



FALL 2012
Volume 5 • Issue 2

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



Photo taken by Sue Schneider

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Letter from the Chair

by PAT MCMAHON, CHAIR

Everyone locks up and leaves the lake after Labor Day. But for me, the colors of October, the mirror reflections on the water, and the quiet, make this one of the best times to enjoy the lake. This is the inspiration for the fall issue of LOON LINES. Inside, you will find the colors of fall, pictures of fall, and even a fall recipe. Enjoy!

July 4th on Half Moon just gets better each year. Four sailboats participated in our 1st sailboat race. I'm told that a winner was not declared, but everyone had a great time. Rick Miller is planning next year's race - if you have a sailboat - join in the fun. Over 100 attended the family popcorn and movie night at the beach. Thank you to the Milltown Library for organizing this event. All the families stayed for the fireworks, and this is becoming a great partnership for the lake and community. A big thank you to Harlen Hegdal for lining up our vendors - we had a great display. We had over 100 boats watching the fireworks from the water, not to mention all the docks and yards filled with family and friends. Now, I can report that the fireworks celebration week-end is self-supporting. Thanks goes to Suzy Bank and Sue Schneider for collecting donations and ad money. Katy Johnson and Kate Campbell will take over this job next spring. It is so great to have young people getting involved.

The annual meeting was one of the best in recent years. Lots of lively conversation and great ideas from the membership. The board does appreciate all of your support. Next year the meeting will be held on July 20th.

Meet our Loon Ladies in this edition of "Meet Your Neighbor." This year's arrival of the lake calendar and flags were a great success. The ladies tell me they have a few calendars for 2013 and flags left. Contact Sheila to place an order.

The photo contest was wonderful, so many beautiful pictures. The grand winner was Pat Mechelke with her family of Mergansers on Tamarak Bay. Some entries that did not make the calendar are included for your enjoyment. Keep taking those snapshots. We will do the same next year - with a few minor revisions.

The newly formed Half Moon Lake Long Range Planning Committee under the direction of David Glassman, met in September. The next meeting is May 18th, and a mission statement will be established. If you would like to join, please contact David at dglassman@tmsmn.com.

Have a great Fall - don't eat toooooo much turkey.



Photo Contest Winner
by Pat Mechelke



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Editor's Column

by Sarah Anderson
Newsletter Editor

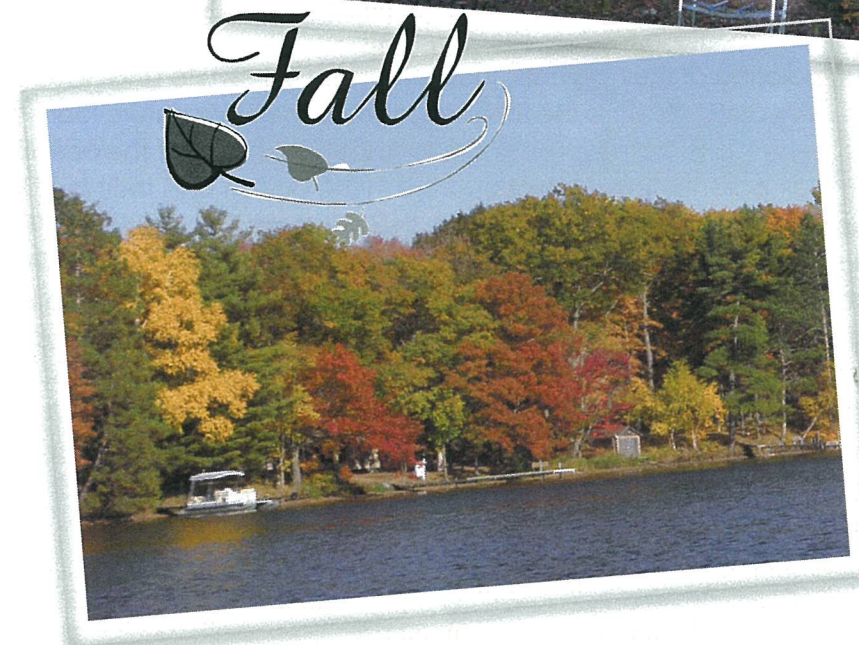
Hi and Happy Fall!

