

# Loon Lings

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

# ALF MOON LAKE

Photo taken by Michelle Goracke

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by PAT MCMAHON

It's a watershed year for Wisconsin lakes. New studies suggest they're in better shape here than nationally and are demonstrably cleaner than 40 years ago when the federal Clean Water Act triggered a generation of investments in wastewater treatment improvements. Some interesting facts:

- \* 91 percent of lakes are in good biological condition, compared to 56 percent nationally.
- \* 64 percent of lakes have good shoreline condition, compared to 47 percent nationally.
- \* 91 percent of lakes have low to moderate levels of nutrients, compared to 80 percent nationally.
- \* 77 percent of lakes don't have detectable levels of a toxin produced by excessive blue-green algae, compared to 70 percent nationally. This is encouraging for the future health of our lakes.

Now, on to Half Moon Lake news.

I'm happy to welcome Pat Mechelke on board as our new Loon Ranger. She will give a full loon report at our annual meeting. In addition, Pat is planning a presentation from LoonWatch. Plan to stay awhile after lunch and learn more about our loons and their habitat. The presentation will begin around 12:30.

Please read about three "first-time" events on the lake.

- \* June 14th. "Journey Through the Bog" with Bob and Steve McMahon as guides.
- \* Half Moon Lake Photo Contest and 2013 Calendar.
- \* Half Moon Lake Sailboat Race Friday July 6th.

Information on all these activities appears in this issue of "Loon Lines."

The 4th of July celebration is coming! A postcard was mailed to each of you with events and times. They also are in this issue. Again this year, biodegradable water balloons will be available at the beach, starting June 29th. You can also pick up balloons on my porch.

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING is Saturday, July 21st. Our notification appears in the newsletter, public beach, local paper, and my mailbox. I hope to see all of you at our meeting.

Go out and enjoy the lake.

Thanks for reading.



Taken by Sarah Sawyer Anderson on her shoreline

# HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Pat McMahon, Chair Home Phone: 715-825-2148 Email: mmcma10134@aol.com

Dan Leh, Vice Chair/Treasurer Cell: 612-490-1002 Email: Halfmoonlake@hotmail.com

Kim Butler, Secretary
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Diane Erickson, Fishing Cell: 651-249-4157 Email: ericksondle@gmail.com

Harlen Hegdal, Chairman, Milltown Township Home Phone: 715-205-7829 Email: WISREG@HOTMAIL.com

Kathryn Kienholz, County Representative Home Phone: 715-825-4149 Email: kathryn.kienholz@co.polk.wi.us

# Upcoming Events on Half Moon Lake

4TH OF JULY EVENTS & TIMES

Friday, July 6th • 2:00 p.m.
!st Half Moon Lake Sailboat Race
Contact Rick Miller for information & registration
rpm2002@juno.com

Saturday, July 7th •1:00 p.m. Decorated Boat Parade

2:00 p.m. • Water Gun and Balloon Fight

Saturday July 7th • Dusk
Family Movie & Popcorn at the beach
"The Adventures of Tintin"

Saturday, July 7th •after movie Half Moon Lake Fireworks Display

Saturday July 21st •10:00 Half Moon Lake Annual District Meeting

Friday August 3rd • Dusk Family Movie and Popcorn at the beach "Raiders of the Lost Ark"



We checked water clarity on Sunday, June 10. The clarity was 13 feet. That's normal given the recent rain and the fact that we were doing the measurement on a windy weekend. On about the same date in 2011, the clarity was 18 feet. It was 13 feet in 2010. The DNR has new equipment for measuring chlorophyll and phosphorous, which they haven't delivered to me yet. I'll be taking chemical readings this weekend or next.



Editor's Column

by Sarah Sawyer Anderson Newsletter Editor

Happy Spring!! Although we have been anxiously awaiting it's appearance, it seems as if it has really arrived especially early this year and now the 4th of July is already only a mere two weeks away. Yikes!! Our summers seem to fly by faster each year so remember to appreciate each and every special day at the Lake this summer!

