



NOVEMBER 2011
Volume 4 • Issue 2

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



*S. Purpurea with new growth,
June 24, 2010*

lakes behind that were deep and did not have any type of outlet or inlet, conditions favorable for forming a bog, unlike swamps or marshes. The water found in bogs thus comes from rain and melted snow, so during periods of drought, bogs are relatively dry, while during rainy years, bogs are saturated.

With little, if any, water circulation, the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water is low in bogs, limiting the decomposition of organic material from plants that are found in bogs. Thus the buildup of slightly decomposed organic matter, referred to as peat, is unique to bogs. Above the layer of peat is a layer/mat of Sphagnum moss floating on top of the water, which is unique to bogs and Sphagnum the defining feature of most bogs as it is the dominant plant species in a bog's ecosystem. There are a number of subspecies of Sphagnum in that the

(cont'd page 4)

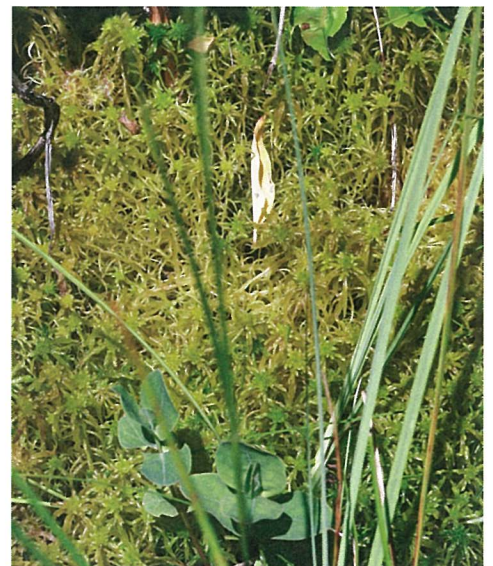
WHAT ARE BOGS?

by Bob McMahon

bogs
represent
a unique
ecological
habitat

You probably have heard the term "bog" before and have simply thought that bogs are just a "swamp" or a "marsh". While bogs, swamps and marshes are all types of wetlands, bogs represent a unique ecological habitat that is prevalent across Canada, northern parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New England and as far south as northeastern Ohio. Bogs are also found in parts of Europe and in Asia. Locally, there are several bogs adjacent to Half Moon Lake and bogs are widespread in Polk County and throughout northern Wisconsin.

Bogs typically formed during the last retreat of the glaciers thousands of years ago, which left behind partially buried large masses of ice in the ground. The ice melted, leaving these small "pothole"



*Sphagnum Moss, Brown's Bog,
June 24, 2010*

Letter from the Chairman

by PAT MCMAHON

Traditionally, November is a month for giving thanks - and I have many of you to thank this year.

THANK YOU - goes to Pat Mechelke for volunteering to be our new Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger. Pat is also joining the Weed Ranger gang. Welcome.

THANK YOU - to the nine lake residents attending our Nutrient Study Results Seminar. We find that on a scale of 1-10, Half Moon is a 5 for nutrients. Because of this, any amount of phosphorus makes a huge impact. Did you know that 1 lb. of phosphorus produces 500 lbs. of algae? If your lake bottom is mucky, you may have a high phosphorus count. We, as lake homeowners, can help.

1. Check your septic system and holding tanks for leaks etc.
* read Kathy Kienholtz's article on system regulations.
2. Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers.
3. Provide plant life as a buffer for your shoreline. We all like the manicured look, but it is not the best for our lake.
*read Katelin Holm's article on native buffer plants that will also attract birds.

Working together, and making small changes, we can keep Half Moon clean and healthy.

THANK YOU - to Suzy Bank and Sue Schneider for collecting ad and donation money for our 4th. of July Fund. Please call either one if you would like to help next year.

THANK YOU - to all of you for your generous donations. A donation card is included in this newsletter. We are getting closer to making this event self-supporting. To help with your family planning in 2012 - a 4th. of July event calendar will be mailed out in May. This will include all activities and times.