The leaves are falling (more and more everyday), and the weather is cool and crisp. We've had at least one hard frost, and it's time to button up and put everything away again. Sigh...seems like every year, our spring, summer and fall on Half Moon get shorter and shorter. We did enjoy many wonderful days this past season, however. For us, one of our highlights this year was eating dinner nearly every night on the end of our new dock, enjoying the lake, the fish jumping, and the beautiful sunsets. As we get out the rakes, and pack up the lawn chairs, the flower pots and the sprinklers, we are already looking forward to getting it all out again next year.

This newsletter deadline has crept up quickly this fall and we are putting it together somewhat earlier before our Chair lady leaves town for the sunny south. So this issue may be a bit smaller issue than the spring issue. Never-the-less we hope that you enjoy it and reading it will awaken many happy summer memories for you with friends and family.

Lastly, we wish you all a healthy and a happy winter and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you all again next spring!

P.S. Please remember to send us anything newsworthy concerning you or the lake... articles, pictures, remembrances, etc. We would love to include them in an upcoming issue!



"He built our cabins on Half Moon Lake - Great Job!"

**THE MCMAHONS, SCHNEIDERS,
& WALDOCHS**

Obituaries

RICHARD VEVLE

Died on September 24, 2012 at the age of 76. Richard and his family lived on Half Moon Lake for over 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Karen. Mark and Erik are surviving sons. The Vevle's resided in Eden Prairie.

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

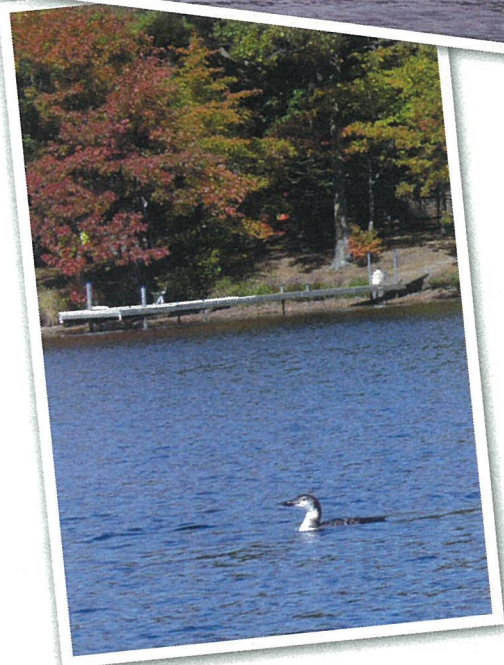
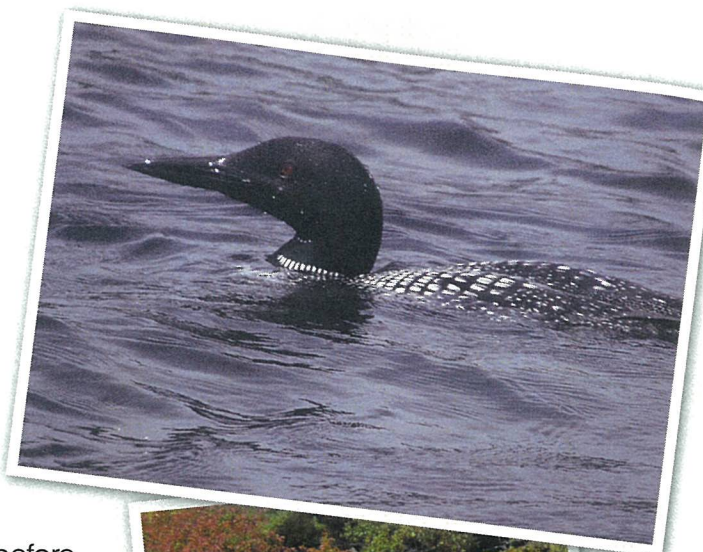
Loon Report

by Pat Mechelke Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger

Between September 3rd and the 16th, while we were out of the country, our two pairs of territorial loons left Half Moon Lake and joined other adult loons to feed and rest up in preparation for their annual migration to the Gulf Coast.

