



FALL 2015

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



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Letter from the Chair

by JOHN WEBER



Hello every one,

The summer season is now over; I trust that everyone has had, a busy, active, rewarding as well as fulfilling time of it. I know that we were very busy with lots of activities, the largest; we hosted a family reunion with over 70 guests attending. For the record all of our guests (from all over the country as well as the UK) thought that our lake, our area, our neighbors, our serenity, and all of the other positive comments that I can't remember was very special. We are all truly blessed. Even our grandsons, who work the boat launch as part of CBCW, managed their schedule enough to be able to participate in some activities, but especially the "chow" as well as the all important "GROUP PHOTO".

Because of some comments about pwc's, skiers, etc. coming too close to the shore, the district has purchased several buoys (intended to be movable) to be able to mark the 200' distance from shore. These are intended to be educational to help judge that distance. Obviously they can only be anchored in fairly shallow water in order to be able to hold location. Please let a board member know, if you would like one placed in your area for several weeks or so. Again they are intended to be placed in a variety of locations, in order to help folks know where the 200' line would be with respect to the shore line.

There have been several questions raised about the addresses being used for the Loon Lines and also about voting eligibility. I'll do my best to clarify. We and also Paper Worx (Loon Line Publisher) obtain the names and addresses from Polk county records, as listed for the Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. It is the only resource available to us. Some properties are owned individually, some are in trusts, and some are in blind or anonymous trusts (which means some properties DO NOT have a name listed,) we mail to the "publically listed address". When properties change owners perhaps the county has a delay updating, or our own data base has a delay or an error, nevertheless I will ask our volunteers to be diligent in keeping the mailing list current. The rules about district voter eligibility are more complex and convoluted than I expected, so I will address that separately.

Lastly I would like to promote becoming a member of "next door". Dave Balestri is providing additional information in this newsletter. We are members in our winter community in Tucson; it is a very useful forum to buy, sell, or give away, or request any sort of item with our neighbors, or to post issues, questions or problems. For example; the storm last summer, to post information for the folks who are not able to be here as frequently as others.

Here is wishing a great fall and winter to everyone and looking forward to next spring and summer.

John N Weber
President



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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! ! THANK YOU!

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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Contact Pat, Diane or Sally



Editor's Column

by Pat McMahon and Diane Erickson
Newsletter Editors



Welcome to fall!

We are all sad to see the summer end, but the summer rain provided us with beautiful foliage this fall! Many have left or are preparing to leave for the winter, so we hope this newsletter brings many smiles at the memories of great summer fun!

This edition marks a new change to how the newsletter will be produced. We will be handling all articles and photos, and all advertising will be put together by Paperworx (please see their ad in this article for information). All advertising dollars will go to support the Half Moon Lake 4th of July festivities. Any questions regarding the advertising should be directed to Ellen Butler, Treasurer of the Board.

If you have any photos or suggestions of articles for upcoming issues, please send them to
HalfMoonLakeLoonLines@gmail.com.

Please have a great winter!

See you in the spring!



www.halfmoonlake.net

Loon Report

by Pat Mechelke, Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger

Fall has arrived and with it comes the migration south of our loons. The last time we saw the adult loons on Half Moon Lake was the 8th of September. We circled the entire lake on the 10th and the chick was swimming alone. It will remain at least a month longer, feeding, practicing take-offs, and gaining strength before beginning its journey. Young loons migrate south their first autumn and do not return north for at least three to four years. They usually fly a similar route to that of their parents and end up returning north to a lake near where they were born; how they know how to find their way remains a mystery.

The adult loons normally congregate before beginning their migration to the Gulf or the southern Atlantic coast. They do not migrate in flocks, however, but fly singly or in small groupings. Although clumsy in their takeoffs they can fly at speeds of over 80 MPH once airborne. They usually do not fly nonstop but rest on lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. One USGS wildlife biologist from LaCrosse, WI, has reported that some Midwestern loons spend nearly a month on Lake Michigan fattening up before flying south. There is no documented evidence about how long it takes a loon to



make their migration, but in one documented case, a loon with an implanted satellite transmitter traveled 670 miles within a 24 hour period. In another case, a loon traveled distances of 360 and 505 miles during two consecutive days. The distance between breeding and wintering grounds of loons monitored in MN and WI ranged from 1,170 to 1,570 miles.