THANK YOU - goes to Rick Miller. Rick has volunteered to organize a Half Moon Lake Sailboat Race over the 4th. of July. Details and sign-up are in Rick's newsletter article.

THANK YOU - a very special thank you to my brothers-in-law, Bob and Steve McMahon. Both are guest writers in this issue, and have been studying bogs for over 40 years. Pull up a chair, and read Steve's magical journey into our bog. Then get a real botany lesson from Bob on floral life. Both will be visiting the lake in June. If you would like a guided tour into the bog e-mail me at : mmcma10134@aol.com

THANK YOU - and finally, thank to all who attended last year's annual meeting. Your kind support is so appreciated. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 21st. for the 2012 meeting.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Season!
Pat McMahon



Annual Meeting
2011

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Kathryn Kienholz, County Representative
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Obituaries

RUTH ANN RADKE
Born August 6, 1953. Died September 28th, 2011
Survived by Husband: Terry, Daughters: Sondra, Sabrina, Kristin
and two grandsons: Liam and Duncan

CHESTER "CHET" GROMEK
Born September 12, 1933. Died September 13, 2011
LESTER G. SCHWARTZ

Born August 13, 1921 and died on July 31, 2011
Les started coming to Half Moon Lake in 1947 while helping
build his brother-in-law's cabin. He then helped build his family
cabin at 1309 200th Ave in 1958. He is survived by his wife
of 66 years, Toots - 4 children, Gary, Denny, Tim and Jill - and 2
granddaughters. Cards may be sent to :
The Schwartz Family
P.O. Box 27669, Golden Valley, MN 55427

*If you would like your friends on Half Moon Lake
notified of a family death, please contact Sarah Sawyer.*

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

I have gotten a couple of questions from a Half Moon
seasonal resident concerning private septic systems and
oversized piers. Answers follow.

Current regulations require septic systems to be inspected
every three (3) years. The inspection requirement is not currently
being enforced; there is an extension until 2015. Within the past
week there was a town hall-type meeting in Madison, which was
considering delaying enforcement until 2021. I have not heard
the outcome of that meeting.

There is no requirement for a manhole cover on septic tanks.
Piers are the purview of the DNR. The county does not deal
with pier regulations. Please direct your questions to:

WI DNR, Bureau of Watershed Management
Attn: Waterway Protection Section
PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
DNRpiers@wi.gov

Here is the form for the pier registration, which is due
April 1st, 2012: [http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/permit_apps/pier_](http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/permit_apps/pier_registration_form.pdf)
[registration_form.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/permit_apps/pier_registration_form.pdf)

In other county news, our new (since June 2010) county
administrator, Dana Frey, continues to improve county
operations. The 2012 budget he presented to the county board in
September was \$13k less than the previous year, (excluding debt
service and Act 150, which are not covered by the state's levy
cap). He has trimmed personnel costs through attrition, reduced
insurance costs, eliminated most county credit cards, enforced
the county's existing purchasing policy, and improved efficiency
in any number of other ways. Significantly, he has reduced
expenses while improving staff morale.

Kathryn Kienholz
Supervisor, District 6
kathryn.kienholz@co.polk.wi.us



Editor's Column

by Sarah Sawyer
Newsletter Editor

It's fall here on the lake and if I have any doubts about it
because of the fabulously warm weather and sunshine that we
have been enjoying for the last week, all I have to do is look
at my yard. Coming home yesterday afternoon after a three
day weekend away there were so many leaves everywhere
that I could not even find my sidewalk. Seeing that the leaves
had literally buried any resemblance of my backyard, I had to
immediately (fortunately with help this time) grab, rake and
blower and putting aside all thoughts of dinner and unpacking,
make haste to reclaim what was mine. As the sun went down an
hour and a half later, I was finally seeing some green grass, and
hoping that it was really not too late in my to enjoy my yard for
a few more warm fall days. Alas, this morning there were half
again as many leaves blanketing my lawn and gardens. I love
trees however fall is the only season that I am not extremely
grateful for all the beautiful tall trees that surround me all year
round at the Lake.