We are fortunate, however, in that we can still enjoy the calls of the loon as two juvenile loons appear to have arrived on Half Moon Lake to practice flying, landing and getting stronger before heading south late in the fall. These immature loons do not have the distinct coloring of their parents; they are brown and white and have brown eyes. Shortly before the lake freezes over, these immature loons instinctively recognize the path south to the warm waters of the ocean to join their parents. These chicks will live in the ocean until they are three or four years old. They then molt; their feathers turn black with white spots and neck stripes and their eyes turn from brown to red. The majority of these chicks return to either their birth site or a lake close by when they attain adulthood. Many of these young loons do not find a nesting territory until they are five years old, so many swim around our lakes as floaters waiting for an open territory.

Think spring, and if we do a good job of protecting our lakes nesting sites and baby loons next summer, we will hopefully have our own immature loons calling and swimming on our lake next fall.



The History Corner



by David Butler

We are now shooting for completion of the History book by July, 2013. If you have stories and/or photos you would like to have included, please get them to David J. Butler at david.butler@q.com or 7072 Lyndale Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423 by the first of the year.

You wives, did you get a new cabin built for you on the lake for a wedding present like Elizabeth Gage Beck did in 1923? Elizabeth was the brother of Horace Gage who built and operated the Pine View Resort and an aunt of Clayton Gage who still lives on the north shore of the lake next to the Beck cabin. (the yellow house). When Elizabeth Gage agreed to marry George Beck II, he told her if she would live with him in Oklahoma in the winter, he would build her a summer cabin in either Colorado or Wisconsin, and she chose Wisconsin. George Beck III now makes this his summer home.

Tell us your stories that relate to the lake.



"Warren Smallidge, Sr. - 1968, slalom skiing on Half Moon Lake"

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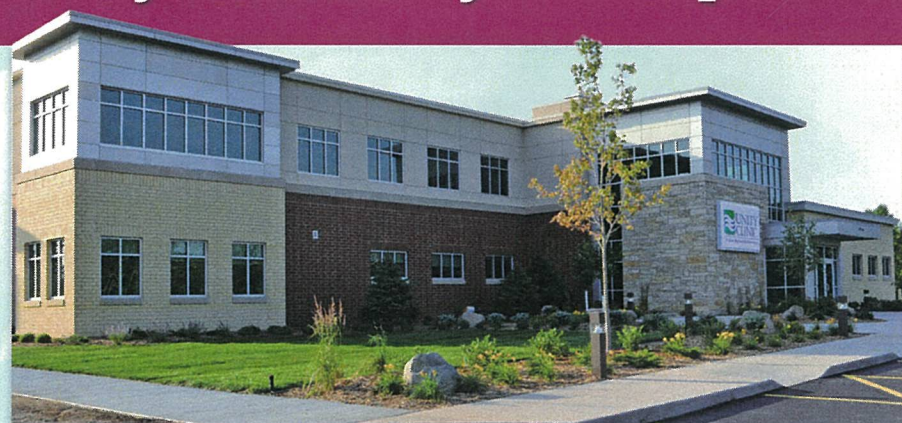
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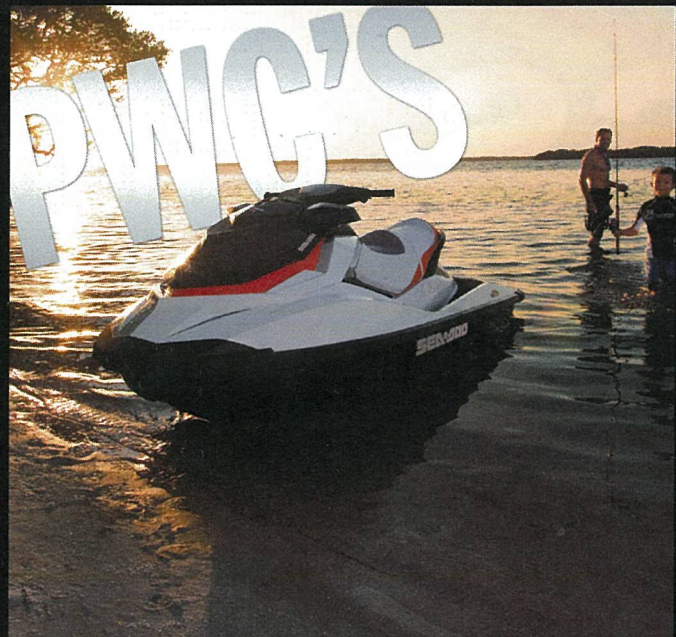
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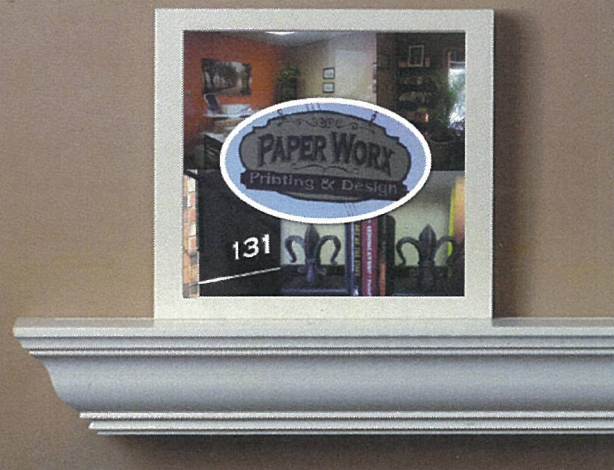
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Meet Your Neighbor

