



FALL 2013  
Volume 6 • Issue 2

# Loon Lings

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



Photo taken by Ellen Butler

## WHAT'S INSIDE

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR ..... P. 9  
HALF MOON MAP ..... P. 10-11  
TOWNSHIP REPORT ..... P. 17  
CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATERS..... P. 18



# Letter from the Chair

by PAT MCMAHON, CHAIR



As your lake chair, I receive many calls from residents seeking help. These range from barking dogs, low water levels, high water levels, poor fishing on the south-end, fireworks late at night, garbage from the bears, and loud loons calls early in the morning. Many times, I simply am unable to help. So, imagine my surprise when I received three phone calls this summer - each volunteering to help me!

The first call came in June. Arne Kolbjornsen asked if he could update our Half Moon Lake map. This had been a project the board had examined. Lacking the manpower, it had been put on the back burner, several times. This is not an easy task. Just ask Gordie Mommson and Dan Leh, they put together our last lake map. In this issue of "LOON LINES," Arne has a first draft. Please help him by checking your property, lot numbers, etc. Also, please review your neighbors information. E-mail any additions or corrections to Arne. The plan is to mail the updated map with the spring issue of "LOON LINES."

Before the last annual meeting, I asked John Briegel to build a sign for the new "Voss Landing" at the beach. After a visit to the site, John saw that our other lake signs and the message board looked very worn. Without hesitation, all new signs were made and installed. What a difference - they look great.

We had much discussion at our annual meeting about adding a new loon platform at the south end of the lake. We needed something very strong, a specific size and shape, and it needed to provide protection from the eagles. Within days, Doug Ebeling delivered a new loon platform to Diane Erickson. With the advice from the loon experts, this will be in place next spring. Maybe we will have two sets of baby loons to watch.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ARNE, JOHN AND DOUG!

The next annual meeting is Saturday, July 19th. Last year was a record turn-out. The board is now eager to tackle new issues for the next year. I'm very grateful to the good people doing good things for Half Moon Lake.

Have a Happy Holiday Season. I'm already looking forward to May.

Thanks for reading.  
Pat



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## Editor's Column

by Sarah Anderson  
Newsletter Editor  
sarahwyls@hotmail.com

It's that time again...the beautiful golden leaves on our maples are falling faster than we can keep them off of the lawn and my husband Scott is busy draining hoses, putting away garden ornaments, pots, lawn chairs, rain gage, hammock, and every other thing we use in the summer at our cabin on Half Moon Lake. Thankfully the dock and the raft came out on a reasonably warm day this fall so at least the place will be ready to greet winter (It doesn't seem that we the occupants are ever ready to let go of another spring, summer, fall year at Half Moon.)

And so it is time again for the fall Loon Lines issue. There is so much good information out there; it is hard to have to somewhat limit the size of our issues. This issue contains a biography of our new Board members, our newest loon platform, and the great new signs at the landing. Arne Kolbjornsen has been working hard at updating our Half Moon Lake Map and has published the latest draft in this newsletter. Please look it over carefully for errors and/or omissions in names,

spelling, addresses, fire numbers, etc. Arne also asks that you review this for your neighbors as well and get any corrections to him so this version of the lake map will be as correct as possible. Arne can be reached at: kakolbjorn@comcast.net.

Rick Miller sent in an excellent article on Electric Shock Drowning, which is very informative, and a must-read for our water safety. Dan Leh submitted the very informative article on Banded Mystery Snails. Additionally, be sure to read the Township report by our chair, Harlen Hegdahl. This situation requires some action on the part of lake owners, which will benefit us all.

Please keep sending in your pictures, stories, and articles. We love to hear from you and include what you would like to see in your Loon Lines newsletter.

A good winter to all!

Sarah



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

THE MCMAHONS, SCHNEIDERS,  
& WALDOCHS

**John Briegel has been in contact with the DNR. Good News! Half Moon Lake is on the stocking list, and will be stocked in odd year rotation cycles! On October 17th, the DNR released 5,790 fingerlings in our lake. Happy Fishing!**

Nichole Reed  
Realtor



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# 4 Loon Report

by Pat Mechelke, Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger

For those of you who attended the annual lakeshore meeting in July, I hope you enjoyed and gained knowledge from the presentation by Erica



LeMoine of the Loon Watch Program stationed at Northland College in Ashland, WI. Our four adult loons left the lake to fly south to the gulf coast about mid-September. Adult loons always migrate at this time of year and leave their chicks to gain weight, strength, and mature before they leave towards the end of October or even into November. We were thrilled that the two chicks which hatched in the north bay survived not only the eagles and other predators but the activity of jet skis and other boaters. They will remain in the gulf for three years when they will likely return to either our lake or a nearby lake. Doug Ebeling has graciously built a new loon platform for the south bay of the lake that will be anchored in place yet this fall. Hopefully, the platform will enable our second pair of loons to build a nest and successfully hatch baby loons next spring. Have a great fall and winter. See you on the lake next spring.

## The History Corner



by David Butler

"The Half Moon Lake Conservancy's book entitled, "History of Half Moon Lake, a Story of Trust" written by David J. Butler, was introduced at the Lake District annual meeting on July 20 and is available for purchase at the Balsam Lake Hardware Store or from David J. Butler, phone 612-798-0402 or david.butler@q.com. The six-generation Voss family, the featured family in the book, celebrated becoming a Century Farm Family on October 19th. The book is dedicated to the Mosay family of Native Americans who were the first known inhabitants of Half Moon Lake. Dora Ammann and Dan Mosay, grandchildren of Mike and Mary Mosay will be special guests at the celebration. The book of 192 pages, with over 200 photos, contains stories from over 50 families who related to the lake and includes the history of Wisconsin and Polk County from the glacier period of 10,000 years ago."

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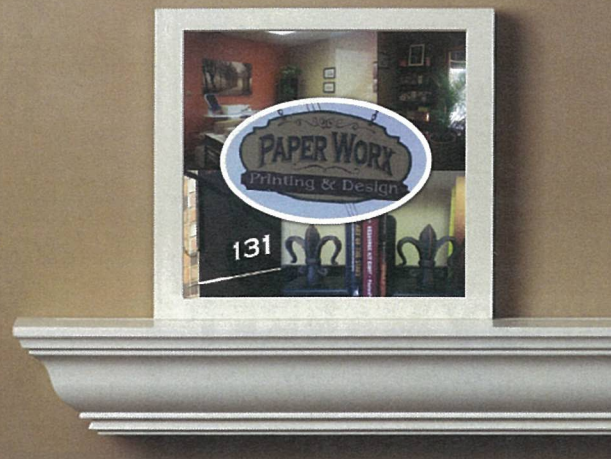
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# Meet Your Neighbor

This year, we welcome two new commissioners to the Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation board. Both are longtime residents of the lake — and bring with them many ideas and talents.

John Briegel is our new Fishing Chairman. John was born in Minneapolis — and came to Half Moon as a child in 1957. Besides the normal water activities, John remembers many boating trips to the Half Moon root beer stand. John's favorite subject in school was woodworking. He continues this interest today as owner of House of Wood. John is a superb cabinet maker — as many residents of the lake will attest to. He and his wife, Linda, have two children and six grandchildren.