We have a very full newsletter for you again this fall. It seems
like there is always lots happening on and around the lake at
any time of year. There is an article with some news, and a
sketch of the new Unity Clinic, which is planned for completion
Spring of 2012. For you fishermen and fisher ladies, there is a
very encouraging fishing report. Also a very interesting article
on bogs, an article on attracting birds with shoreline plantings, a
proposed new event for the July 4th weekend, and among other
things, some great pictures of our 2011 annual meeting at the
beach. We hope that you will enjoy this newsletter as much as
we enjoy putting it together for you!

Happy Fall and Winter and we will see you all again in the Spring
of 2012.

Sarah Sawyer, Editor

www.halfmoonlake.net

WHAT ARE BOGS?

continued from page 1



Blue Berries, Brown's Bog,
June 24, 2010

texture of the "tufts" can range from fine to coarse (see photo of Sphagnum). The moss usually is green in color, but it can also be a rust or tan color. Sphagnum moss has a very high water-holding capacity and it also is very acidic, maintaining the water of bogs between a pH of 3 and 5, which further limits decomposition of the moss and other plants, adding to the buildup of peat within bogs. Sphagnum moss acidifies bog water by absorbing selected nutrients and giving off hydrogen ions that acidify the water.

Because of the low pH of the bog water and of the sphagnum moss, nutrient availability for plants living in bogs is extremely limited and thus is partially responsible for the unique community of plants found in bogs. Further limiting the nutrient content of bog water is the fact that water runoff from the surrounding area (provided there are no farms nearby) has few, if any nutrients.

The peat layer/zone beneath the living Sphagnum moss "mat" is very low in oxygen content, which all but eliminates roots from growing very far into the peat zone. Thus, plants have adapted

this situation by root growth only in the living Sphagnum moss layer, which provides sufficient oxygen for good root growth and function. Bog vegetation begins growth along the shoreline of the "pothole" lake. The mat of Sphagnum moss and plants growing on the mat then grows outwards towards the center of the lake. It is common to see open water in the center of bogs (see photo of bog with open water center). Eventually, over many years, the floating mat overspreads



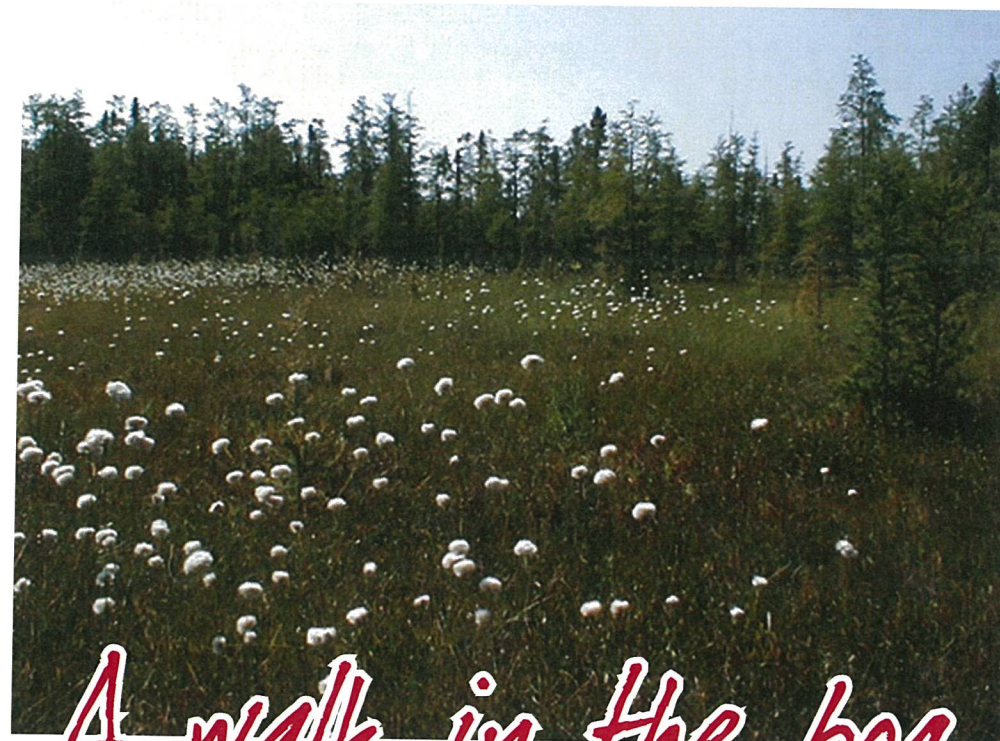
D. Rotundifolia with flower stalk,
June 24, 2010

