

FALL 2014  
Volume 7 • Issue 2

# Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



Photo by Scott Anderson

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# Letter from the Chair



by JOHN WEBER, CHAIR

As the recently elected President of the Half Moon Lake District, let me introduce myself. We purchased Ken Briegal's cabin in 2001, on the southeast side of the lake. Friends told us that it would be available from the family after his death. I was not so sure that I wanted a lake place, as we had previously owned a cabin near Ogilvie, MN that we didn't use much and just didn't love. As it turned out, my wife Jane has a strong connection to this lake, having had friends and activities on Half Moon during her high school years, as well as other more recent friends and relatives on the lake. Lastly "nothing ever comes for sale" on this lake because it always stays in the family. Obviously, we did proceed with the purchase and began to love our new place along with our children and grandchildren. During the past 13 years, we have met and gotten to know, as well as becoming friends, with many people certainly enough to get coerced and elected to this position. In 2006, after many years of thinking and planning, we built a year-round home, which became our permanent residence in 2012 (about a year later than planned). Nothing like getting caught in the economic crash like everyone else.

First, I want to commend all previous board members for their work and diligence in preserving our very high quality lake. Further, all of the property owners are part of this effort to keep our lake waters clean. This does not happen in a vacuum. All are doing their part, and it shows. Again, kudo's for everyone.

The hardest part of this job, I think, will be to "slop" around in the previous "large" shoes, but I promise my best efforts. At this time, we have a lot of good programs in place. Clean boats and clean waters, run by Dan Leh and Rick Miller, required a huge amount of work especially getting it implemented. I know because I volunteered when the District wanted to begin. I quickly realized that it was more than I could handle. My heartfelt thanks to Dan and Rick for all of their work.

In keeping with our preservation efforts, the district has again made a motion to continue adding funds to our reserve. Our fund balance is "proportionally" much less than our neighboring lakes. We believe that it is not "if" we have an invasive species problem, but "when". With clean boats monitoring 7 days a week and a full-time camera during the summer season, it seems that for now, everything that can reasonably be done is in place. Unfortunately nothing will be 100% fool proof, so it is wise to have a contingency in place. Every year, we hear of reports of additional lakes that discover an infestation of a new invasive species. While research is ongoing regarding extermination, there are no really good or really effective treatments. Some Districts and Associations have spent many hundreds of thousands of dollars to achieve little more than slow the spread. Again, thanks to everyone for supporting the efforts, but more importantly, doing their part as well as educating their guests.

At this time, I am unaware of any "Hot Button" issues and do hope that none come up, but our job is to work with and resolve them. Please contact me or any board member if there is a concern or perceived lake issue.

To conclude, "quality of Life" at our lake means different things to different people. It is important to respect our neighbors, as well as neighbors to respect us, as we enjoy our exceptional retreat as it is "special" to all of us.



## HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

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## Editor's Column

by Sarah Anderson  
Newsletter Editor  
[sarahwyls@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahwyls@hotmail.com)

Sarah Anderson, Editor

As always, fall arrived way too early this year. We are now enjoying the beautiful colors of leaves ON the trees and not looking forward to them all on the ground OFF of the trees. However, I feel remiss in complaining about this fall chore as it seems so trivial a matter compared to how much I enjoy the majestic beauty of the trees every other day of the year. Our lake property is blessed to have many very tall, and mature trees which are all mostly older than I am. Now and then I look at them and remember how much they too have grown since I scaled some of their branches as a child. They are as much a part of me as the home that we now share, which was built three generations ago by my grandfather.

In this newsletter, we are remembering Warrnen Smallidge who passed away this summer. I grew up with Warren (Warnie as we used to call him), on the lake. My sister Linda, and I, along with Bob and Tom Lennartson, Jim Smith, Jim Fish, and others from Breezy Bay, spent many summers together swimming, boating, waterskiing, and just generally having fun together. At night, we went to the Milltown races, had pizza parties, and hung out together as teenagers do. Warren was fun to be with and a great sport. We sometimes liked to tease him and he always responded with a laugh and good humor on his part. Our condolences go out to Warren's family and friends. We have great memories of Warren and will all surely miss him.

Fred Krebsbach is the person in our "Meet Your Neighbor" article. Fred has recently completed a book about his experiences serving his county in Viet Nam. In Okay Okay, Fred is finally able to share with his family and friends, the cost of going to war and what sustained him through those experiences he went through.

Every year we hear that some of you are not receiving your newsletters, so with this issue, we pulled the new tax record list off of the Polk County webpage to make sure we have all of the correct addresses. If you are one of those that is not getting your newsletter, please check with the county to make sure that your mailing address is correct.