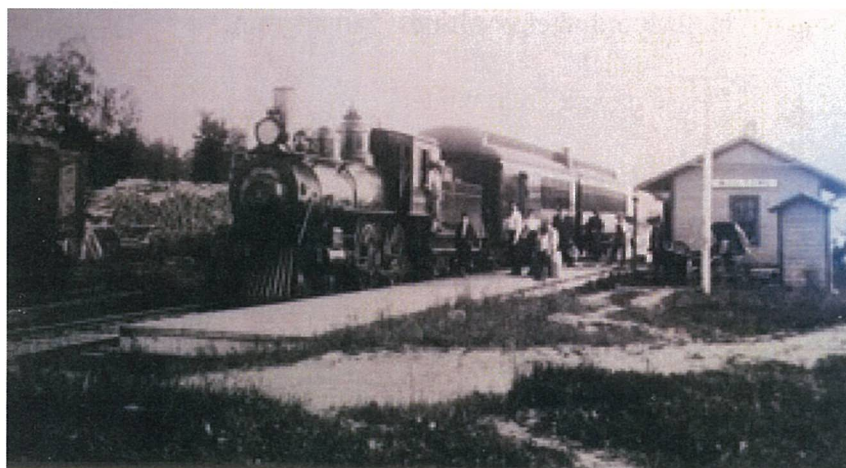
We were fortunate again this year that the chick born on the north end of the Half Moon Lake survived. This is the second year in a row that our young loons did not fall prey to predators and for that, we are thankful. Have a great fall and winter and we will all look forward to the return of the loons next spring.



The History Corner



by David Butler



A walk through the hallway of the Sharan and Bud Erickson cabin on the east shore of Half Moon Lake is like walking through the photo display area of the Milltown Museum with its photos from the 1920s and 1930s. Sharan's grandfather, Oswald Risvold, who is also the grandfather of Diane Pearson, wife of Steve Pearson, other cabin owners on the east shore of the Half Moon, operated the Risvold-Olson General Store. (A photo of Oswald Risvold and the interior of the store can be found on pg. 92 of "History of Half Moon Lake.")

On the wall is a photo of Soo Line Railroad Engine No. 3, circa 1907-1908, as it was stopped to pick up passengers heading for St. Paul, or other parts south. Note the Western Union sign and pole, the wood pile that provided wood for heating the boiler, the horse and buggy, the knickers on the young boy, the hats and white shirts of the passengers and the local folks. The passenger depot had just been built.

Thanks to Sharan and Bud Erickson for this story and photo. If others have stories and photos you would like to share, please get in touch with me at david.butler@q.com or ph. 612-798-0402.

Township Report

by Harlen Hegdal, Chairman, Milltown Township

Another summer has gone by and what a great one it was! If you remember, at the annual meeting, it was voted to spend up to \$1000 to install "cones" on the large street lights that shine all night. These lights have become more of an issue especially on lakes. For some they represent security and for others it is a form of pollution that intrudes into their yards and cabins. There has been a statewide push to reclaim the night sky. Currently there are no laws that prohibit these lights around lakes. The cones help reflect the light down instead of out.

After the annual meeting I contacted Polk/Burnett electric and found out they have a new bulb for these lights that also direct the light down. Our beach has two of these lights and it was decided to cone one and use the new bulb in the other. This would give people a chance to see what they look like and the effect that having a cone or the new bulb has on the lighting.

The cones cost \$100 installed and the bulbs are much cheaper. Our goal is to make a decision by next spring and then offer them to residents that have these lights free of charge. This would be voluntary on the part of people that have these lights.

I would also mention that we were unable to put the third dock in at the public beach. The beavers have dug a trench about 40' out and we could not get the dock past that without damaging the dock. We are barred by state law from filling or alternating anything on the lake-bed so we will need to wait it out and see if it fills in naturally.