the entire lake and then thickens enough with the buildup of peat underneath that the lake is totally filled in and the bog disappears!

Bogs are home to a unique population of plants and animals. A variety of herbaceous and woody species make their home in bogs and you would never know that you were literally walking on water with the abundance of plant life growing on the floating mat of Sphagnum moss (refer to photo of the bog without the open water in the middle of it). The open water or center area of the bog supports water lilies and

cattails. A variety of grasses grows adjacent to the open water and provides support for the floating Sphagnum moss mat, including sedge grasses and cotton grass. Progressing further away from the center of a bog, you will find various shrubs such as Bog Rosemary, Bog Laurel, cranberries and blueberries (refer to the photo of the blue berries and cranberries). Growing amongst the shrubs you also will find two types of carnivorous or insectivorous plants: sundews and pitcher plants. These amazing plants have modified their leaves to lure, trap and yes, digest insects to obtain nutrients from them that are lacking in bogs. A number of temperate orchids grow in northern bogs such as Grass Pink and Rose Pogonia. Furthest out from the center of a typical bog you will find tree species such as Tamarack and Black Spruce, along with some of the shrubs mentioned previously and a few carnivorous plants growing in the Sphagnum moss. The various "zones" of bog plants mentioned above certainly are not fixed, as plant species will intermix among the zones described in an idealized pattern of bog development. A number of unique animals also make their homes in bogs, such as the bog copper butterfly, spring blue damselfly and the spotted turtle. Bogs thus represent a unique and fascinating ecological niche that deserves to be protected against the encroachment of human civilization and agricultural practices. Bogs indeed are a precious natural heritage and resource that deserve to be respected and left unharmed and that hopefully is the fate of the bogs of Half Moon Lake!

FYI, my official title is: Associate Professor and Coordinator; Greenhouse Production and Management Technology; The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute; Wooster, OH.



A walk in the bog

by Steve McMahon

Step into a bog, and leave behind the familiar at Half Moon Lake.

The ground is half water. The plants eat the bugs. The evergreens lose their needles during the winter, while some shrubs stay green. The mosquitoes don't bite.

Leave the road, and step into a bog's tall, dark, fringe of alder bushes. You enter a time machine. On the other side, you emerge, blinking, onto a bright, savannah of trees and shrubs, and nothing else. Nothing manmade, that is. You've found a spot that probably has looked this way for hundreds of years, maybe thousands.

Stop, look and listen. You may spot a green or blue heron in a tree. A bittern may throw its beak skyward and freeze, in its best imitation of a stump with eyeballs. You may hear the flute-like, cascading call of a veery thrush.

Around you, the scraggly tamarack trees rise out of knee-high bushes, mostly leatherleaf. But gather other leaves and crush them and smell the bog rosemary, which is evergreen (and poisonous) and the Labrador tea and the laurel.

There's cranberry down there, too. That background odor, fresh and clean, is the sphagnum moss itself. It was used as an antiseptic dressing on the battlefields of World War One. So were the white tufts off the cotton grass.

Beyond the trees and bushes lies the open, mossy meadow of the bog. Sometimes,

you find a bulls-eye of open water, dyed brown by tannin released by the vegetation. Walk to the edge, and the spongy ground begins to bounce. You are suspended by a floating mat of moss and the roots of grass-like sedges.

These places offer solitude in a way that few spots can in the Midwest. The motorboats buzz by on the lake, out of view, beyond the far wall of alder. But, when the lake falls silent, a sense of privacy envelops you. A bog can cast a spell on you, particularly in the spring, when they could be the lake's secret garden.