Speaking of the Lake, we have several fun and informative events scheduled this summer. The bog tour, although wet and rainy, was not only highly educational; but a lot of fun for all who participated. Read all about it in this issue. We also have several exciting events planned for the 4th including a new Sailboat Race. See the article for details. Additionally, there are two movie nights planned through the Library at the city beach for families. See dates in this issue.

Another bit of new news is that Half Moon has a new full time resident and I have a new last name. My new husband Scott Anderson, a friend of 51 years, and I were married December 17, 2011. We have only been back here since mid April and he has already fallen in love with everything about Half Moon Lake. On nice days you can find us dining and enjoying the sunsets on our new dock. Please stop by to say hello and meet him.

Please send me YOUR new news as well as any interesting photos, bits, or articles of interest that you would like to see included in the Loon Lines. This is after all, YOUR newsletter and we really value your input.

Have a Wonderful, Safe, and a Happy Summer!



www.halfmoonlake.net

# Loon Report

by Pat Mechelke Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger

Two pairs of loons were seen on Half Moon Lake soon after the ice went out the latter part of March. It's unusual for a lake our size to have two pairs of territorial loons, but we have been on the lake for seven years and have always seen at least four loons. Both females were photographed on their nests; the pair nesting on the northwest bay of the lake had a chick. Less than a week after birth, however, it unfortunately, disappeared. Fate unknown. Hopefully, both pairs will nest again this summer with more positive results.

Since loons return to the same lake each year, this is a photo of last year's loon on her nest in the northwest bay. We have not put the more recent photos of this years loons on each of their nests and the baby into the computer yet.



# Report from Half Moon Lake Conservancy

by David Butler

The Conservancy, with the help of Anthony Hovranek, Land & Water Resources Manager of the St. Croix Tribal Environmental Department, has undertaken a project of planting wild rice in Tamarack Bay. There are still remnants of wild rice growing in the Bay that was planted some years ago by Norman Gage and his father, Clayton Gage, when they were attracting ducks into the area. If the rice planting takes hold, more will be planted in the fall. The plan is to involve some of the Native American students at Unity with some of the kids around the lake to help with the planting. The harvesting of wild rice has a ritual aspect to it for the Native Americans.

Discussions are underway with several property owners regarding protection of additional wetlands in the watershed area and regarding the creation of buffer zones between crop lands and the creeks that flow into the lake. The posture of the Conservancy is to work with willing property owners in critical areas around the lake. It has no desire to acquire property from an unwilling participant.

Hunter Johnson, son of Eric and Mary Beth Flynn Johnson, who have a cabin on the lake, is partnering with the Conservancy to improve the Harder Creek Nature Trail as part of his requirements for obtaining an Eagle Scout Award. If you would be interested in helping improve the trail, call Harlen Hegdal at 715-205-7829.

#### The History Corner



by David Butle

Our book on the History of Half Moon Lake should be available for sale prior to Christmas, 2012. We have room for and would love to include your family stories about life at the lake. It would be nice to include as many family experiences and memories as possible as this will be a great tribute to the early "Life on Half Moon Lake". Let us know when your family first started coming to the lake, their names, and share with us stories you would like to see in the book. If you send photos we will return them. Attachments to email would be easier.

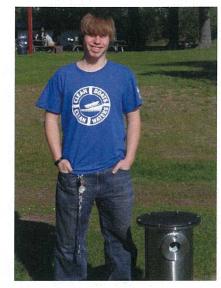
Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you!

# CLEAN BOATS/ CLEAN WATERS! by Dan Leh Chairman, Clean Boats/Clean Waters

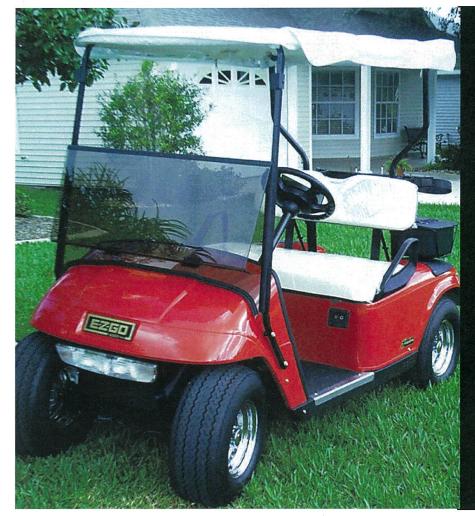
We are off to a great start this year at the boat launch. The ILids camera and our CBCW inspector (Josh Hatton) have both been present since the fishing opener. This is the earliest we have been ready and goes to show the dedication our Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District has towards protecting our lake. Josh continues to pull weeds off trailers each week but indicated the general public is more aware of Aquatic Invasive Species than ever before. Thanks Josh for continuing to be our ambassador to the lake and doing such a great job educating the community.

