3 of the weeds someone had cut and left floating that ended up coating my lakeshore frontage. The container that I put them in was so heavy, that I had hire help to move it off my dock to the back of my lot to properly dispose of it.

Remember, there are many ways to be a Good Neighbor. Please send me your suggestions as well.



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NON EMERGENCY
715-485-8300**

**LAKE WARDEN
FOR LAKE VIOLATIONS; 1-800-KIPWDNR
OTHER INFORMATION 1-888-936-7463**

WEBSITE ADDRESS

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



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.

TRUDI'S TIPS

by Trudi Gores

Ooops...last issue featured Beer Cheese Dip, submitted by Carol Trapp, NOT Blue Cheese Dip

RECIPE-BEER CHEESE SOUP

Ruth Radke

1/2 cup butter	16 oz. cheese whiz
1/4 cup onion	6 oz beer
1 cup flour	1 Tb. Worcestershire sauce
4 cups of hot chicken broth	1/4 cup chives-chopped optional
1 1/2 cups cream	

Melt butter. Sauté onions in butter. Add flour and heat 5 minutes stirring occasionally. Add chicken broth and cream. Mix until smooth. Add beer and Worcestershire sauce. Mix in chives. Simmer 15 minutes stirring constantly. Serve hot topped with croutons or popcorn.

Helpful Hints

- 1) Place a paper clip to the end of the sticky side of duct tape, etc. This makes it easier to find the end and saves tape from bending down the corner.
- 2) Dark plastic barrels set in the shade to collect rainwater will keep algae that breed in standing water under control.
- 3) Did you know that 1/2 inch of rain falling on a roof will fill a 50 gallon barrel?

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