In spring, in some bogs, the carpet of moss is decorated with rare orchids. Glistening hordes of diminutive sundew plants beckon to insects with their sticky, red pads. Scattered clumps of pitcher plants snuggle down into the deep moss. Their meat-colored flowers rise on long stalks, like antennas of other-worldly visitors.

It is a bad place to be a bug. The horn-shaped pitchers are dark at their bases with bug parts, including those of the flies that pollinate them.

You brace for an onslaught of mosquitoes. But, in my experience, they don't come for you. This is puzzling, because a type of mosquito hatches in the pitcher plants and lives there as tiny, larval wrigglers. But, once they emerge as adults, these mosquitoes are not known to bite. And it gets better. The larvae of this people-friendly mosquito eat

the larvae of other types of mosquitoes they find in the pitcher plants. This happy paradox sets the tone for the entire bog experience, although if the pitcher plants wanted to eat more of the deer flies, that would be all right, too. (And if you hike into one of the adjoining spruce bogs, then other types of mosquitoes will welcome you in the usual manner.)

The bog's only trails are straight-line crossings, cut into the mossy carpet by animals. Deer droppings, and sometimes something bigger, mark the narrow paths.

Look closer, and it's clear that others have found the bog. You find the occasional shotgun shell. Until a couple decades ago, a lone utility pole stood in one of the Half Moon bogs. It has since disappeared, apparently toppled over and swallowed up by the mossy meadow. Near the roads, you'll find stumps of tamaracks, where the trees were taken for several years.

But overall, the bogs seem like places where time has stood still. Progress has flowed by on either side, but has not encroached.

As with all wilderness areas, bogs exact a price of admission. Wet feet, mainly. If you don't have waterproof boots, wear old tennis shoes, tightly laced up. It is possible to contract a fungal infection on your skin. But this only happened to me after visiting bogs away from Half Moon.

Some kettle bogs, out in the woods, feature a moat, kept open by beavers. Happily, the beavers also provide the bridge. So you cross on a fallen tree.

The alders that ring most bogs offer uncertain footing in high water. As you grope your way into a bog, alder branches slap back at you, and the web of roots grabs at your foot. Occasionally you break through, up to your knee, in the shakiest spots. But once through the alders, the footing gets better. Soon, you come to trust the spongy nature of the bog's mossy floor, with its thick foundation of peat. It's possible to canoe up to the edge of some bogs, and step out into the alders, as in Tamarack Bay, at the Half Moon's north end.

There's been some thought given to building a boardwalk into one of Half Moon's bogs. But with increased access comes decreased wilderness value. And in other states, boardwalks have invited vandalism, and even mass collection of the pitcher plants, sundews and orchids.

Bogs should be protected and managed, but managed, perhaps, with a hands-off approach. Left for tomorrow as we find them today, Half Moon's bogs can remain an alternative lake experience, where we approach nature on her terms, not ours.

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The History Corner
by David Butler

I am finding that one of the wonderful benefits of working on the Half Moon Lake history book is meeting so many interesting people who have grown up on the lake or whose ancestors have spent time on the lake. I recently had lunch with Dr. Onnie Thatcher, chiropractor in Luck, whose grandfather, Myron William Thatcher, who lived in St. Paul, built a cabin on the north side of Half Moon Lake in 1935 and entertained at his cabin the likes of Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Senator Eugene McCarthy, Henry Wallace and other notables. Bill Thatcher ran the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association, one of the largest grain co-operatives in the world. Harry Truman, Robert

Taft, Henry Wallace, Lyndon Johnson and John Kennedy visited with Bill Thatcher in Bill's board room in St. Paul. It was said that president's visited Bill, Bill did not visit presidents. Bill Thatcher and his wife had a smaller cabin west of the main cabin where the household help, called by Dr. Onnie "the "summer girls", stayed. Onnie slept over with the "summer girls" when she was nine years old. After Bill Thatcher died in 1976 his widow sold the two cabins to Audrey Murzyn, mother of Stan Murzyn. Audrey and her son John now use the big cabin and Paul and Anita Axt own the small cabin.