Have a great winter!



internet

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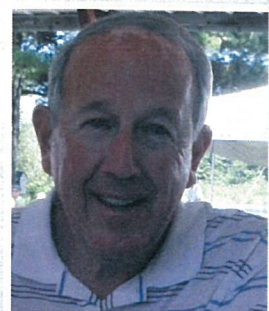
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6 Welcome Our New Commissioners



Dave Balestri was born in Rockford, Illinois and is 53 years old. Dave graduated from the University of Iowa in Computer Science, and owns his own IT consulting business in south Minneapolis. Dave is married to Sarah, and they have two daughters, Erin and Joy. The Balestri family came to Half Moon Lake in 2001, and bought on the very first day. They are very committed to keeping our lake clean. Erin has been doing our water quality control and testing. The family enjoys skiing, sailing, gardening and fishing. Dave wants the lake to stay clean and wonderful for the generations to come.



Bud Ericksen was born in 1942 in St. Paul, and graduated from St. Paul Central. He received a civil engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. In 1980, Dave started his own business, Ericksen Roed and Associates. Now retired, Dave and his wife, Sharan have two children, Dana and Brent, and four grandchildren, with one to come this year. Sharan's maiden name is Risvold, and her family has been on Half Moon for over 70 years. Her grandfather had a mercantile business on main street in Milltown. She remembers her grandparents and parents having great fun with Kent Bank's family. Dave is especially interested in the walleye population, and more stocking.



Ellen Butler is the new Treasurer this year. She was Secretary last year for one year. Ellen Butler is the daughter of David and Mary Martha McMahon Butler. She is married to Harlen Hegdal. Ellen has 3 children from a previous marriage and they all love spending time at the cabin together. Her grandfather, Dr. Arthur E. McMahon bought the McMahon cottage in 1937, so her family has been enjoying the lake for many years. Ellen's children are the 4th generation in her family on the lake. Mike McMahon is her cousin and their grandchildren are the 5th generation of McMahon's on the lake. Ellen has a BS Nursing from the University of Minnesota, and most recently received her MA from St. Catherine University in Holistic Health Studies. She loves to sail and take her dog for a spin on the stand up paddle board. The lake is her happy place.

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Friday, December 4th, 2015
4:00 PM to 8:30 PM (come for 5 minutes or the whole night!)
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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR... JOHN MISNER

As every Half Moon Lake resident knows, families around the lake derive their joy from "the Lake" in a variety of ways that include boating, fishing, kayaking, swimming and simply enjoying the view from our yards or our docks. During the summer of 2014, one Half Moon Lake resident took advantage of the lake and roads throughout Polk County to train for a triathlon. And it was not just any triathlon; it was Ironman Hawaii in Kona, Hawaii last October 11.

John qualified to compete in Kona after successfully completing Ironman Arizona and being the race's #1 charity fundraiser. John's charity of choice was Smile Train; Smile Train provides cleft surgery to children in developing nations around the world.

Although every Ironman race consists of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and 26.2-mile run (a full marathon), Ironman Hawaii is considered to be one of the toughest Ironman courses in the world. The race is also the Ironman World Championship. Approximately 2200 triathletes from over 60 nations competed in the October 11 race that started in the Kailua-Kona harbor in a series of swim "waves" (professionals and amateurs) that started at 630am. "I will never forget the sense of anticipation that morning as we treaded water with

helicopters overhead as we waited for the starting cannon to fire," said John. "I have many great memories of my summer training for Ironman. My memories include long bike rides from our lakehouse to Grantsburg, seeing Amish families walking as I rode by, riding by horses and cows, avoiding territorial farm dogs, running in loops around Half Moon Lake (a little more than 12 miles), and swimming in the lake while Angela paddled next to me in a kayak to make sure boaters saw me. As I raced in Kona, I frequently thought about my training days at Half Moon Lake."

Ironman competitors are allowed exactly 17-hours to complete the race and John crossed the finish with a little more than a half-hour to spare. John's wife Angela and two sons Michael and Christopher were there to watch the race and cheer for him as he crossed the finish line. Fellow lake residents Steve and Lucy Minn also traveled to "the Big Island" to cheer for John after his long day ocean swimming from Kailua Harbor, riding his bike through the lava fields of the western coast of Hawaii and running the marathon through the village of Kailua-Kona. The race was broadcast on NBC and a 90-minute highlight video can be found on Youtube by searching

"Ironman Hawaii 2014."