John Weber comes to the board with many years experience as a community leader in Ham Lake. He served on the city's Planning Commission for over twenty years, and was a chair until last year. He also was V.P. and Treasurer of the Ham Lake Development. John's retirement is looming as Project Manager for Stone Construction. He and his wife, Jane, now make Half Moon their residence. They have lived on the lake since 2001 — purchasing the property from John Briegel's father. Jane has had 50 years of ties with the lake. She is Donald Waldoch's cousin and a long time friend with Jenny Slanina. Together, they have four children and ten grandchildren, including Josh and Charlie, our boat landing inspectors.

Both men share a vision for our lake:

- To continue and improve our programs
- To maintain and improve water quality
- To expand education for lake property owners
- To continue the diligent with invasive species
- To monitor and work with local zoning issues

Welcome aboard John and John!



John B. and John W.



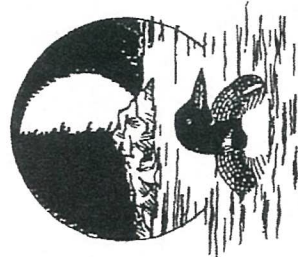
## FLUSHING YOUR LAKE'S FUTURE

Every flush of a toilet or a rush down the gutter dumps something into our lakes. Storm sewers are NOT safe disposal sites — water running into the sewers flushes oil and grease, garbage, animal and yard waste, chemicals, pesticides, toxic metals, salts and sediments directly into the lake. Even overburdened septic systems leak nutrient-rich pollutants into lakes.

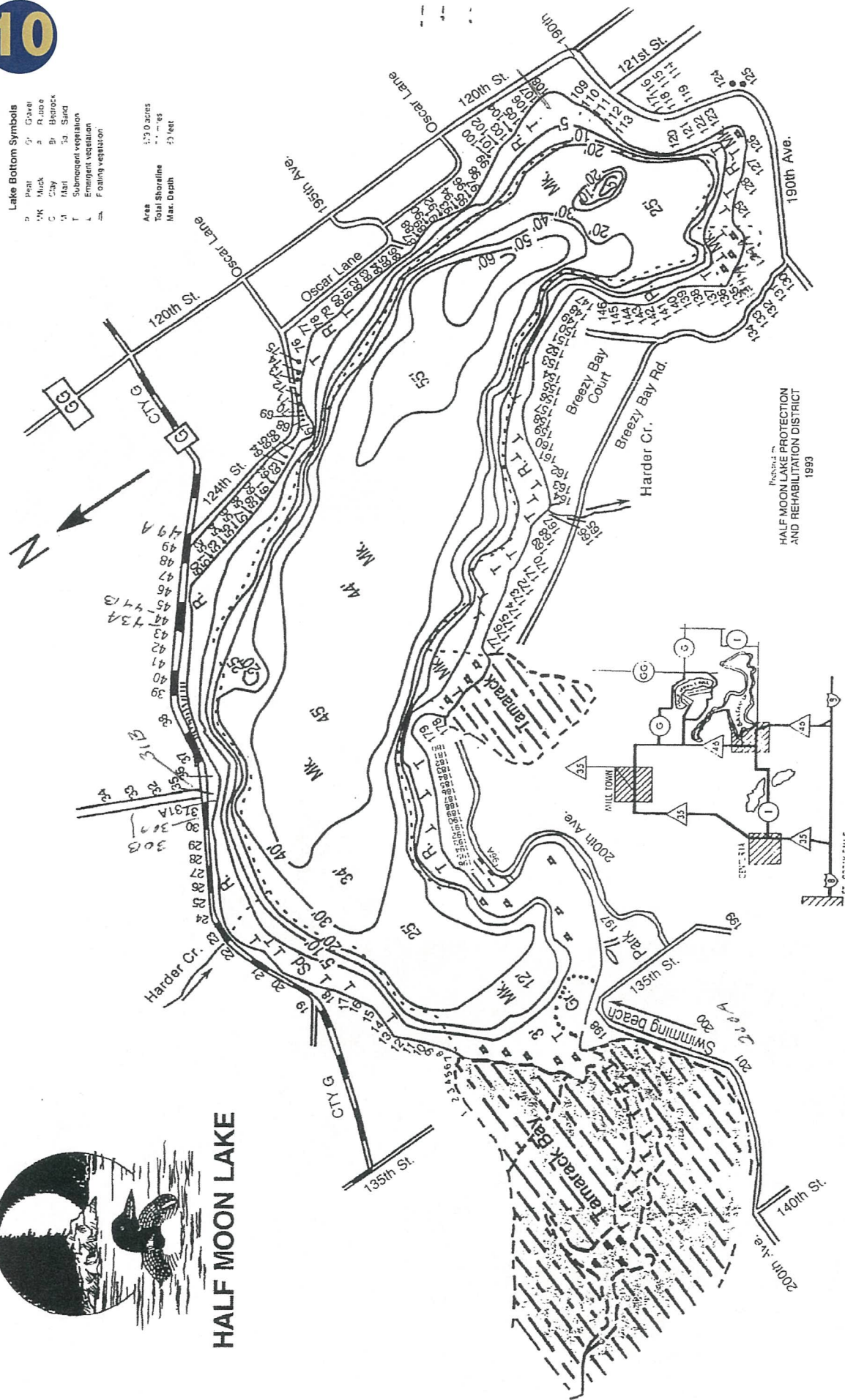
Take notice of our wastes — what they are, where they're going, and how to safely dispose of them:

- Treat household cleaners, solvents and pesticides as hazardous waste. DON'T dump these toxins into the storm sewer — keep abreast of changing contaminants properly!
- Recycle motor oil and other acceptable automotive wastes
- Encourage local street sweeping
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use on your lawn and garden
- Pick up animal waste and bag for pick-up and proper disposal
- Compost yard waste for your garden
- Maintain septic systems (pump regularly); make sure all gray water drains to your septic system, and never dump wastewater directly into the lake
- BE WATER WISE: conserve water and less wastewater will reach the lakes





## HALF MOON LAKE



Email any corrections, omissions or additions to Arne at [kakolbjorn@comcast.com](mailto:kakolbjorn@comcast.com)