By Angela Misner



Loon Ladies

Lake-living offers some amazing opportunities: magnificent sunsets, hearing the call of a loon echoing across the water, sharing years of fishing expertise with a child, and experiencing nature up close. Lake-living can also mean meeting a lifelong friend. The so-called Loon Ladies of Half Moon Lake can tell you all about that.

Sue Schneider and Sheila Waldoch met more than 50 years ago in Forest Lake, Minnesota. Sue's family-owned the marina there (Timm's Marina) when Sheila's family relocated to Forest Lake from St. Paul to live full-time in their summer home. The girls were just second graders and became fast friends.

As is so often the case, after high school the ladies moved apart pursuing different opportunities. Sue took off with her brother and headed for California. Sheila stayed in Minnesota and eventually started her family there. They never lost touch though and shared important milestones of their lives like marriages and motherhood.

Sue says, "even though thousands of miles separated us, we always felt connected." By then Sue and her husband Chris had moved to Texas. A trip back to Minnesota for a school reunion changed everything. Sheila and Don Waldoch had already purchased their cabin on Half Moon Lake and invited the Schneiders for a visit. Sue was immediately hooked on the idea

of having a cabin of her own. "This would be a dream for our kids to experience the midwest up north."

After an offer on a cabin fell through, Sue and Chris entertained the idea of building on a piece of property along the south shore. The Schneiders signed the paperwork that weekend in 1993 and never made it to the school reunion. Sheila says, "we couldn't believe we were finally going to be on the same lake again."

Fast forward to today where their love of the lake has produced a business venture merchandising Half Moon logo wear. Sheila says the original logo, with a half moon and loon prominent, was commissioned by the late Kent Bank. As kids, Matt and Rick Smith put the logo on sweatshirts and tee shirts and sold

them to lake residents. Eventually, the Waldoch family took on the venture. Sheila says, "I wanted stuff for my guests to have. And then I approached Sue with the idea of doing this together and expanding the merchandise." That was more than ten years ago.

Today you can buy everything from shirts to caps, blankets, robes, note cards and even baby clothes. Every year the Loon Ladies like to introduce something new. This year they added Half Moon flags and calendars.