LONG TIME RESIDENT? ALL IN THE FAMILY CABIN? HALF MOON LAKE...WAY BACK WHEN?

It is no secret that Half Moon Lake is far and away one of the best all around lakes in Wisconsin. Families that discover this secret tend to want to stay and come back year after year after year. As a result many of us families have been here for 2-3 generations or more enjoying our special place(s) on Half Moon. If this is you, we would like to hear from you! Tell us all about your family's history on Half Moon Lake and how far back you go. We plan to feature you long timers and tell your stories in our upcoming Spring issue of Loon Lines. Please email, fax, or mail your stories in to this editor, Sarah Sawyer. We look forward to hearing from all of you!



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR Florian and Mary Ann Lauer

Florian and Mary Ann Lauer bought their cabin in the southeast side of Half Moon Lake in 1969, yet in over 40 years, Florian feels that not much has changed, except for the better. "The lake is quieter now, with the advent of 4 cycle engines and there aren't as many dedicated water skiers as there were back then" according to Florian.

Back in 1969, the Lauer's cabin, like others on the lake, had electricity, but they used a hand pump for drinking water and washing dishes, and an outhouse as well. Taxes on their cabin that first year were \$246, "but it's all relative" chuckles Florian.

Florian and Mary Ann initially came to Half Moon Lake after he drew circles on a map and this lake fell between 50 and 1"50 miles of their home base in St. Paul, MN. A visit with Jim and Sheila Palawitz on the north side of the lake convinced them that this was the clean, clear lake they were looking for.

Mary Ann had grown up in Two Harbors, MN and her family had a cabin on a small lake near there, and Florian's family farm featured two lakes, so the couple were seeking that outdoor experience of their childhoods. Even today, Florian cites "being in the woods, in a more natural setting" as one of his favorite aspects of the lake, as well as the "people who live around the lake, who add a nice dimension" to his lake experience.

Florian is a retired Professor of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota, specializing in the potato horticulture. Mary Ann is a former teacher, who stayed home to raise 4 children: 1 boy and

3 girls. One of their daughters, Sheila Robinson, built a cabin with her husband further north of her parents' place on 120th Street..

Florian's favorite lake activities include "taking a pontoon ride, taking a swim, and sun fishing with the grandchildren. He doesn't "come here to mow" and has managed to cut that chore on his wooded property to down 2 to 3 times a year, including mulching of the leaves in the fall. He finds that not mowing a buffer zone on his lakeshore is "more efficient" and "changes it for the better," promoting the growth of wild flowers. He even does a controlled burn in the wild area to get rid of bluegrass, an invasive, exotic species. He says you can still see the outline of the former town road that used to run along the shoreline of the southeast corner of the lake in his yard.

Look for Florian and Mary Ann on one of their sunset pontoon rides this summer




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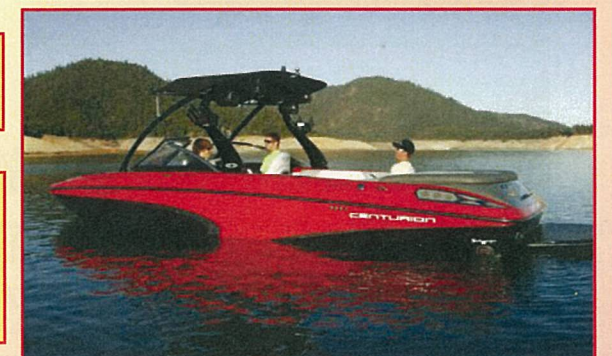
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Fishing News

by Diane Erickson

WOW - 8 days straight over 80 degrees in October - what a great time to be out on the lake enjoying the fall colors! And because the weather cooperated so well this summer, the fish hatcheries thrived - good news for us! The DNR has stocked Half Moon Lake with over 12,000 small (2 inch) walleye fingerlings from the tribal hatchery and 5790 large (6 inch) fingerlings from the DNR hatchery in Spooner. Hopefully we'll be able to see the results of the stocking when fishing next year!!