### MAP KEY

|            |             |                      |                                   |      |       |                       |                                   |
|------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 134A       | 1898        | Absey                | David & Mary                      | 142  | 1966  | Lennartson            | Tom & Sue - Fanger, Ken           |
| 58         | 2001        | Aker                 | Ruth, Scott & Carol               | 117  | 1218  | Lessard               | Scott                             |
| 48         | 1243        | Ameter               | Steve & Diane                     | 51   | 1234  | Lindgren              | Stephen & Cynthia                 |
| 120        | 1223        | Anderson             | Brian, Brenda & Landy, A.         | 30A  | 1287  | Lindstrom             | Larry & Gail                      |
| 182        | 1289        | Anderson             | Reynold & Betty                   | 126  | 1241  | Long                  | Mike & Heather                    |
| 95         | 1933        | Anderson             | Sarah & Scott                     | 167  | 1958  | Lonksy                | Joseph & Melissa                  |
| 63         | 1991        | Armbrust             | Julie                             | 178  |       | Lot                   |                                   |
| 130        | 1887        | Armstrong            | Dennis & Pam                      | 171  | 1966  | Mahoney               | Terry & Barb                      |
| 78         | 1971        | Arnquist             | Julian & Jewel                    | 185  | 1295  | McBride               | Ken                               |
| 14         | 1336B       | Axt                  | Paul & Anita                      | 40   | 1265  | McCabe                | Tim                               |
| 177        | 1978        | Baldwin              | Herb & Fern                       | 179  | 1279  | McElfresh             | Nancy                             |
| 59         | 1999        | Balestri             | Sarah & David                     | 169  | 1962  | McKee                 | Charles                           |
| 64         | 1987        | Bank                 | Sue                               | 172  | 1968  | McKee                 | Chuck & Jan                       |
| 66         | 1981        | Bank                 | Sue                               | 121  | 1227  | McMahon               | Mike & Pat                        |
| 65         | 1981        | Bank                 | Sue                               | 68   | 1977  | McNamara              | John & Carol                      |
| 150        |             | Bardy                | Rick & Diane                      | 72   | 1969  | McNamara              | John & Carol                      |
| 74         | 1979A       | Barski               | Nancy                             | 54   | 2011  | Meade                 | Steve & Trish                     |
| 198        |             | Beach and Public     | Landing                           | 31B  | 1273  | Mechelke              | Terry & Pat                       |
| 5          | 2036A       | Beck                 | George & Marion                   | 170  | 1964  | Melena                | Steve & Karen                     |
| 39         | 1267        | Belair               | Jeff & Pam                        | 97   | 1929  | Miller                | Richard & Pam                     |
| 92         | 1939        | Belanger             | Joan                              | 188  | 1301  | Minn                  | Steve & Lucy                      |
| 157        | 1928        | Benike               | Aaron & Allison                   | 196  | 1317  | Misner                | John & Angela                     |
| 174        | 1972        | Bernies Lapidary     | Supply                            | 196A |       | Misner                | John & Angela                     |
| 140        | 1910        | Biederhoff & Moen    |                                   | 1    | 2035  | Mitchell              | Myrtis                            |
| 11         | 1338        | Blake                | John                              | 140  | 1910  | Moen                  | Arnold                            |
| 31         | 1285        | Bohl                 | Eric & Karen, Wolf, Mike & Debbie | 16   | 1330  | Mommsen               | Gordon & Eleanor                  |
| 137        | 1904        | Bollmann             | Paul & Karen                      | 26   | 1297  | Muller                | Bruce & Karen                     |
| 75         | 1979        | Bonewell             | Wes & Ann                         | 15   | 1336  | Murzyn                | Gerard, Jim & Audrey              |
| 34         | 1275D       | Bowen                | Rick & Gloria                     | 8    | 2036D | Murzyn                | Stan & Amy                        |
| 184        | 1293        | Brackins             | Reese & Helen                     | 194  | 1313  | Neal                  | Bob & Barb                        |
| 30         | 1289        | Breault              | Greg & Barb                       | 52   | 2015  | Needham               | David & Nancy                     |
| 149        | 1922        | Briegel              | John & Linda                      | 13   | 1336A | Nelson                | Doug & Marian                     |
| 44A        | 1253        | Bryan                | David & Annemarie                 | 7    | 2036  | Nelson                | Warren D. & Marilyn B.            |
| 148        | 1020A       | Bryntesen            | Jim & Sandy                       | 143  | 1916  | North                 | Scott & Robin                     |
| 173        | 1970        | Butler               | David & Kim                       | 111  | 1211  | Northard              | Scott & Jacqueline                |
| 105        | 1915        | Butler               | David & Mary Martha               | 94   | 1935  | Northrup              | Robert                            |
| 106        | 1913        | Butler               | Ellen                             | 19   | 1325  | O'Leary               | Daniel                            |
| 129A       |             | Butler               | David & Kim                       | 21   | 1317  | Olson                 | David & Kitty                     |
| 91         | 1941        | Capan                | Frank & Margie                    | 36   | 1274  | Paiewicz              | Jim & Sheila                      |
| 160        | 1934        | Chapman              | Robert & Jerry                    | 132  | 1893  | Pastrana              | Jesus & Kimm                      |
| 71         | 1971        | Chinander            | Jim & Judy                        | 44   | 1255  | Paulson               | Ken & Ellen                       |
| 164 - 164a | 1946        | Christoffersen, Carl | & Doris                           | 62   | 1995  | Pearson               | Diane & Steve                     |
| 69         | 1975        | Christopherson       | Myrvin                            | 28   | 1293  | Peterson              | Kris & Karen                      |
| 199        | 1388 & 1971 | Crescent Moon Farm   | - Voss, Bryan & Steve             | 33   | 1275A | Peterson              | Mark & Tammy                      |
| 181        | 1987        | Cutshell             | Bob & Jean                        | 28   | 1293  | Peterson              | Kris & Karen                      |
| 180        | 1985        | Cutshell             | Bob & Jean                        | 98   | 1927  | Pliska                | Tom & Donna & Klibofske, Pat      |
| 136        | 1902        | Dey                  | James & Toni                      | 29   | 1291  | Proell, Judith        | Jensen, Darlene                   |
| 101        | 1919        | Diederich            | Tom & Colleen                     | 151  |       | Public Boat Landing   |                                   |
| 102        | 1921        | Diederich            | Tom & Colleen                     | 35   | 1276  | Puncochar             | Glenn, Curt, & Scott              |
| 123        | 1229        | Diederich            | Tom & Colleen                     | 154  |       | Quirk                 | Bob Mary                          |
| 114        |             | Dyg                  | Otto & Kathy                      | 104  | 1917  | Radke                 | Terry & Ruth                      |
| 114A       |             | Dyg                  | Otto & Kathy                      | 41   | 1259  | Rakness, Ron          | Half Moon Resort                  |
| 156        | 1926        | Ebeling              | Douglas & Pamela                  | 42   | 1259  | Rakness, Ron          | Half Moon Resort                  |
| 43A        | 1257A       | Ellgaard             | Eric G.                           | 43   | 1263  | Rakness, Ron          | Half Moon Resort                  |
| 55         | 2009        | Erickson             | Bud & Sharon                      | 145  | 1918  | Rehder                | Alvin & Patricia                  |