As always, we appreciate any news, articles, suggestions, tips, etc., that you can share with us. This is your newsletter and we love to have not only your input, but your feedback as well.

We wish you all a warm, safe, winter and look forward to seeing and/or hearing from you all in the spring.

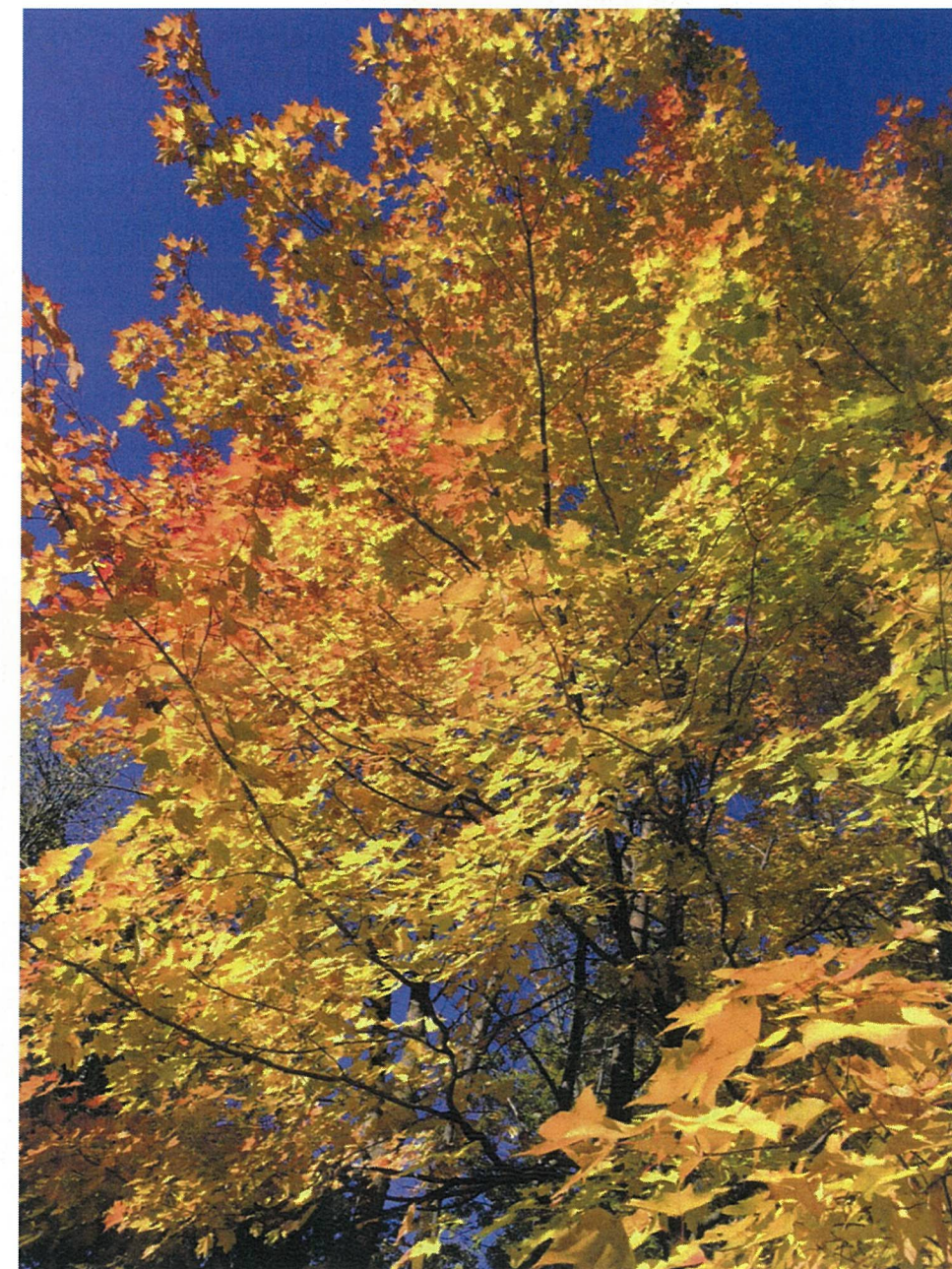


Photo by Sarah Anderson



by Pat Mechelke, Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger

## FALL 2014 LOON REPORT

Fortunately, for the second year in a row, the two loon chicks hatched on the north end of our lake have survived the summer. These chicks are precocial, able to dive and swim right away. By the time they are 11 to 12 weeks old, they are able to gather almost all their food and are beginning to fly. Their parents left our lake to fly south to the Gulf of Mexico for the winter sometime between September 8th and 14th. The chicks will remain on our lake gaining strength for their long trip south until late October or early November.