The training continued this year as John and oldest son Michael train to compete in Ironman 70.3 Lake Tahoe (a "half-distance race" of 70.3 miles compared to a "full" Ironman's 140.6 miles.) You may have seen John and Michael on the roads surrounding Half Moon Lake or swimming from their home on 200th Avenue to the Glassmans' dock and back.

John and Angela have been lake residents since 1993 (when they lived in Minneapolis and both John and Angela worked for KSTP-TV.) Their main residence is now in Arizona where John's job is based. Michael now works in Reno, Nevada (after graduating from Arizona State University); his younger brother Christopher is a junior at ASU. A highlight of their summer was spending nearly a week together "at the cabin" wake-boarding, riding ATVs, playing backyard games and dining at Indian Head. "The boys grew up on the lake so although they don't have full summers with us anymore, we treasure the time the four of us have together," said John.





ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District • Minutes- Annual Meeting- July 18, 2015 • Half Moon Lake Public Beach- Voss Landing

Meeting called to order at 10:00am by Chair John Weber. Board members present and introduced: John Weber, Chair; Dan Leh, Treasurer and Vice Chair; Ellen Butler, Secretary; John Briegal, Fisheries; Sarah Anderson, Newsletter; Harlen Hegdal, Milltown township Chair. JW verified that the meeting postings and publication were legal. Motion to approve agenda, made by Suzy Bank, 2nd by Chris Schneider, all voted and carried.

Opening and welcome remarks by John Weber. New residents introduced themselves- Tammy Saad- bought her parents cabin on Breezy Bay. Sam and — Lehman bought the cabin on 190th to the west of Dr. Eppley's old cabin. Thanks to Sue Schneider and Sheila Waldoch for offering HML apparel and home furnishings for many years as the Loon Ladies, and are now retired. Kate McMahon and her partner, Tara—, are the new owners of the merchandise and their new name is Cabin Chicks. David Butler is selling his Half Moon Lake history books. He researched and interviewed people and gathered stories for 6 years and wrote his book.

The Field Captain Sheriff of Polk County, Steve Smith?, spoke about many issues. 1. The speed board on highway G on the north end of the lake was donated by Ron Glassman. Anyone can request to use it and it can be placed in any area of need for a speed reduction reminder. 2. Water patrol- newest piece of equipment- purchased from Tousley Motor Sports (Ron Glassman) is a personal water craft with very bright night lights and is the only PWC allowed to be out after sunset. It is eligible for the DNR refund program over the next 5 years- they had to buy up front. It was used to recover a body in the St. Croix River. It is the only PWC like this in Polk County. There are many people certified to use it. The Sheriff dept. shares the use around the Polk County lakes. It is very versatile and much appreciated. 3. Fireworks- Wisconsin statute states that a permit is required to shoot off fireworks, which is anything that "goes bang and/or leaves the ground"- per Sheriff Smith. Minnesotans can purchase fireworks in Wis. Wisconsin residents can not purchase fireworks in Wisc. So, for our firework show on HML, a permit is granted to Milltown township chair- he is the only one who can issue a permit. Also, a bond is needed with the permit. If the police receive a complaint about fireworks being set off, they will come out and issue a verbal warning first, then ticket later. With a permit, 11pm is a reasonable time to end the noise. (racetrack) 4. Methamphetamine problem- terrible- in the 1990's and early 2000's, the meth labs disappeared. Now, there is a straight pipe line from Mexican cartels. Property crimes- leads to pawn shops, which are now required to report and input all information and serial numbers into a central data base. Police can type in suspects name and check for stolen items- it is all connected. Now, meth buyers will barter items, and no longer use pawn shops, due to central reporting. 5. Some cabin break-ins are seen. Can use the "castle doctrine" to use force necessary to protect yourself in a reasonable means- need to be able to explain your action- also applies to force used in your vehicle. 6. "Project lifesaver" for people with wandering tendencies and dementia- can install a transmitter- allows to locate person in 4-17 minutes (per practice)- in village of Balsam Lake- minimal start-up cost, then \$10.00 per month. 7. ATV's now allowed on many township roads in Polk County, but not on County Roads- as G.

Motion to approve 2014 Annual Meeting minutes made by Marv Christofferson, 2nd by Herb Townsend, approved and carried. Nominate officers- hand out ballots for Secretary and Treasurer.