| 30B        |             | Erickson             | Chuck & Diane                     | 162  | 1936  | Reinke                | Jo Anne                           |
| 122        | 1231        | Erickson             | Chuck & Diane                     | 165  | 1954  | Roedler               | George Jr.                        |
| 30B        | Lot         | Erickson             | Chuck & Diane                     | 166  | 1956  | Roedler               | Mary Jane & Gregory               |
| 122        | 1231        | Erickson             | Chuck & Diane                     | 6    | 2036  | Rose                  | Thomas & Lisa                     |
| 144        | 1917        | Eschbach             | Dick & Jan Hunwardsen Roger & Kim | 146  | 1919  | Rue                   | Larry & Mary                      |
| 23         | 1307        | Field                | Steven & Deborah                  | 38   | 1269  | Rupp                  | Peter & Pat                       |
| 187        | 1299        | Flanigan             | Steve                             | 197  |       | Ruschoff G.           | Hoiun, B.                         |
| 129        | 1249        | Frenette             | Don & Carol                       | 103  | 1917A | Russell               | Charles                           |
| 4          | 2036        | Gage                 | Clayton                           | 135  | 1900  | Saad                  | Lewis & Marlys                    |
| 3          | 2036        | Gage                 | Clayton (cottage)                 | 159  | 1932  | Sadowski Mark & Chris | Haumschild, Jerry & Eilleen       |
| 18         | 1324        | Gage                 | Norman & Chris                    | 138  | 1906  | Schlemmer             | Raymond & Elaine                  |
| 60         | 1997        | Gardner              | Sherm & Nancy                     | 127  | 1243  | Schmidt               | Samuel & Annie & McMillian, Tracy |
| 49A        |             | George               | Clayton & Peggy                   | 190  | 1305  | Schneider             | Chris & Sue                       |
| 23A        | 1305        | Getschel             | Rich                              | 32   | 1275  | Schommer              | Gary Sandy                        |
| 131        | 1891        | Gilbert              | Mike & Wendy                      | 84   | 1957  | Schreiner             | Ed & Janet                        |
| 9          | 1338B       | Glassman             | Ron & Jan                         | 192  | 1309  | Schwartz              | Jeanette                          |
| 10         | 1338C       | Glassman             | Ron & Jan                         | 134A |       | Seiffert              | William & Jeannine                |
| 118        | 1220        | Gores                | Joe & Trudi                       | 183  | 1291  | Shovelson             | Jeff & Tammy                      |
| 73         | 1977        | Greenberg            | Jack                              | 83   | 1959  | Siegle                | Phil & Kathy                      |
| 191        | 1307        | Gromek               | Chester                           | 141  | 1912  | Smallidge             | Warren & Karen                    |
| 31A        | 1278        | Grothe               | Susan                             | 90   | 1943  | Smith                 | Joe & Patty                       |
| 119        | 1222        | Grupe                | Charlie, Mary & Jamie             | 24   | 1301  | Smith                 | Bryan & April                     |
| 116A       | 1216A       | Hale                 | Dan                               | 99   | 1925  | Smith                 | Jim & Sandy                       |
| 37         | 1271        | Hans                 | Alan                              | 53   | 2013  | Stafford              | Richard & Carole                  |
| 186        | 1297        | Hanson               | Casper                            | 193  | 1311  | Stelmaszewski         | Donna                             |
| 133        | 1895        | Hilleshiem           | Steve & Kim                       | 125  | 1234  | Stenbert              | Chad & Heidi                      |
| 49         | 1239        | Hinz                 | Ida                               | 134  | 1897  | Stenbert              | Philip & Linda                    |
| 200        |             | Hinzman              | Beth                              | 189  | 1303  | Stenzel               | Sandra                            |
| 197        |             | Hoiun                | Ben                               | 93   | 1937  | Suerth                | Virginia                          |
| 50         | 1236        | Holton               | Pat & Carol                       | 61   | 1995  | Suk                   | Goldie                            |
| 195        | 1315        | Horeck               | Bob & Cheryl                      | 12   | 1338  | Swenson               |                                   |
| 20         | 1319        | Huberty              | Todd & Lana                       | 2    | 2034  | Taylor                | Barb                              |
| 57         | 2003        | Hunwardsen           | Roger & Kim                       | 176  | 1976  | Theisen               | Al & Koreen                       |
| 139        | 1908        | Igoe                 | William & Anne                    | 85   | 1955  | Tinucci               | Louie & Pat                       |
| 87         | 1951        | Ifife                | Fred & LaJene or 1949???          | 76   | 1975  | Townsend              | Herb & Sheila                     |
| 25         | 1299        | Ille                 | Wayne & Lyla                      | 116  | 1216  | Trapp Alex            | Dunning, Eric & Beth              |
| 29         | 1291        | Jensen, Darlene      | Proell, Judith                    | 80   | 1965  | Turnquist             | Dick                              |
| 113        | 1215        | Johnson              | Bill & Millie                     | 168  | 1960  | Underwood             | Eric & Melissa & Alison           |
| 86         | 1953        | Johnson              | Jim                               | 70   | 1973  | Veile                 | Mark & Erik                       |
| 88         | 1947        | Johnson              | Eric & Mary Beth                  | 128  | 1245  | Vierow                | Paul & Mary                       |
| 112        | 1213        | Johnson              | Bill & Millie                     | 201  |       | Voss                  | Doug                              |
| 22         | 1315        | Kaiser               | Lucy                              | 200A |       | Voss-Wilson           | Barbara                           |
| 27         | 1295        | Kastner              | Dale & Suzie                      | 175  | 1974  | Waelen                | Norry & Holly                     |
| 163        | 1938        | Kieger               | Tom & Lynn                        | 110  | 1209  | Wahquist              | Virginia                          |
| 115        |             | Kinneman             | Bryan                             | 89   | 1945  | Waldoch               | Don & Sheila                      |
| 56         | 2007        | Kispert, Jan         | Smith, Kelly                      | 46   | 1249  | Walker                | Under management                  |
| 96         | 1931        | Knapp                | Charles                           | 74   | 1979A | Wasvick               | Pauline                           |
| 158        | 1930        | Koecher              | Keith                             | 74   | 1979  | Wavick Pauline        | Barski, Nancy                     |
| 67         | 1979        | Kolbjornsen          | E. Arne & Kathie                  | 100  | 1923  | Weber                 | John & Jane                       |
| 79         | 1969        | Kotch                | Jane, James B Swanson             | 153  |       | West                  | Rollin F.                         |
| 82         | 1961        | Krebsbach            | C. Fred & Marcia                  | 114B | 1884  | White                 | Joan                              |
| 81         | 1963        | Krebsbach            | C. Fred & Marcia                  | 124  |       | Whitney               | Dan                               |
| 82         | 1961        | Krebsbach            | C. Fred & Marcia                  | 155  | 1257  | Winn                  | Bill & Katherine                  |
| 47         | 1245        | Krumrie              | May Kay                           | 77   | 1973  | Wold                  | Charlie                           |
| 152        |             | Larson               | Jim & Margaret                    | 108  | 1909  | Ziegenfuss            | John & Kathy                      |
|            |             |                      |                                   | 109  | 1205  | Ziegenfuss            | John & Kathy                      |