One of the cabin owners at the lakeshore meeting asked the question whether or not loons molted. Unable to answer the question, I investigated and learned that towards the end of summer, adult loons begin molting into their winter plumage. Both male and female loons have identical plumage. The first signs of molting show up on the face around the bill as the black feathers are lost and replaced with white ones. The loon's throat and chin become white to match their belly while the black feathers on their backs are replaced with grayish brown ones. The eyes also turn brown. If you look closely at our adult loons, they began this change around the first of September; their backs are not nearly as black and the white spots are more indistinct. They do not lose their flight feathers but continue to molt while migrating to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. In the spring before returning north, they begin molting back into their breeding plumage and are completely flightless for 2 to 3 weeks during this period.

If anyone has other questions regarding our loons, please feel free to contact me at [tmechelke@gmail.com](mailto:tmechelke@gmail.com). Hopefully, I can answer your question or find the answer for you. A good web site on loons is [www.northland.edu/sigurd-olson-environmental-institute-loon-watch.htm](http://www.northland.edu/sigurd-olson-environmental-institute-loon-watch.htm). Have a great winter and Think Spring!



Photo by Scott Anderson

## TOWNSHIP REPORT

by HARLEN HEGDAHL, TOWNSHIP CHAIRMAN

As we approach the snow season we just want to remind cabin owners (or their contractor) that they are responsible for making sure that no snow from your drive ends up on the road. We have had some issues with plowing when a homeowner pushes the snow across the road and leaves "ridges" that freeze. This can be dangerous for vehicles.

We continue to work on the ATV ordinance and hope to have a draft soon. Have a good winter and please call with any questions.

Harlen Hegdal  
Milltown Town Chair



Photo by Sarah Anderson

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## It's Easy to Recycle Around Half Moon Lake

Cans, bottles (plastic and glass), newspapers, cardboard and magazines can easily be recycled at these locations:

- St. Croix Falls, Hwy. 8 across from Menards, any weekday
- Balsam Lake, Hwy. 46 by the Government Center, any day, 24/7.



## BEFORE YOU BURN check fire conditions and burning restrictions!

Check this website for up-to-date, daily fire conditions, burning guidelines, and the burning permit process:  
[dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/restrictions.asp](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/restrictions.asp)

To check for daily fire restrictions by phone, call 1-888-WIS-BURN (1-888-947-2876) and enter Polk County code 49.

**REMINDER:** Burning permits are required for fires other than campfires for warming or cooking. Obtain the annual permit at the above website address or call 1-888-WIS-BURN to have a permit mailed or emailed. Permits are also available at a local Ranger Station, or from a Business Emergency Fire Warden. Find more information here: [dnr.wi.gov/topic/firefire/emergFireWardens.asp](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/firefire/emergFireWardens.asp).







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# WANTED

# LOON LINE EDITORS

**In July, Sarah's  
term with the  
board will end,  
therefore Sarah  
and Pat will no  
longer be  
co-editors of the  
Loon Lines.**

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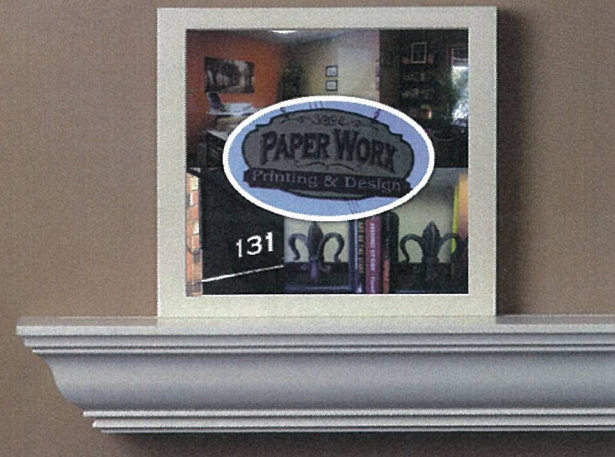
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# Clean Boats Clean Water



By Dan Leh

It has been another great year of boating and inspecting at the boat launch. The Ilds camera will be removed soon and our inspectors are gone until next season. Besides Josh and Charlie Hatton we added another new inspector Sam Butler. Sam lives just off the south side of Half Moon Lake and is a welcome addition to the team.

You may have seen this year's addition to the boat launch, the "Kids don't float" kiosk that offers free use of life jackets for those who forgot to bring them. There are jackets for kids and adults to borrow. Thank You Wisconsin DNR!

A big thank you to Dan Hale for placing the much needed danger buoys at the entrance to mark the rock dangers. Dan has consistently taken the lead on this initiative and has volunteered his time to do so.