Sue says she loves to see people in their logo wear because immediately strangers have a connection to one another. She says in a way, the business has brought people together and helped foster new friendships.

You will see the Loon Ladies selling their merchandise at the annual Lake District picnic and on the water conducting sales on their pontoon boat Labor Day weekend.

By the way, their love of the loon prompted the name "Loon Ladies" and (contrary to what their husbands say) has nothing to do with them being loony.

You can check out the website for merchandise and special sales. (Loon ladies.com) then contact Sue or Sheila to order. Custom orders are also available.

Sue: 214-529-1910
Sheila: 612-867-9508



Sheila Waldoch



Sue Schneider

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12 HALF MOON LAKE LONG RANGE PLANNING

by David Glassman, Chair

Half Moon Lake is a precious resource and one of the premier recreational lakes of Polk County, if not the entire State! The overall mission of the Half Moon Long Range Planning committee is to maintain the health and clarity of Half Moon Lake for future generations, to support clean water free from invasive species of plant life, preserve the lakes natural beauty, maintain its recreational use, and preserve property values.

Half Moon Lake Long Range Goals:

- Improve Half Moon Lake water clarity.
- Maintain and enhance Half Moon Lake's natural beauty.
- Protect and enhance wildlife habitat including the Lake's fishery.
- Minimize negative impacts of the surrounding watersheds.
- Improve property values on Half Moon Lake.
- Educate and share information with lake residents

After introductions the committee members brought various concerns to the table. Among them were:

- Invasive plant species
- Property back-lotting of lake access property
- City sewer / sanitation management
- Condition of existing septic - drain fields
- The current condition of the Lake's Dam
- Adjacent property's impact on the Lake
- Where does our lakes water come from- watersheds
- Property taxes
- The public access
- Shoreline plants as a buffer
- Fish stocking and fishing tournaments

Most of these concerns are not unique to just our lake, Other lake associations, and Half Moons have similar interests. We need to work in collaboration with Half Moons Lake association and Conservancy Committee as well as State and Local Governments including the County Representative, The Township, The Watershed District, Polk County Land & Water Resources department, The WI DNR and The Polk County Lakes and Rivers organization. We will try to have a representative from each of these recourses discuss how they can help us in achieving our goals. Making sure our efforts are cumulative not complimentary. One of the most crucial components of any lake management plan is the involvement of the Lake residents and the public in the planning process and the incorporation of their views into the final document. We will begin drafting a survey in which to collect this information.



The initial meeting was held on Saturday September 29th. In attendance were:

Pat and Mike McMahon, Herb Baldwin, Laurie Leh, Don Frenette, and Chuck Erickson

The next meeting is May 18th, 2013 if you would like to join, please contact me at: djglassman@tmsmn.com

To Families on Half Moon Lake: When did your family first come to the lake?

We would like for you to be a part of writing a book about the "History of Half Moon Lake". The book will be a continuation of the "Memories" book written by Martha McMahon with additional material about the early days and not so early days. You can help by providing stories, photos and information about your family's experiences at the lake over the years. Please attach a sheet with your information and return to me by snail mail or email. Include: Name, Mailing address, Cabin address, Best phone, Email address. Early history: (attach your story) What photos do you have and are you willing to have them appear in the book? Do you have family letters written about experiences at the lake? What stories about your experiences are you willing to share? Would you prefer to have an interview rather than to submit a written account? Do you know of other family members who we should contact for information?

Some photos we would like to find: the Dance Pavilion, the Half Moon Store, the early dam, Pine View Resort, Half Moon Resort, Fridley Resort, Kaiser resort, early catches of walleye, cutting ice, Oscar Johnson, the Monsons, other early land owners, Sandy Beach, South Beach, early boats and motors, early automobiles, early cabins, the root beer stand and whatever else you find interesting.

Good way to send photos is as attachments to email. If you send photos by mail, we will return if requested. My goal is to have the book ready by the time of the Lake meeting in July, 2013, so I need your input this fall.