# ESD Explained

What every boater needs to know about Electric Shock Drowning

by Beth A. Leonard

ONE YEAR AGO, over Fourth of July weekend, Alexandra Anderson, 13, and her brother Brayden Anderson, 8, were swimming near a private dock in the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri when they started to scream. Their parents went to their aid, but by the time the siblings were pulled from the lake, they were unresponsive. Both children were pronounced dead after being transported to a nearby hospital. About two hours later, Noah Winstead, a 10-year-old boy, died in a similar manner at Cherokee Lake, near Knoxville, Tennessee. According to local press reports, seven other swimmers were injured near where Noah died. These were not drowning victims. In all of these cases, 120-volt AC (alternating current) leakage from nearby boats or docks electrocuted or incapacitated swimmers in fresh water. This little-known and often-unidentified killer is called Electric Shock Drowning, or ESD, and these deaths and injuries were entirely preventable. In just four months last summer, there were seven confirmed ESD deaths and at least that many near misses; in all likelihood, dozens more incidents went undetected. Every boater and every adult who swims in a freshwater lake needs to understand

how it happens, how to stop it from happening, and what to do — and not to do — if they ever have to help an ESD victim.

## FRESH WATER + ALTERNATING CURRENT = DANGER

Kevin Ritz lost his son Lucas to ESD in 1999, and he shared his story with *Seaworthy* in “A Preventable Dockside Tragedy” in October of 2009. Since his son’s death, Ritz has become a tireless investigator, educator, and campaigner dedicated to preventing similar tragedies. “ESD happens in fresh water where minute amounts of alternating current are present,” Ritz said.

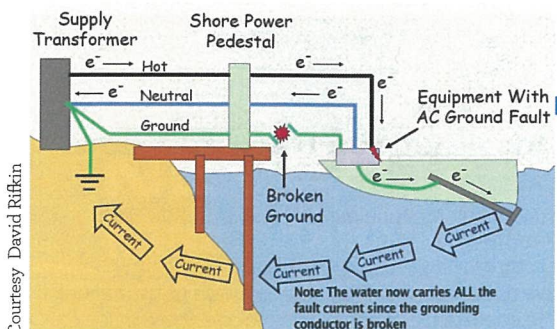
What does “minute” mean exactly? Lethal amounts are measured in milliamps, or thousandths of an amp. When flowing directly through the human body, these tiny amounts of current interfere with the even smaller electrical potentials used by our nerves and muscles. Captain David Rifkin and James Shafer conducted extensive testing of all aspects of ESD for a Coast Guard study in 2008, including exposing themselves to low-level currents in fresh water. “Anything above 3 milliamps (mA) can be very painful,” Rifkin said. “If you had even 6 mA going through your body, you would be

in agonizing pain.” Less than a third of the electricity used to light a 40-watt light bulb — 100 mA — passing directly through the heart is almost always fatal.

Why fresh water and not salt? Saltwater is anywhere from 50 to 1,000 times more conductive than fresh water. The conductivity of the human body when wet lies between the two, but is much closer to saltwater than fresh. In saltwater, the human body only slows electricity down, so most of it will go around a swimmer on its way back to ground unless the swimmer grabs hold of something — like a propeller or a swim ladder — that’s electrified. In fresh water, the current gets “stuck” trying to return to its source and generates voltage gradients that will take a shortcut through the human body. A voltage gradient of just 2 volts AC per foot in fresh water can deliver sufficient current to kill a swimmer who bridges it. Many areas on watersheds and rivers may be salty, brackish, or fresh depending upon rainfall or tidal movements. If you boat in these areas, treat the water as if it were fresh just to be on the safe side.

Why alternating current and not direct current (DC)? The cycling nature of alternating current disrupts the tiny electrical signals used by our nerves and muscles far more than the straight flow of electrons in direct current. “It would require about 6 to 8 volts DC per foot to be dangerous,” Rifkin said, or three to four times as much voltage gradient as with AC. “Regardless of the type of voltage, the larger the voltage, the larger the gradient over the same distance.” There have been no recorded ESD fatalities from 12-volt DC even in fresh water because there is less chance of the higher voltage gradient necessary developing with DC’s lower voltages.

How does that electricity get into the water in the first place? In a properly functioning electrical system, all of the 120-volt AC current that goes into the boat through the shore power cord



For stray AC to get into the water, there must be an electrical fault and a fault in the safety ground.

returns to its source — the transformer ashore or on the dock where it originated. For any of that current to wind up in the water, three things have to occur.

- **Electrical fault.** Somewhere current must be escaping from the system and trying to find another path back to its source ashore.
- **AC safety ground fault.** The AC grounding system must be compromised so that stray current cannot easily return to ground through the ground safety wire. Any stray electricity then has only one path back to its source — through the water.
- **No ground fault protection.** Any current returning to its source through the water will create a slight but detectable difference between the amount of current traveling to the boat and returning from it through the shore power cables. Ground Fault Protection (GFP) devices, like Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) required in bathrooms ashore, are designed to detect differences measured in milliamps and to shut down the electricity within a fraction of a second. If the circuit does not have one, then electricity will continue to flow into the water.

If all of these conditions exist, then some or all of the boat’s underwater metals, such as the propeller, stern drive, or through-hull fittings, will be energized, and electricity will radiate out from these fittings into the water. If the boat is in saltwater, the current will dissipate without doing damage unless a diver grabs hold of the energized metal. In fresh water, 120-volt AC will set up a dangerous voltage gradient that will pass through any swimmer who bridges it.

## FINDING OUT IF YOUR BOAT IS LEAKING CURRENT

Figuring out if your boat has a problem requires two specialized tools — a basic circuit tester and a clamp meter — that together cost about \$150. If you keep your boat in a freshwater

marina, the marina operator should have both and be using them to check the boats on their docks.

To determine if your boat is leaking AC, start by checking the dock wiring. Plug the circuit tester into the shore power cord receptacle you use on your pedestal. The lights on the circuit tester will tell you whether or not the shore power system is functioning as it should. There are situations where those lights can mislead you, but as a first approximation, assume all is well if the circuit tester says it is. If you find any problems, alert your marina manager or call an electrician certified to ABYC (American Boat and Yacht Council) standards.

Once you have established that the dock’s electrical system is sound, take the clamp meter and put it around your shore power cord. Most electricians use a clamp meter to measure the current flowing through the neutral, hot, and ground wires separately, but we are interested in whether or not all of the current entering the boat is leaving it. If that is the case, the current passing through all of the wires will sum to zero, and that’s what the meter will show when the clamp is put around the entire shore power cord. If the clamp meter shows anything but zero, either some of the current going to your boat is entering the water, or current leaking from the dock or another boat is returning to its source ashore through the metal fittings on your boat. To determine which, turn off the power at the pedestal. If the clamp meter continues to show the same reading it did when the pedestal was on, the current is coming from somewhere else. If any or all of the current goes away, then your boat is leak-

ing some current into the water.

Unfortunately, that’s not quite all there is to it. Many of the most dangerous AC loads on a boat, like air conditioning and refrigeration, are cycling loads. A fault in one of these will only show up if that equipment is running when you clamp the cord. To be sure your boat is not leaking AC into the water, you must run all your AC loads while clamping the cord and look for any reading but zero. If you find a problem, unplug your boat and don’t plug it in again until you get an electrician trained to ABYC standards to figure out what is wrong and fix it.

## ELIMINATING CURRENT LEAKAGE

That your boat is not leaking AC into the water right now is no guarantee that it never will. Electrical faults and ground faults develop in the marine environment all the time. There are two ways to eliminate the risk altogether.

The first — and best — alternative is to completely isolate the AC shore power system from the AC system on the boat. Then any stray AC on the boat will return to its source on the boat and will not enter the water. An isolation transformer transfers electricity from the shore to the boat and back again using the magnetic field generated by the electrical current rather than through shore wires physically touching the boat’s wires. If you want to be absolutely certain your boat

cannot leak alternating current into the water, install an isolation transformer.