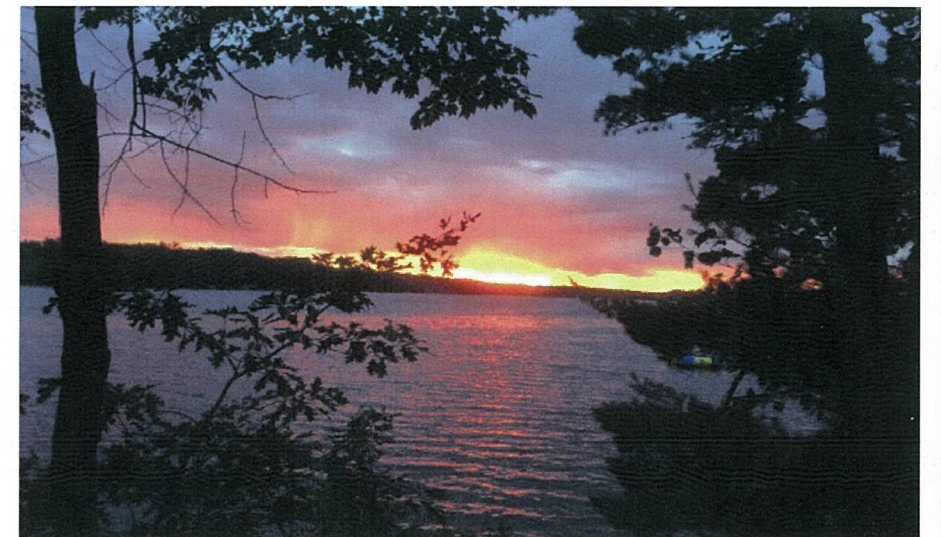
Another big thank you to Rick Miller and daughter Sarah. They have again taken the lead for the Weed Rangers and are training and inspecting the lake for Aquatic Invasive Species. Please reach out to Rick if you would like to assist in this effort.

We wrapped up the 3 year CBCW grant on December 31, 2013 that offered us a chance to buy the Ilds camera and start the trailer inspections at the launch. I am pleased to report that the Wisconsin DNR approved our tracking paperwork and cut us a check for \$10,000 in free money for our efforts. Thank you to all who assisted this endeavor including Josh Hatton, Charlie Hatton, Mike McMahon, Dan Hale, Eric Lindberg from Environmental Sentry and Pat McMahon who listened to my griping when I complained how much paperwork the state required. Overall it was well worth the effort and the lake has certainly been educated on Aquatic Invasive Species. Let's keep the momentum going.

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](http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes)  
Help keep Half Moon Lake one of Polk County's cleanest lakes.

Dan Leh, Chairman - Clean Boats/Clean Waters  
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Photo by Scott Anderson





# SURFIN' THE WORLD

Chris and Stacia Bank, son and daughter-in-law of Suzy Bank, competed in the world championship for wake surfing in Las Vegas this fall.

You may have seen the couple on Half Moon, zipping across the water, practicing spins and tricks. The husband-wife duo are part of a growing water sport. "This is something that has reinvented water sports for people," said Chris, who heads the national organization that puts on the competitions and also organizes two local wake surfing events.

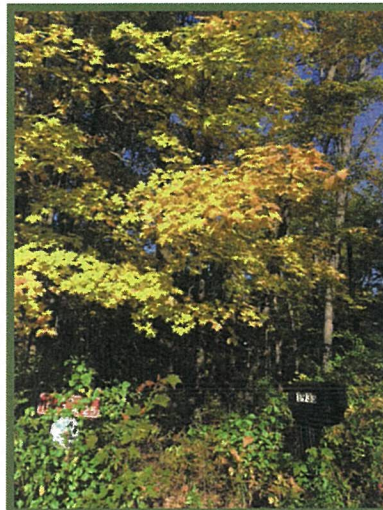
The Banks, both competitive waterskiiers and wakeboarders, discovered wake surfing in 2010 when the sport's world championship came to Minnesota. Stacia came in No. 1 as an amateur and since then, they've quickly become pros, gaining company sponsorships and salaries, trips all over the world, free equipment and a \$110,000 wake surfing boat.

At the competition, they had only two minutes to show off their skills. They were judged on the difficulty, intensity, variety and execution of the tricks. This year, Stacia placed fourth and Chris placed sixth in the competition.

Congratulations to both Chris and Stacia.