Volunteers are needed and welcomed. You can do your part by educating your family, guests and neighbors the importance of Clean Boats/Clean Waters for everyone's enjoyment! Visit the University of Wisconsin Website to educate yourself on Aquatic Invasive Species. www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes

HELP KEEP HALF MOON LAKE ONE OF POLK COUNTY'S CLEANEST LAKES.



Josh Hatton in front of Ilids camera



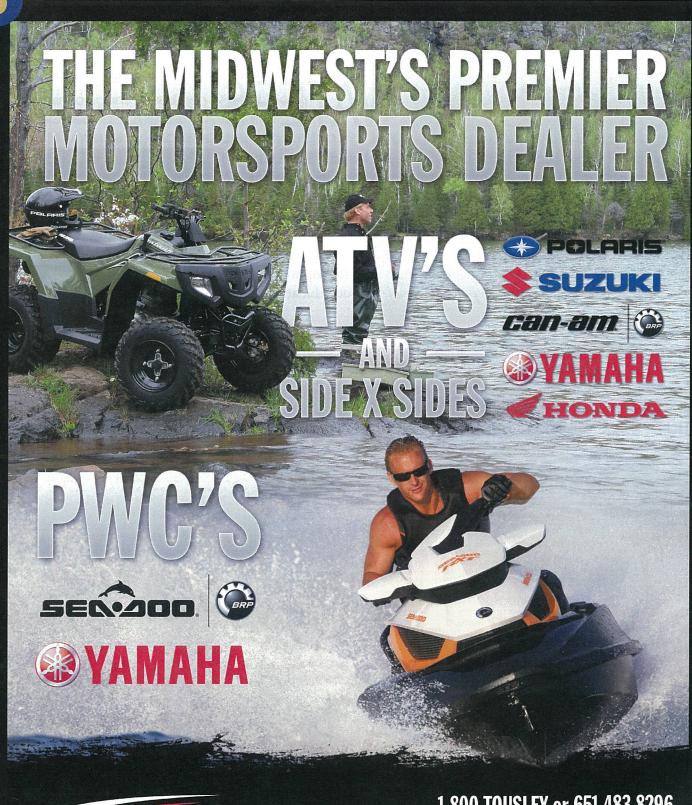
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#### Scout Community Service Project at Half Moon Beach





A big thank you to Luck Cub Scout Pack 147 and the Brownies who traded some much needed painting and beach cleaning for a night on Half Moon Lake Beach, as part of their community service project. Fun was had by all with a picnic, end-of-the year award ceremony, and a campfire. They even saw a shooting star! Thanks much to the Voss family for the use of their firepit.







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#### MILLTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY



by Deanna Wheeler

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 Monday. Call 715-825-2313 to reserve a spot!

The Milltown Public Library provides several on-going and special programs—especially for families. The 2012 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 include Cartooning Basics, Conservation Story Time, Randy the Frog Guy, Nature's Niche and Mad Science! 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 7 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 inhouse 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





My husband and I have lived in Milltown since 2004. We have a two year old son that would spend all of his time at the library if we would let him! I began working at the library in 2009 as the youth services librarian. The director position became available in the fall of 2011. This was an opportunity for me to serve my community and the surrounding townships on another level. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last three years at the Milltown Public Library. The patrons make my job exciting and the staff make it very enjoyable. Outside of the library, I spend time gardening, attending school and spending time with our son.