Please reply to:

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butler@q.com

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Report from Half Moon Lake Conservancy

by David Butler

Hunter Johnson's Eagle Scout project was to help clean and clear the Harder Creek Trail and to install two benches. Hunter's parents, Erik and Mary Beth Johnson have the cabin north of Don and Sheila Waldoch. Sheila knew that Hunter was looking for a project for his Eagle Scout award and directed him to the Conservancy. As a result Hunter, members of his troop and family, and representatives of the Conservancy board cleaned up and cleared the Harder Trail and installed two benches. The work has resulted in a very attractive path for hiking and exploring and viewing the huge wetland created by the beaver dams on Harder Creek.

Pictured are: Eric Johnson, Johnny Leining, Hunter Johnson, Ethan Hyland, Logan Cunningham



Fishing News

by Diane Erickson

Half Moon Lake Fishing Report

What a different summer we had this year! Very early warmth, a long hot summer, and now water levels lower than most have seen for many years! Not the most conducive for great fishing, though I did see lots of boats fishing on the lake this year!

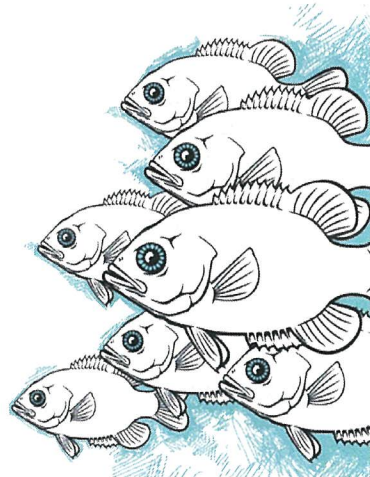
We have a new DNR biologist, Aaron Cole, who is working in Barron and Polk Counties. In early October, the DNR staff, including Aaron, were out on Half Moon Lake in the early evening (yes, that strange looking craft you may have seen coming across the water is the DNR!) doing their fall walleye survey for young of the year fish. According to Aaron, "Unfortunately, we did not collect any young of the year walleyes, but did see some that were between 10-12" which were likely ones stocked last year."

He continued "There was also spring electrofishing and netting surveys this year. The fyke netting survey was conducted to estimate the adult walleye population. All walleye caught in the nets are measured and marked. Following that the lake is surveyed via electrofishing. From all of this, the walleye population (fish $\geq 15"$) was estimated to be 270 fish, or ~ 0.5 fish/acre. This density is on the low side for walleye lakes, but not that uncommon for most Polk County lakes. Many of the walleye lakes over there are around 0.5 to 1 adult fish/acre. The last walleye population estimate was in 2006 estimated the population to be 318 fish, or ~ 0.5 /acre. So the walleye population appears pretty similar in size to that of 2006."

Aaron mentioned that the number largemouth bass are not decreasing on the lake, This years survey showed a catch rate of largemouth bass was 42 fish/mile, the same number that we had in a 2006 survey. If you know anyone who is going out fishing, please remind them that Half Moon Lake does not have size limits on largemouth bass, so please encourage them to keep all of the bass that they catch!!

Now that most of the boats have been stored away, it's time to think about ice fishing. Please remember to remove all debris from the ice when you leave (otherwise, it ends up IN the lake when the ice melts!). Have fun but be safe on the ice! Happy fishing!

Photo taken by Diane Erickson



TRUDI'S TIPS

by Trudi Gores

Helpful Hints

PUMPKIN DELIGHT

by Pat McMahon

This is an easy recipe. It is good enhanced by a dollop of whipped cream. May freeze after baking. Serves 12

- 1 29-oz. can pumpkin
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- Package of yellow cake mix
- 2 sticks melted butter
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Mix first 7 ingredients. Pour into greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with dry cake mix, and drizzle with butter. Top with pecans. Bake at 350 for 1 hour.



#1 Gravy shortcut. Put broth in bowl. Drop ice cubes into juice. The ice will collect the grease. Remove ice and make gravy as usual.

#2 To remove a stripped Phillips screw, lay a rubberband over screw and insert screwdriver. You may need some elbow grease.

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