Photo by Sarah Anderson

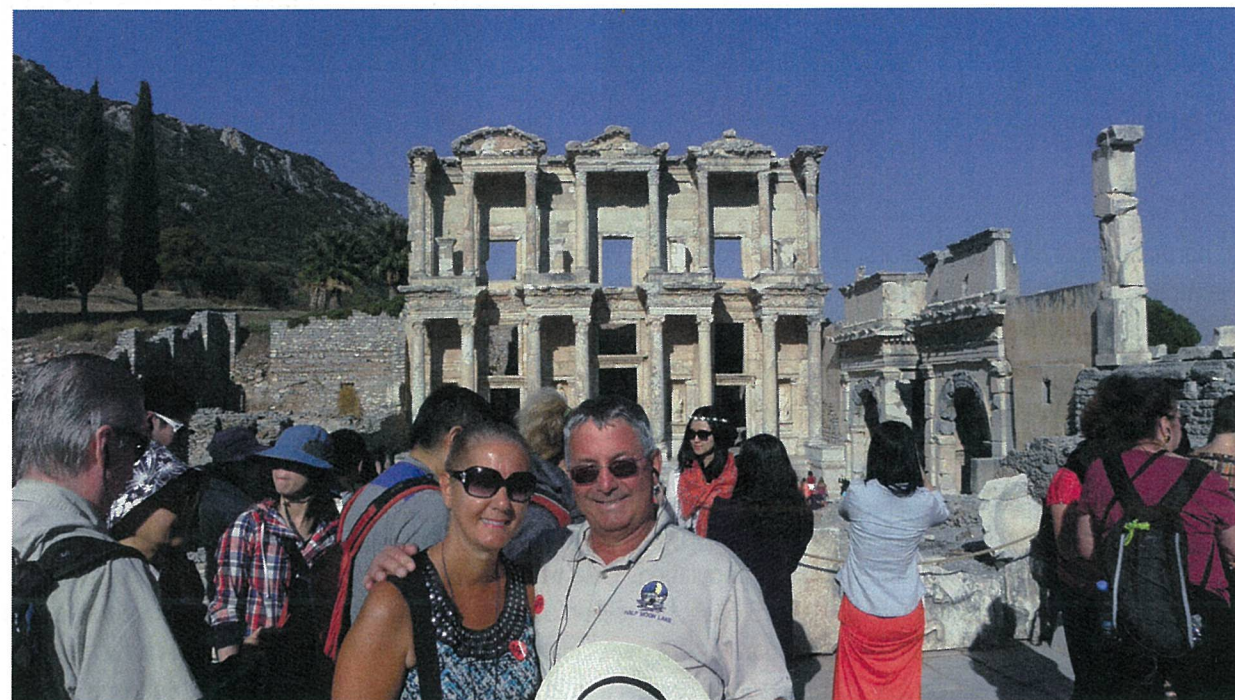


## YARD CLEANUP AND WATER QUALITY

When cleaning up around your property in the spring and fall, be sure to prevent leaves and grass clippings from getting into the lake. Why? Leaves and grass add phosphorus to the water and deplete oxygen as they decay in the lake. Every effort helps as we strive to improve Half Moon Lake's water quality.

## Where in the World is Half Moon Lake?

When you travel the world, wear your Half Moon Lake logo wear. Then send pictures to Sarah at [sarahwyles@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahwyles@hotmail.com) and you will be featured in an upcoming Loon Lines newsletter.



Diane and Chuck Erickson in Ephesus, Turkey in September



Andy Schneider at Mt. Fuji, Japan



# 12 2014 Water Quality Report

Written by Dave Balestri

Since 1993, volunteers have been measuring Half Moon Lake's water quality and contributing data to the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. This summer, Erin Balestri (daughter of Sarah and Dave Balestri) conducted tests on water clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. She also took samples for chemical testing (phosphorous and chlorophyll), but we were unable to get the refrigerated sample to the state lab on time. The results of this year's tests follow.

## Water Clarity:

The water clarity is tested in the deepest area of the lake using a "secchi" disk. Basically, you drop a black-and-white disk into the water when the sun is bright (but in the shade of the boat) and measure how deep you can still see it. On July 20th and again on September 6th, the water clarity was 15 feet. This is quite normal compared to other years, but well below 2013, when the test on comparable dates yielded 20 feet in early July and 19 feet in late August. In 2012, the clarity was 13 feet in early June, 15 feet in late June, and 17 feet in early July. We have found that rainfall, wind, boat activity, and air temperature can affect the water clarity. Overall, the water clarity of Half Moon Lake is still excellent.