The second alternative is to install ground



Top: An inexpensive circuit tester. Bottom: This clamp meter shows a 7-amp difference between the current going into the boat and coming out.

| Current Level | Probable Effect On Human Body   |
|---------------|---|
| 1 mA          | Perception level. Slight tingling sensation. Still dangerous under certain conditions.  |
| 5 mA          | Slight shock felt; not painful but disturbing. Average individual can let go. However, strong involuntary reactions to shocks in this range may lead to injuries. |
| 6-16 mA       | Painful shock, begin to lose muscular control. Commonly referred to as the freezing current or let-go range.  |
| 17-99 mA      | Extreme pain, respiratory arrest, severe muscular contractions. Individual cannot let go of an electrified object. Death is possible.                             |
| 100-2,000 mA  | Ventricular fibrillation (uneven, uncoordinated pumping of heart). Muscular contraction and nerve damage begin to occur. Death is likely.                         |
| 2,000+ mA     | Cardiac arrest, internal organ damage, and severe burns. Death is probable.   |

Source: OSHA

Courtesy David Rifkin




## ONLINE EXTRA

To read Kevin Ritz's heartbreaking story, and for a more technical discussion of ESD, go to [www.BoatUS.com/Seaworthy/ESD](http://www.BoatUS.com/Seaworthy/ESD)

fault protection in the boat's and the dock's AC system that will shut off the current if the amount of electricity going out differs by a certain amount from that returning. "The European, Australian and New Zealand standards require ground fault protection on a marina's main feeders and power pedestals," Rifkin said. "They've had zero ESD fatalities in the nearly 30 years they've had this in place." In the U.S., NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 303 (Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards) requires GFP devices that trip at 100 mA or lower on all docks. But these devices can be expensive to retrofit and maintain in a large marina, need to be tested monthly to keep them working properly, and are subject to nuisance trips in the marine environment, so the requirements have not been adopted or enforced uniformly at the local level.

The ABYC made ground fault protection on boats part of the E-11 electrical standard this year. Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCIs) that trip at 30 mA are to be installed on all new vessels built to ABYC standards, but very few older boats are equipped with them. Companies like North Shore Safety have started to offer easy to retrofit ELCIs and UL-approved cords with integrated ELCIs — these run from \$200 to \$400. Home building suppliers like Lowe's sell 15-amp pigtailed equipped with GFCIs for around \$30. Either of these could be used with a shore power cord from a house to a private dock to charge a boat's batteries.

Since his son died 14 years ago, Kevin Ritz has comforted dozens of families who have lost children as he has, and he has encouraged them to join forces with him to educate others. His goal is to put himself out of business. If each and every boater takes responsibility for his or her boat, Ritz could get his wish. 

## Electric Shock Drowning: What You Need To Know

### IN GENERAL

- ESD victims are good candidates for successful Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Learn to perform CPR and maintain your training.
- To retrieve a person in the water, reach, throw, and row, but don't go.
- Tell others about ESD. Most people have never heard of it and are unaware of the danger.
- Make sure your children understand the importance of not swimming anywhere there could be electricity. Don't let them roughhouse on docks. Tell them what to do if they feel a tingling or shock in the water (see below).

### IN MARINAS

- NEVER swim within 100 yards of any freshwater marina or boatyard.
- Talk to marina owners or operators about the danger of ESD. Ask your marina operator to prohibit swimming at their facility and post signs.
- Ask marina operators if they are aware of and following the guidelines from NFPA 303 (Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards) and National Electric Code (NEC) 555.

### IF YOU HAVE A BOAT

- Have your boat tested once a year to see if it is leaking electricity, or buy a clamp meter and test it yourself. If you find any problems, have your boat inspected by a qualified electrician trained to ABYC standards.
- Have a qualified ABYC electrician install an ELCI on your boat (refer them to the ABYC E-11 Standard) or use an ELCI in the shore power cord. As an alternative, install an isolation transformer on the boat.
- Test the GFCI/ELCI at least once a month or per the manufacturer's specifications.
- DO NOT do your own 120-volt AC electrical work on a boat or hire an electrician who is not familiar with ABYC standards to do it. Many of the problems that lead to electrical faults result from the differences between shore and boat electrical systems and standards.
- DO NOT use common household extension cords for providing shore power to your boat. Use, and encourage other boaters to use, shore power cords built to UL standards.
- NEVER dive on your boat to work on underwater fittings when it is plugged in to shore power, even in saltwater.

### IF YOU HAVE A PRIVATE DOCK

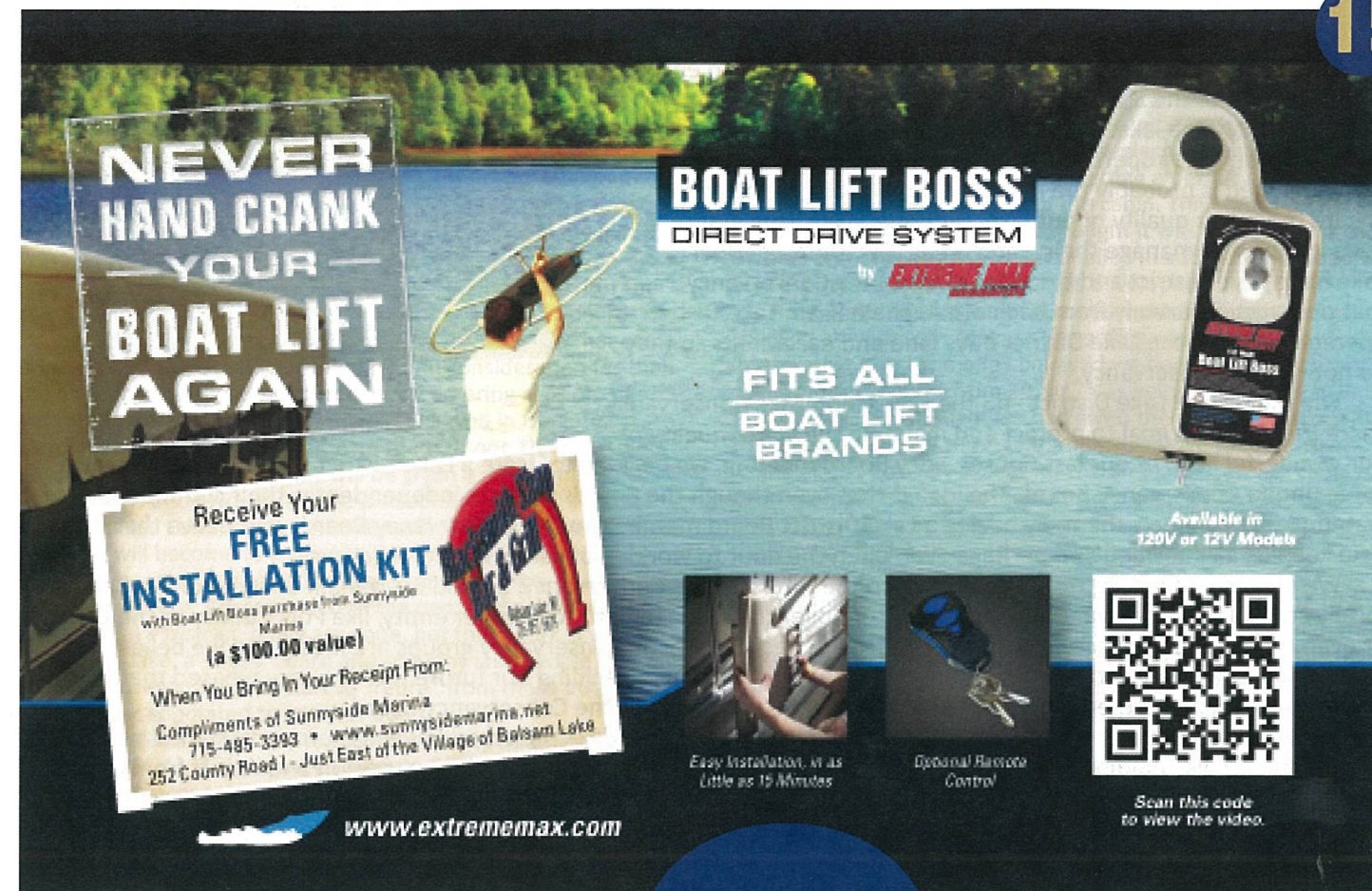
- NEVER swim within 100 yards of ANY dock using electrical power!
- If you have not electrified your dock or put an AC system on your boat, weigh the risks carefully before doing so.
- If you need electricity on your dock, hire a licensed electrician and make sure the wiring meets the requirements in NFPA 303 and NEC 555. If your dock is already wired, hire an electrician to check that it was done properly. Because docks are exposed to the elements, their electrical systems should be inspected at least once a year.
- Exercise your GFCIs/ELCIs as recommended by the manufacturer.
- If you normally run a power cord from your house or garage to charge your batteries, make sure the outlet has a GFCI and include an ELCI somewhere in the shore power cord.
- NEVER swim off your dock without shutting down all shore power to the boat and the dock.
- Even if you adhere to all of these rules, nearby docks can still present a shock hazard. Educate your neighbors and work together with them to make the waterfront safe.