Thank you so much!
Deanna Wheeler



# ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

#### **NOTICE**

#### 2012 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 21st, 2012 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, 2013 December 31st 2013

#### **REVENUES**

Tax Levy
Other
Carryover
Total Revenues:
COST OF OPERATIONS
Administration
Info & Education
Lake Management
Total Expenditures
NON-LAPSABLE CAPITAL FUND
Balance on June 14th, 2012
CBCW equipment/supplies 55,926.13
PROPOSED 2013 TAX LEVY
Operating Budget Tax Levy
Capital Budget Tax Levy 5,000
Advisory Proposal Fish Stocking 6,400
Total Proposed Levy

- 8. Approval of corresponding tax levy
- 9. Election of commissioner
- 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.





# Township News by Harlen Hegdal, Charman, Milltown Township

It is summer again and I am pleased to say that our Township is in good shape. Our guys are mowing and we recently had a group of boy scouts and a brownie troop paint the bathrooms and picnic tables at the Half Moon Beach. They did a terrific job!

I would like to remind everyone again that Polk County does have a leash law and even though you are living at the Lake as a seasonal resident, this does apply to you and your dogs as well. Please remember to be a responsible dog owner and remind your quests that have dogs as well, to keep track of your dogs at all times. Dogs that are running loose and picked up are brought to the shelter in Amery and you will be responsible for the fines to retrieve them. Worse case scenario is many area farmers do not tolerate dogs coming onto their farm and will deal with them in their own way.

Individuals setting off fireworks are also a problem and the sheriff's office has been more aggressive in answering calls and issuing tickets. Again, please be considerate of your neighbors on the lake, especially those who go to bed early.

Lastly, if you have a fire pit you will not need a burning permit to use it, however if you are burning a large brush fire, you will need one. The burning permits are free but please note that when the DNR deems it un-safe, they will issue a fire ban. We post those red signs in several locations.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions and have a safe summer.

Harlen Hegdal, Chairman, 715-205-7829 wisreg@hotmail.com



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#### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

#### Glassmans on Half Moon Lake

by Angela Misner

Every May, just before the summer sizzle sets in over the Arizona desert, Ron and Jan Glassman trek north.

They come to Wisconsin for the cooler weather, the relaxing rhythm of the long summer days, and to continue the traditions they've enjoyed at their summer

It all began 24 years ago when the Glassmans went in pursuit of the perfect lake cabin. Living in Mahtomedi at the time, their friends, Don and Sheila Waldoch, introduced them to Half Moon Lake. The Glassmans spent the weekend looking at various surrounding lakes as well but found none was as pristine as Half Moon. As Ron tells it, "We knocked on the door of Carl Beck's place because we'd heard he might be selling. We shook hands and made the deal on the spot."

Jan says, "We wanted a place for the kids. It's good for kids to get out of their home environment and have a place they can scream more, run more, bike more. They could have the freedom to just be kids." Grown sons David and Jason still enjoy the lake and the Glassmans' grandchildren, Andrew and Colin, are making their own memories on Half Moon.

These memories include the fireworks shows the Glassman family put on for the entire lake community for several years. David would string the fireworks together on a swim platform and set them off to the oohs and ahhs of the appreciative crowds.

People around the lake would look forward to the show every year.

For many years the Glassman family paid for the entire shows without any outside assistance. Later, several homeowners began pitching in to help with the costs until eventually the Half Moon Lake 4th of July Committee was formed and the show is now funded by donations from lake residents, assistance from the Township of Milltown, as well as advertising revenue from the businesses that advertise in our "Loon Lines" community newsletter. Many credit the Glassmans for initiating the family celebration along our shore.

The Glassmans have always been generous and believe in giving back to the community. They have been longtime supporters of various local organizations and causes including the CRA Welcome Home Women's Shelter in Polk County and our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Balsam Lake. The Glassmans helped the Milltown Police department by purchasing a traffic control sign and they always support fundraisers for the Milltown Fire Department. Ron says"those volunteer firefighters put their life on the line all the time. The least I can do is give back in some way." David Glassman helped secure grants to fund a new boat launch ramp at the public beach and efforts by the Glassmans, among others, resulted in upgrading the play area and public restrooms.