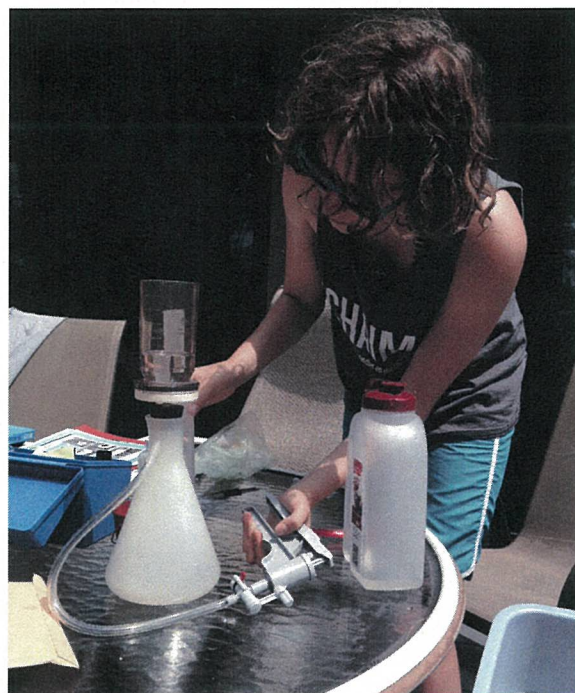
## Dissolved Oxygen:

The amount of dissolved oxygen available in a lake, particularly in the deeper parts of the lake, is critical to its overall health and fish population. Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water. In general, cold-water fish species (for example, walleye) need at least 5 parts per million of oxygen to survive. Northern pike need at least 4 ppm to survive, and sunfish (including largemouth bass) need at least 3 ppm. In contrast, warm-water fish species (such as common carp) need as little as 0.8 ppm to survive. On July 20th, dissolved oxygen was at 6.4 at a depth of 10 feet. Again, this is in line with the historical levels for our lake and conducive to the species in our lake.

## Water Temperature:

Our official readings confirm what everyone that dipped their toe in Half Moon Lake this summer already knew: the lake wasn't very warm! On July 20th, the water temperature 5 feet below the surface was 72 degrees. This is in comparison to 2012, when the water temperature ten feet below the surface was 80 degrees! Although the water was pretty chilly during prime swimming days, it should be noted that on September 28th, the water could be considered swimmable – about as late in the year as I can remember!

All-in-all, the water quality of Half Moon Lake is holding steady and remains excellent!



Erin Balestri

## Simple things you can do to help reduce phosphorus runoff to Half Moon Lake and nearby rivers & streams

- Use phosphorus-free dish detergent, laundry soap, and fabric softener; many brands are available.
- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the water, roadside ditches and storm sewer drains.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Use phosphorus-free fertilizers.
- Divert driveway and roof top runoff to an area where it can soak into the ground.
- Redirect your downspouts away from the lake or to a rain garden.
- Minimize impervious (hard) surfaces like rooftops, walkways and driveways on your property.
- Properly maintain your septic system.
- Plant trees, native shrubs and grasses in place of turf to help capture rainwater and minimize runoff.

# FISHING REPORT

BY JOHN BRIEGEL



Reports from around the lake seem to indicate that fishing in general, and walleye fishing in particular has been better than anyone expected. One of my "go to" fishermen said he caught several walleyes this year that were within the slot for keeping, but he released all of them in the hopes that they will reproduce and give us even more in the future!

Wayne Lemay from Breezy Bay said that the sunfish and crappie fishing has been pretty good also. As you can see from the photo, Scott Lessard has had exceptional luck with the approximately 27" beauty he caught and released the first part of September. He also said that last spring, he was boating several walleyes every time he went out, most of which went right back into the lake.



Scott Lessard, who lives next to Gores on the south end, caught this big walleye on 9-6-14! It was not weighed, but was almost 27 inches long- so let's say 26-7/8"

On a morning pontoon ride with John Weber, Jim Smith and Terry Radke in August, I witnessed a dead walleye near the dam that measured approximately 24".

We will again be receiving fingerlings next fall thru the DNR restocking program. The number should be similar to 2013, which was around 5,700. I hope to be able to witness the restocking next fall so I can have a first-hand look at how this is done.

Thanks to all who contributed info to share with everyone, and good luck fishing next year!

Submitted by Jim Smith



ON YOUR MARK !  
Getting started at  
the Annual Half  
Moon Lake Water  
Ski Day







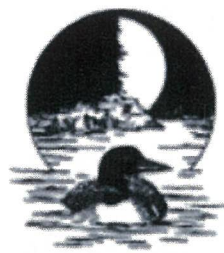
## Thank You!

We sincerely appreciate your support of the Loon Ladies over these past 12 years. We have loved seeing old and new friends wearing/using the Half Moon logo items you purchased from us. Development of the product lines for you has been part of our fabulous journey. Now it's time to retire so we can spend more time with our growing families and help nurture all our new grandchildren.

If you are interested in acquiring our fun business, please email us. You would be getting a start with a nice selection of inventory, the website "Loonladies.com", vendor contacts, customer leads, new marketing ideas and access to our experience in running the business. You will also have an article about you written for the 2015 lake newsletter.

Thanks again ... it's been a blast!