### IF YOU'RE IN THE WATER AND YOU FEEL TINGLING OR SHOCKS

- DO NOT follow your instinct to swim toward the dock!
- SHOUT! Drowning victims cannot speak, let alone shout. Let everyone know what's happening so they'll understand the danger and react appropriately.
- Try to stay upright and back out of the area the way you came, warn any other swimmers in the area of the danger, and then head for shore 100 yards or more from the dock.
- Alert the dock or marina owner and tell them to shut the power off to the dock until they locate the problem and correct it.
- Go to the hospital to make sure there are no lingering effects that could be dangerous.

### IF YOU HAVE TO RESCUE AN ESD VICTIM

- Know how to distinguish drowning from ESD (see Alert for how to recognize "normal" drowning; tingling, numbness, or pain all indicate ESD).
- Fight the instinct to enter the water — many rescuers have died trying to help ESD victims.
- Call for help. Use 911 or VHF Channel 16 as appropriate.
- Turn off the shore power connection at the meter base and/or unplug shore power cords.
- Get the victim out of the water. Remember to reach, throw, row, but don't go.
- If the person is not breathing or you cannot get a pulse, perform CPR until the Fire Department, Coast Guard, or ambulance arrives.



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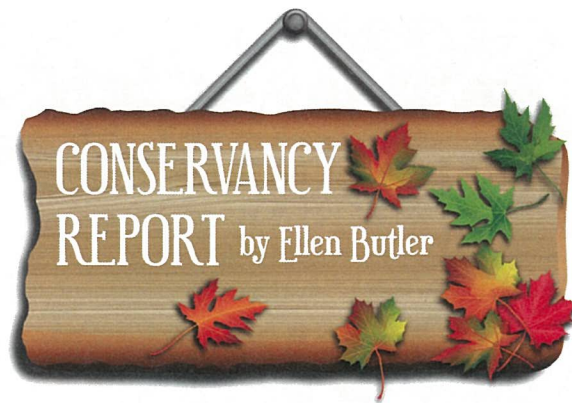
The Half Moon Lake Conservancy was created in 2003 to ensure the protection of the 5,000 acre watershed that drains into our wonderful 580 acre lake. We accomplish this by buying land or easements on the properties that border the watershed. Protecting the watershed is probably the most important thing we can do to ensure the water quality of our lake. Different lakes have different ways in which to manage their watersheds. For example, Deer Lake has a Lake District and they also have a Lake Conservancy that operates separately from each other. The Balsam Lake District operates as both; the Lake District buys land and easements so they do not need a Conservancy.

The Half Moon Lake District and the Half Moon Lake Conservancy share the common goal to protect and maintain the water quality of our wonderful lake. At our last Conservancy Board meeting, we decided to invite a Lake District Board member to also serve on the Conservancy Board. The idea is that even though the Boards operate independently, their common goal of water quality connects them. By having a Lake District Board member on the Conservancy Board, we believe that it will help keep us all informed and perhaps even open the door to working on lake projects together.

We are also beginning the discussion as to the future of the Conservancy. Should we remain an independent and locally controlled Conservancy or should we turn over the management to another entity, like Polk County or the DNR or even a state wide Conservancy group? These are decisions many Conservancy groups are facing and we believe that having a Lake District Board member on our board will help in deciding our future. We are very pleased that Pat McMahon has volunteered to be the Lake Districts representative to the Conservancy Board.

Projects in the works: planning a DNR controlled burn of the Harder Creek meadow grass property sometime this fall, and continued discussions with a property owner next to Tamarack Bay about reducing erosion and runoff from a nearby corn field.

If you have questions, please contact any of the Board Members.



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## TOWNSHIP REPORT

by HARLEN HEGDAHL, TOWNSHIP CHAIRMAN

I think I am turning into the "board" guy and unfortunately I don't mean wake board. Besides being the Town Chair, I am also the President of the St. Croix Hospital Board. I serve on two Lake District boards, the Half Moon Conservancy and the Polk County Golden Age Manor Board. I'll admit the commitment and time requirements can be a bit much, but this is the time in my life that I can serve. I also believe that if you are going to complain (and I can complain with the best of them) then you need to be part of the solution. I believe that the success I have had on these boards has a lot to do with a policy I adopted early on, that anyone that comes before a board I sit on will get the time and consideration for their issue or concern. As a board member you do bring a vision, but it was more important to me that people believed in the process. Regardless if I personally agreed with them or not, their thoughts and opinions do count and they will be given a fair chance to voice their concerns and I would not use procedure to cut off a good debate because I didn't agree with it. I will also share that my time for serving will become to a close in the next few years. History shows that people like me will be forgotten with time, but the work we do now will not. I'm reminded of the people that started the Half Moon Lake District, many are gone, but their work is why we have a clean lake, a strong board and so many lake people that are involved. However, before I start to "retire" from these boards I... well I was just appointed to another board.

I recently was appointed to the Polk County Board of Adjustment (BOA). This board is delegated with the task of reviewing variances to property owners mainly to do with the Polk County Shore Land Ordinance. I had chaired the committee that had developed the last version of the ordinance a number of years ago. When an opening came up (the board needed a riparian owner) I was approached by many people, including some within Polk County Government, to apply for the vacancy. The BOA and zoning are probably one of the top issues I hear about, both at the Township level and Lake district. From what I could tell it seemed that the BOA had lost it's way. It should be noted that this is not a policy making board but one that interprets the ordinance at the direction of Polk County Land and water and the Zoning Department. I have only had three meetings and I went in thinking that maybe the board itself was the issue. However, what I now believe is that my fellow board members are committed to ensuring our waters are protected, but the ordinance we are enforcing is not the one I believe we had passed all those years ago.