With the warm weather departing, it's time to turn to thoughts of ice fishing. Please be sure not to leave behind any garbage so it doesn't end up IN the lake come spring!!

Happy fishing! See you out on the lake!

Good luck and good fishing!



Christmas Open House

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For the Birds

by Katelin Holm

POLK COUNTY LAND AND WATER
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Bird watching has fast become one of my most enjoyable—and cheapest—hobbies. Armed with a good bird book and a pair of binoculars I can spend countless hours at nearly no cost enjoying the birds that frequent my property. In addition to feeding the birds during the winter months when bears are hibernating, I also try to make my backyard as bird friendly as possible by increasing the habitat necessary for birds to thrive.

Nearly all songbirds rely on insects during the spring, summer, and fall months. In fact, according to a guide distributed by Minnesota Audubon, 96% of songbirds raise their young by feeding them protein rich insects and spiders. Interestingly enough, one of the best ways to attract birds to your property is by planting the native plants that attract native, leaf eating insects. Some of the best species for attracting insects are trees such as bur oak, white oak, black cherry, and red maple; shrubs such as chokecherry and wild plum; and flowering perennials such as gray goldenrod, showy goldenrod, large-leaved aster, and silky aster.

Another way to increase the bird life on your property is by planting a diversity of trees and shrubs that produce berries across the entire year. Different shrubs produce berries at different times of the year and by planting a diversity of shrubs you can increase the amount of time your

backyard is able to provide this source of food for birds. Species such as serviceberry and chokecherry produce early summer berries; American elderberry produces midsummer berries; nannyberry, gray dogwood, and red osier dogwood produce fall berries; and winterberry produces winter berries.

Wildflowers also provide a valuable food source for many birds. Some of the best wildflowers for birds include native species of aster, purple coneflower, joe-pye weed, blazing star, sunflower, and goldenrod. If you're specifically interested in attracting hummingbirds try planting native species such as columbine, butterfly weed, cardinal flower, wild bergamont, and lupine. As an added benefit, by choosing to plant native species, such as those suggested above, the majority of the usual work associated with landscaping becomes unnecessary. This is because native plants are adapted to the climate of Wisconsin and are able to thrive, and even out-compete weeds, without excesses such as fertilizer and supplemental watering. Additionally, native vegetation provides positive impacts for the water quality of Half Moon Lake by absorbing excess soil nutrients and preventing soil erosion.



Photo from National Audubon website:
Jack Bartholm

As the threat of snow looms and the bird community dwindles to those able to withstand a Wisconsin winter, one of my favorite ways to beat the winter time blues involves perusing old landscaping and gardening catalogues. Additionally, you can check the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department website www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater for native plant lists specifically for Polk County. This time of year is the perfect time to make plans for next year's projects. Next year why not plant a few native species for the birds?



SAILBOAT RACE

friday . july 6 . 2012



First Annual Half Moon Lake resident sailboat race!

Casual race (not timed) on the afternoon of Friday July 6 (weather permitting).

- This race will start in the middle of the lake - travel around the ski course on the north end - then around the sand bar on the south end - and finish at the starting point in the middle of the lake.
- All sailboats owned by Half Moon Lake property owners are welcome - no motors please! Please let me know if you are interested by sending me an email that includes your name, Half Moon Lake address, boat type and length, and the number/ID on your main sail, to rpm2002@juno.com. (Please include the word "sailboat" in the subject line of your email.)

A great opportunity to meet your neighbors, test your sailing skills, and to have a good time!



Contact: Sandy Williams, Director of Marketing 715-483-0247
Joe Moriarity, Erin Communications 651-464-5054

New Unity Clinic Groundbreaking September 8th

After more than a year of planning and pouring over blueprints and renderings, St. Croix Regional Medical Center held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new Unity Clinic in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin on September 8th.