Contact: Sheila at [swaldoch@waldoch.com](mailto:swaldoch@waldoch.com) or Sue at [halfmoonhealth@gmail.com](mailto:halfmoonhealth@gmail.com)



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# Meet Your Neighbor

By Pat McMahon

The Webster dictionary defines a hero as "a man of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds." A hero isn't always a President, King, or Queen of a country. Sometimes, it is just the neighbor next door.

Fred Krebsbach was not unlike many young men in the 60's. He had graduated from high school at Stacyville, Iowa - and headed to West Des Moines for school in electronics. Then, like so many, Fred received his draft papers for duty.

Before leaving for Vietnam, twenty-one year old Fred received a piece of advice from his uncle: carry something with you into combat that will give you comfort in a time of need. He figured it was worth a shot and chose his First Communion rosary. This turned out to be a life-changing maybe even life-saving, decision.

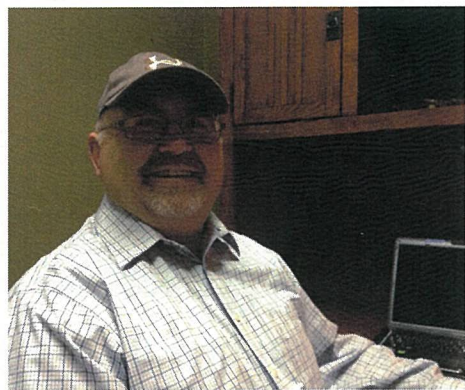
Sent into combat as a M-60 machine gunner, for almost seven months Fred faced danger from booby traps, enemy combatants, and the jungle itself. After becoming injured and returning from the hospital, he gave up the M-60 to become a squad leader for Special Forces. He endured seven more months of constant change and surprise, but one companion was constant - a voice inside his head that helped him find the right course of action to keep him alive. To this day Fred doesn't know what it was exactly, but it may have had something to do with his rosary.

Though he survived Vietnam, Fred was changed in irrevocable ways. He was inspired by the WWII veterans - and this was his motivation in writing, "Okay Okay." He hopes his story helps his grandchildren and other young people understand the cost of combat and their value of thinking it through before engaging in war.

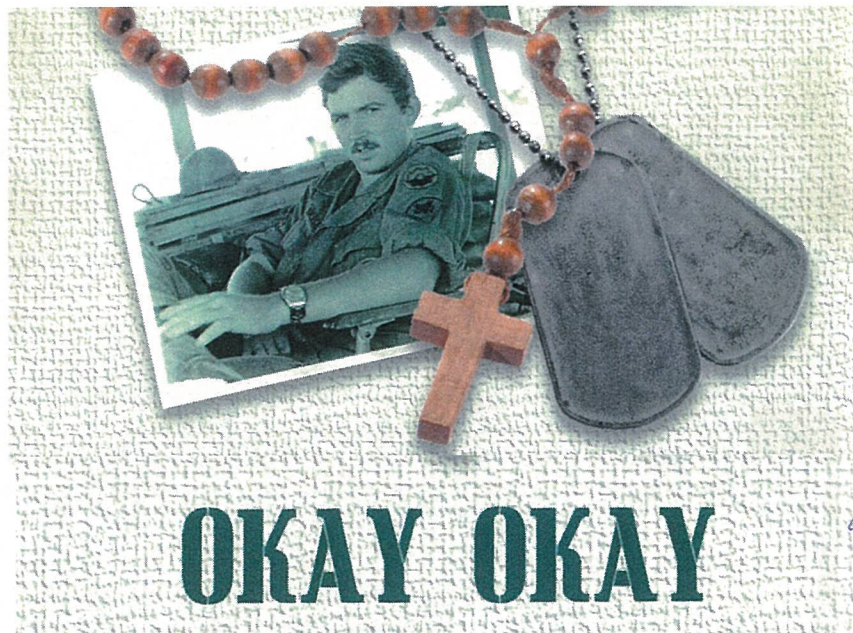
Fred and his wife, Marcia, have two daughters, Sara and Anne. They have five grandchildren. The family came to Half Moon Lake in 1990 and bought Harold and Helen Olson's cabin on Oscar Lane. They now spend half the year at the lake, the other half in Rochester, Minnesota.

When you drive by Fred's cabin next spring - give a honk and a wave. Thank you Fred for sharing your story - and many thanks for your service to our country. Fred can be reached at: [fredK5400@gmail.com](mailto:fredK5400@gmail.com).

"Okay Okay" is available at Barnes and Noble and on Amazon.