In the late sixties the Wisconsin Legislators and the DNR began passing laws to regulate and protect our waterways. This was done mainly through NR115. The most significant change was that cabins built from the shore to the 75' mark became non-conforming, or essentially illegal. Their goal was that these cabins would eventually be torn down and moved to the 75' mark. The idea was to control water run-off and ultimately phosphorous. By moving the cabins back, it gave the run-off time to soak into the land before getting to the water. The flaw was that it covered thousands and thousands of cabins across the state and people did not want to tear them down just to get a permit to add a bedroom. Hence the "50 percent rule" was created. This allowed people that were from 30' to 75" to add an addition based on the cost not being more than 50% of the value of their cabin. When Polk County decided to re-write our shoreline ordinance, the committee I chaired, we worked closely with the DNR. The DNR was re-writing NR115 and they recognized that getting all those cabins torn down and moved to the 75" mark was a failed policy. They also recognized that the 50% rule was giving all those cabins something without getting anything in return to help protect our waters. The solution was mitigation. Mitigation dealt with working with the landowner to help control water run-off and could be as simple as gutters, buffer zones and rain gardens. In the new ordinance cabins that were 30' to 75' would have to develop a mitigation plan. In exchange for losing the 50% rule and going to a mitigation plan (this was a big lose for

cabin owners) we gave them the ability to build bigger additions, second stories, larger boat houses and we inserted a section for ordinary maintenance so you could replace exiting decks, re-roof or change your windows without getting a permit as long as you did not change the foot print of the cabin. This was in exchange for losing the 50% rule and we thought it was a win-win for cabin owners and the DNR and water quality. In addition, we classified our lakes to better protect the less developed ones.

I have attended three BOA meeting and I am somewhat shocked at what I am seeing. The ordinance that we are interpreting is not the one I believed we had passed. Virtually every permit request from 30' to 75' is being sent to the BOA for approval. We thought we had given the zoning department the tools to approve these with mitigation. We thought the BOA would all but go away except for the under 30' setback cabins. A good example is a recent request from a family on Wabogasset. They had a 15 by 20 foot deck built to grade (not elevated) on the front of their cabin and they just wanted to replace the rotting boards. Because they were within 75' their permit was denied and they had to spend \$500 to go before the BOA (the cost of the wood was probably less than that) and the BOA tried to make them move the deck to the side of the house. The lot these people had was already 2/3 in a buffer state and I made the argument that this was ordinary maintenance and that they should get credit for the buffer. I was shocked when the board's response was that they don't give credit for exciting buffer zones. Here we are at a Lake District level trying to get people to plant buffer zones and they can't get credit for them when applying for a permit! I would mention that the BOA voted for the permit (3-2) and at the end of the meeting a DNR representative came up to me and said "if he saw a pattern of these being approved he would start sending them to Madison for review".

**I believe that the way the ordinance is being interpreted is a complete loss to cabin owners and the trade for the 50% rule for mitigation has been lost. Polk County is re-writing the ordinance, as is the DNR with NR115. I would encourage you to contact our State Reps.- Sheila Harsdorf, 608-266-7745 and Erik Severon 608-267-2365, there is a new bill that will allow Townships (like cities and villages) to administer their own shore line ordinance. Also our County Rep. is Kathy Kienholz 715-825-4149 and they are voting on the Polk re-write. You can also call Polk County zoning 715-485-9279 and the Land/Water Department 715-485-8699.**

In closing I would mention that with the elimination of phosphorous fertilizer and with a continued focus on the watershed coming into our lake, the cabin owners have probably accomplished more for water quality then any of the current zoning laws. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

On another note, this past summer our swing set at the Half Moon beach was vandalized. They apparently hooked up a vehicle to the swing set and tore it out. They also tried to pull the basketball hoop down, but were not successful. We will replace the swing set and are considering having a retired couple with a motor home live at the beach during the summer. This is not uncommon and in exchange for summering there, they would help with keeping the bathrooms clean, garbage pick-up, and general security. Our beach is one of the best in Polk County and our goal is to keep it clean and family friendly.

Harlen Hegdal  
Township Chair







# CLEAN BOATS/ CLEAN WATERS!

by Dan Leh  
Chairman, Clean Boats/Clean Waters

Chinese and Banded Mystery Snails  
Bellamy (Cipangopa ludina) chinensis  
and Vivaparus georgianus



Chinese mystery snail  
Species: Large, olive colored snails.

ORIGIN: Chinese mystery snail (CMS) is native to Asia. It was brought to California in 1892 as a food source, and found in Massachusetts in 1915 — likely an aquarium release. The historic range of the banded mystery snail (BMS) is the southeastern U.S., primarily in the Mississippi River system up to Illinois. It is a popular aquarium snail that's been released in Minnesota.

IMPACTS: Both snails can form dense aggregations. In Asia, the CMS can transmit human intestinal flukes, however, cases have not been documented in the United States. It also is a carrier of trematode parasites found in native mussels. BMS can cause mortality of largemouth bass embryos when they invade nests. Status: CMS are present in over 80 waters and BMS occurs in about 50 waters in Minnesota.

WHERE TO LOOK: They are mainly found in lakes and in slow moving rivers. They are called "mystery" snails because in spring, they give birth to young, fully developed snails that suddenly and mysteriously appear. After reproducing in their fourth year, they die and their shells wash up on shore.

REGULATORY CLASSIFICATION (AGENCY): Chinese, Japanese, and other mystery snails (species in the genus Bellamya / Cipangopaludina) are regulated invasive species (DNR). The banded is a regulated invasive species as well. All are illegal to introduce into state waters. Means of spread: Most likely introduced via dumping of aquariums and by transfer from one water body to another.

KEYS TO IDENTIFICATION: Chinese mystery snail has small shallow depressions above the shell opening and rows of fine, short stiff hairs parallel to the whorl of the shell (may wear off with age and abrasion). Banded mystery snail has red bands that are parallel to the whorl of the shell.

#### HOW PEOPLE CAN HELP:

- Never move aquatic species from one water body to another.
- Don't dump aquarium species.
- Report infestations to the DNR Invasive Species Program.



Chinese mystery snail (left) and Banded mystery snail (right)

## TRUDI'S TIPS

by Trudi Gores

## Helpful Hints

### TIRAMASU

by Trudi Gores

Follow box directions for 1 yellow cake mix. Cool. Cut cake into one inch pieces. Set aside.

Mix. 8 oz cream cheese  
1 tsp vanilla  
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Whip. 1 pint heavy cream  
1/2 powdered sugar

Fold all together.

To assemble:

Layer 1/4 of cake  
1/2 cream cheese mix  
Drizzle with khaluha

Repeat layer one more time

Top with cocoa powder and powdered sugar.

Substitute berries and juice for khaluha



**#1 Did you know you can use bay leaves instead of moth balls to keep moths away.**

**#2 When using latex paint, wet the brush with water first. This will make clean up easier.**

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