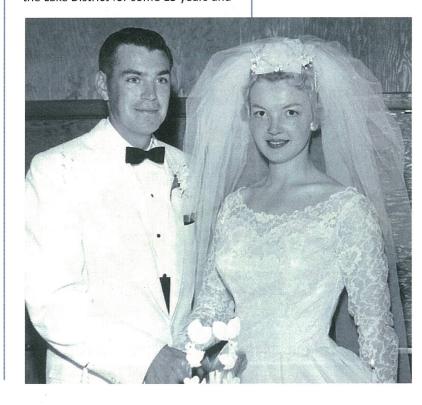
The Glassmans also serve the lake they live on. Ron has been active with the Lake District for some 15 years and was Chairman for six years. He believes when people contribute time, energy, or expertise it makes the lake better for the future. "The lake Board is becoming much more proactive and that's a good thing." He says the biggest threat to our lake is invasive species like milfoil. "We must protect our pristine lake and we need everyone involved in making the lake

Ron and Jan have shared 24 years on Half Moon Lake but on June 30th they will have shared 50 years together. When asked their secret to a long and successful union Ron says "Don't take everything so seriously. You have to be able to laugh and have fun. And look at your marriage from your spouses view sometimes. It can't always be one sided."

Jan says they always got along and trusted each other. Jan believes couples should try to "clear any bad feelings before going to bed so you can wake up with a fresh day."

For the Glassmans, more often than not, they wake up to the beauty of the summer days on Half Moon

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jan is recovering from recent health issues. Until she returns home, get well cards or anniversary wishes can be sent to: Waverly Gardens 5919 Centerville Road, Suite #50 North Oaks, Minnesota. 55127 651-762-6771







#### Loon Ladies Logo Wear and Gifts

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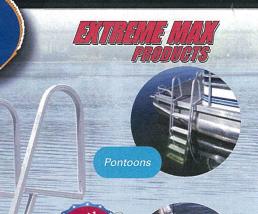
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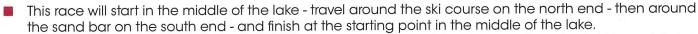




# SAILBOAT RACE friday . july 6 . 2012

First Annual Half Moon Lake resident sailboat race! Casual race (not timed) on the afternoon of Friday July 6 (weather permitting)

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



- 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.)
- Sailboats should gather in the middle of the lake near Rosie's Point, the race will then go north around the water ski course to the north, around the sandbar on the south, and back to Rosie's point for the finish. There are no prizes other than pride and getting to meet fellow sailors. You are participating in this event completely at your own risk. If there is a good turnout and interest, in the future we will consider being more formal.

For additional information on this event, please contact Rick Miller at:rpm2002@juno.com.



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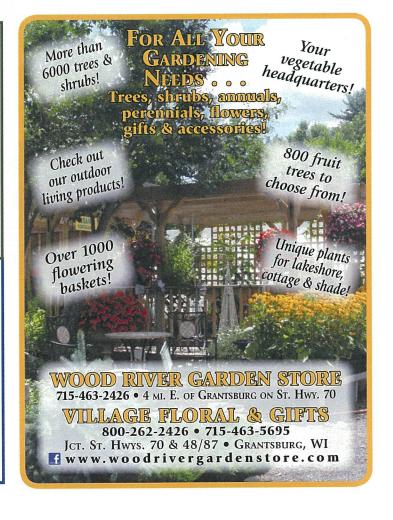
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Knowing that many of you have wonderful scenes of our beautiful lake - we are sponsoring a Half Moon Lake Photo Contest.
This is just for fun... so start clicking.

#### HERE ARE THE RULES:

- 1. Each family may submit up to 3 entries, and can be recent photos or from the past.
- 2. Each photo must be 5x7- and will not be returned.
- 3. All photos must be of Half Moon Lake, family lake activities, lake nature, etc.
- 4. Entries will be posted at our annual meeting. Members will vote by ballot for their favorites. The Loon Ladies will turn the top winners into a Half Moon Lake 2013 calendar to be sold at next year's annual meeting.

Send your 5X7 photo entry by July 15th to:
Pat McMahon,
1227 190th. Ave, Balsam Lake, Wl. 54810
715-825-2148

# UNITY CLINIC RELOCATING JULY 2

St. Croix Regional Medical Center's Unity Clinic will open July 2 near Balsam Lake. Staff will provide general clinic medical services as before, but the larger building will allow for additional services such as expanded physical rehabilitation and some educational activites. Pharmacist Chuck Erickson, a Half Moon Lake resident, is joining the new full-service pharmacy.