Fred Krebsbach 2014



# In Loving Memory



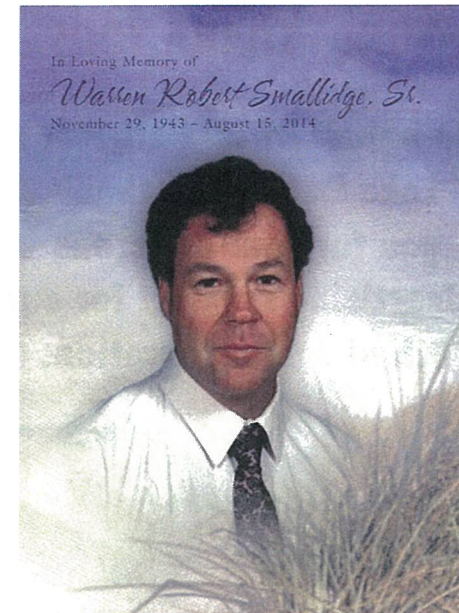
## WARREN SMALLIDGE, SR.

February 2, 1936-January 18, 2014

Helen and Warren Smallidge built a cabin on Half Moon Lake in Breezy Bay in 1955. Their son, Warren Smallidge Sr., was 12 years old and became friends with many other teenagers on the lake. When Friday night arrived, he could hardly wait to get to the lake, hop in his boat, go water skiing, have a pizza party, listen to music, and play games with his lake friends.

Warren married Karen Lewanovich and their 3 children: Carrie, Warren Jr. and Dan, also grew to love the lake, it's beauty, it's wildlife and the challenge of skiing. Their children have grown, married, and a 3rd generation of children are swimming, fishing, canoeing and if you watch carefully, you may see them slicing and dicing up the slalom course!

Family came first for Warren. He was loving, honest, hard-working and a tease. His beautiful smile and melodious whistle will truly be missed.



## CHARLES RUSSELL

Charles "Stubby" Russell passed away January 20, 2013. He was born in 1928 in North Minneapolis. His cabin is on the SE shore along 120th Street. Many of you remember being drawn out of your cabins and onto your docks to better hear the beautiful luring sound of bagpipes at sunset! And then when he would finish, up and down the shore line broke into applause, as it was so magical. That was Chuck Russell playing his bagpipes! Now, his son Charlie continues the tradition. Stubby was a founder, participant and enthusiastic supporter of the Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band for all of its 50 years.

In 1972, Chuck and Barb visited a cabin one of his co-workers was renting. It happened to be near their good friends John and Pat Black's cabin and as it turns out was for sale. This was how Barb and Chuck came upon and bought the cabin on Half Moon Lake. I know my Mom was probably pushing for a place on Vermilion but the cabin on Half Moon became another very important part of their lives. Sitting in front of the fire or out on the deck looking at the lake were some of his greatest pleasures. The cabin was the site of many great get-togethers too, graduation parties, band parties etc, etc.... I'll always remember my Dad piping out at the end of the dock with the sun going down in the distance. Obviously, lots of neighbors remember this too. Now, his sons Rick and Charlie and their families are in the cabin. Chuck, you are missed.



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
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**On behalf of all Half Moon Lake Residents, thank you for your generous advertising support for our 4th of July celebration.**

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## TRUDI'S TIPS

by Trudi Gores

## Helpful Hints

### GLASSMAN'S FAMOUS WILD RICE

Dave & Jennifer Glassman

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1 lb. good bacon, diced
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 large green pepper, diced
- 1 can of mushrooms, drained
- 1 six lb. can of Canoe cooked wild rice, or 6 one lb. cans, drained
- 1 stick of butter
- salt and pepper to taste

Saute the diced bacon until done. In bacon grease, add the onion and pepper.

Saute these until soft.

Add the mushrooms and the drained rice. Top with butter.

Be careful not to add too much salt when seasoning.

Serves 15-20



- 1. MOISTURE METERS** - Stick a pine cone 2 petals deep in house plants. The petals will open when the plant is dry and close when the plant is wet. No more poking a finger into the dirt.
- 2. NO MORE FRUIT FLIES** - Start with a carry-out cup, lid and straw. Fill the cup 1/4 full with any cola, cover with the lid, and insert the straw to just above the cola. Let the straw stick out of the cup 1 inch. Fruit flies will go down the straw, and not come out. No more fruit flies around the basket of fruit on your counter.

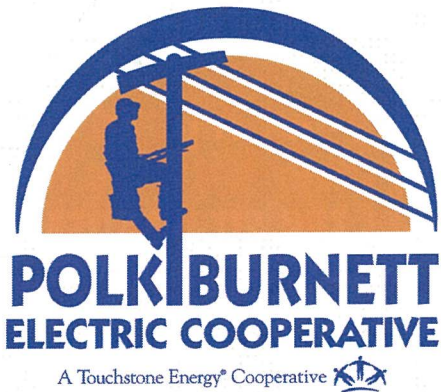






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