"This new clinic will be a tremendous asset to the area's residents," said Dave Dobosenski, SCRCM CEO. "With it, we will be able to serve more patients more quickly in their own community. I see three main purposes for this facility: to build on existing services, to provide additional new services such as physical rehabilitation, sports medicine and podiatry, and to offer other opportunities for growth".

The building was designed by Harriss Architects with Nelson Construction Services as the project's General Contractor. Participating in the groundbreaking event were Harlan Hegdal, Chair of the Board of Trustees of SCRCM and Town Chair of the Milltown Township Board; Cindy Lundmark, VP SCRCM Clinic and Ancillary Services; Brandon Robinson, Superintendent Unity Schools; Chris Nelson, Nelson Construction Services; John Harriss, Harriss Architects; and Dave Dobosenski, CEO, SCRCM.

Other guests present included Debbie Peterson, President of the Unity School Board, John Tremble, SCRCM VP of Finance and CFO; Guy Williams, Village of Balsam Lake; Ben Youngstrom, Harriss Architects; SCRCM physician, Dr. Amy Ludwikowski; members of the Clinic design team and Unity Clinic staff: Becky Thiel, Terri Giller, Deb Broten, MaryAnn Rivard and Christy Kobernick, Human Resources and Sandy Williams, Director of Marketing; staff of Nelson Construction Services; Michelle Nelson, Ellen Butler, Pat McMann, Jim Smith, Diane and Chuck Erickson of Half Moon Lake, and Tammy Doughty of the Polk County Ledger.

Guests were treated to a luncheon provided by SCRCM at Nelson Construction. Services following the groundbreaking. Photographs were taken by Brad Nygren of Nygren Photography.



News from Half Moon Lake Conservancy

By David J. Butler, President of the Board

Harder Creek to the north and Tamarack Bay to the northwest are parts of the watershed area of Half Moon Lake. Water flowing through these two areas brings in over one-half of the phosphorus that comes into the lake each year. Phosphorous is the agent that affects the growth of algae in the lake. The Conservancy has acquired parcels of land in both areas to preserve the wetlands that filter phosphorous from the water before it reaches the lake. Discussions are under way with adjoining property owners in these area to determine how we can work together to protect these valuable wetlands for time to come.

The discussions are raising questions like: (1) Can the Tamarack Bay area be set aside and preserved as a nature preserve? (2) Would the planting of wild rice in Tamarack Bay be a good thing to increase the wild life in the area? (3) Are there programs with Unity School that would bring students to the area for study? (4) Are there studies that need to be done of the flora and fauna in the areas? (5) Would a boardwalk and nature trail allowing the public to view the interior of Tamarack Bay be a practical thing to construct?

The Conservancy board is working with a property owner in the Tamarack Bay area to acquire a 60 acre tract of woodland and wetland on Tamarack Creek which brings a large amount of water into Tamarack Bay. This will be the second parcel of land acquired by the Conservancy affecting Tamarack Bay. A third parcel held by the Conservancy is a 35 acre tract on Harder Creek.

TRUDI'S TIPS

by Trudi Gores

VIDALIA ONION DIP

by Sue Schneider

- 16 oz. Cream Cheese (softened)
- 1 cup grated Parmesan Cheese
- 6 tablespoons Mayonnaise
- 1 cup finely chopped sweet Vidalia onion

Beat Cream Cheese, Parmesan Cheese and Mayonnaise in mixing bowl until blended. Stir in onions. Spoon mixture into baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Serve with Kettle Cooked potato chips or pita chips. ENJOY!

Helpful Hints

- #1 To check seal on refrigerator or freezer doors: Place a piece of paper in the door. IF the paper pulls out easily, the seal on the door is worn and should be replaced.**
- #2 Test for a leaky toilet tank: Add food coloring to the tank. If the color appears in your toilet bowl, there is a leak in the tank.**
- #3 Use a tea infuser to flavor sauces and hot dishes just before the dish is done cooking. This way no leaf bits will be left in the dish.**

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Ellen Butler Knighton waterskiing in her wedding dress on the day after her marriage to Harlan Hegdal.



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