# **BOG TOUR**

by Bob McMahon, Associate Professor, Ohio State Univ.

On Thursday, June 14, 2012, Bob and Steve McMahon led a tour organized by Half Moon Lake District president Pat McMahon into the "Nelson" bog located just to the east of the north public beach on Half Moon Lake. The weather was cool and rainy, but this did not dampen the spirits of the following nature lovers: Mike McMahon, Kristi Kolbjornsen, Colin Kolbjornsen, Evin Kolbjornsen, Mary Vireow and grandson Eli Pickit, (although that can't be said for the people themselves!) The group entered the bog off the road, negotiating shrubs, channels of water and uneven terrain that bordered the actual bog. However, everyone persevered and made it to the actual bog in a few minutes. Upon emergence into the bog, the group was rewarded by a plethora of unique species of bog plants growing on a thick mat of sphagnum moss (Sphagnum sp.) that was literally floating on the water beneath!

Bob and Steve stopped the group frequently to point out examples of unique species of plants that are found only in bogs. The most notable species included tamarack trees (Larix laricina); large cranberries (Vaccinium macrocarpon), with some plants forming actual cranberries; numerous species of sedge grasses (Carex sp.); carnivorous plants: northern purple pitcher plants (Sarracenia purpurea subsp. purpurea), spoon-leaf sundews (Drosera intermedia), and round-leaf sundews (Drosera rotundifolia), which all capture and digest insect prey that act as a "fertilizer" for these plants since the moss in which they grow is extremely low in nutrients; and temperate bog orchids: grass pink orchid (Calopogon pulchelus), rose pegonia (Pogonia ophioglossoides), and dragon's mouth orchid (Arethusa bulbosa).

For many in the group, this adventure was the first time to actually be in a bog, so it was not only an educational experience, but also eye opening and a lot of fun in spite of the wet weather. An approaching thunderstorm ended the trek into the bog, but everyone took with them a lot of fun memories and new appreciation for this pristine, fascinating, and unique ecosystem adjacent to Half Moon Lake.







# TRUDI'S TIPS by Trudi Gores

# Helpful Hints

#### WILD RICE EGG DISH

Sarah Sawyer Anderson

½ cup Wild Rice

10 eggs well beaten

3/4 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese

2 cups sliced mushrooms

½-¾ cup grated onion

½-¾ cup Sour Cream

1 cup Milk

4 teaspoons of Santa Maria seasoning (black pepper, salt, dried garlic, dried parsley)

1 Tablespoon Butter

1/4 cup Olive Oil

½ cup finely cut fresh Chives



Pre-cook rice in 3 cups of water for 45 minutes. When cooked, spread evenly in a 9"x13" pan. Saute mushrooms and onions in olive oil and butter until browned and onions are wilted. Add ½ teasp. of Santa Maria seasoning (or the parsley, pepper, salt, and garlic combination if you cannot find this seasoning). Add a layer of Parmesan Cheese over the rice. Spread sautéed mushrooms and onions over cheese layer. Blend the 10 well beaten eggs well with the sour cream, milk, chives (minus 1 Tablespoon), and the remaining 3 teaspoons of Santa Maria seasoning. Pour egg mixture over mushroom and onion mixture into pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes until done. Let stand for 5 minutes and sprinkle 1 teaspoon of cut chives over top. Cut, serve and enjoy.

#1 To keep recipes and recipe books clean place under an upside -down pie plate. The plate will help magnify the recipe.

#2 A chip on the shoulder is the heaviest load a man can carry.

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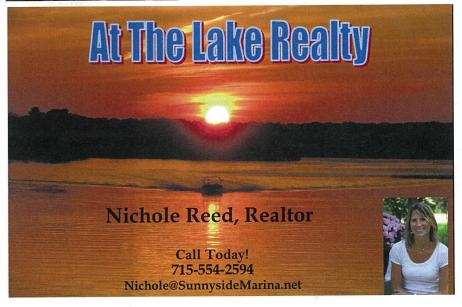




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