Audit report- Mike McMahon and Chuck Erickson examined the accounts and transactions of the district books. All accounts have been found to be true and correct. Motion to approve report- Chris Schneider, 2nd by Suzy Bank, carried and approved. Dan Leh gave Treasurer's report. Budget for 2016 will be the \$29,380.00. Budget handouts are available upon request form Dan. Motion by Diane Erickson and 2nd by Linda Sternberg was made to approve budget, vote taken and approved.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) report- Dan Leh is Chair. Rick Miller gave thanks to Dan for all he does for the lake; lids camera, CBCW, hiring and educating launch ambassadors, etc. Sailboat race was on July 5th- 4 boats competed. See pics on website: www.halfmoonlake.net. Please send old photos— historical to Rick Miller to put on HML website. Weed ranger- Rick Miller met with Kaitlin Holmes from Polk County on Thursday afternoon from 1-4pm to learn about new invasive species- Rusty Crayfish, large mystery snails, curly leaf pondweed. She comes every Wednesday to check the beaches. Rick says we have healthy emergent plants. There is a lake south of Polk County (name?) that has Eurasian Milfoil. Rick M. is inviting anyone to become a new weed ranger. It is fun and educational and you get to be in a boat for the job! Kids can help too! The website: www.halfmoonweeds.net shows pictures of weeds-with a worksheet to print out and use for identification. Dan Leh is taking over as the Lead Weed Ranger.

Question: why don't we have running water at the landing to spray off the boats? Answer: theft and cost. Can look into the idea for running a water line from well to the dock. Would the water just drain into the lake? Is it needed? CBCW- 2014- Charlie and Jack Hatten, Sam Butler are the inspectors this summer. Josh Hatten has retired and is in college. The Hatten boys are John and Jane Webers grandsons. 2014- 1139 boats were inspected for weeks, 250 people spoken to regarding invasive species and how to clean the boats, trailers, empty ballast water, etc. 50% of boats have weeds on trailer as they pull into the landing to launch boat. Pull them off! Our lake district pays for these young men to work for CBCW at the public beach landing. The DNR gave away towels and literature. Irid camera- is the 2nd line of defense to deter - takes 24 hours to check it. No prosecutions have yet been made with Sheriff. They are not used to fining for weeds yet. Jet skis- need to drain ballast B4 go into lake! DNR- big push to drain live wells at site of take out. Put fish on ice packs. Balsam Lake- 5 launches- their CBCW team checked 839 boats in 2014, Bone Lake checked 732 boats. HML is way ahead! HML is leader in Polk County because we hire! Good idea! Many thanks to Dan Leh! It takes lots of time and energy to run this vital program.



Water Clarity report- Dave Balestri has managed this for 3 years. He uses the Secchi Disc to measure water clarity. It is a round black and white disc and he lowers it in the water, then measures the depth where he can't see it anymore, as the reading. HML has water clarity reports for 20 years, on water clarity, temperature, dissolved O2 and chemicals- phosphorus and chlorophyll. Sherm Gardner used to measure this. The 20 year average is 14.9 feet. Dave measures every month. Dissolved O2- you want over 5ppm, and at 10 feet deep, the O2 was 6.4ppm. His Daughter Erin assists with these measurements. The water runs through filters and a pump to measure the dissolved O2. More O2 can support more bass, need 5ppm for walleye, 4 for sunfish, lower than 4 too warm and then carp can live. The highest Secchi reading is in the spring at 26 feet. The DNR counts in July and August. The temperature at 40 feet down was 47 degrees. How do we compare? Deer Lake is very close. Can check stats at DNR.com-Polk County. Thanks Dave and Sherm!

Loon Report- Pat Mechelke- one loon baby hatched around June 10th and survived on north end- she tracks 3 times per week. "Floaters" are loons who don't have a mate. There is a lack of nesting area on So. End- need new platform on South end of lake. Doug Ebeling says the platform is ok, but the loons are not interested. Thanks Pat and Doug! Fishing Report- John Briegal- Pan fish are good. Walleyes are coming back. DNR found 17-17-1/2", so next year will be good keepers. Found a dead floating walleye that was 21". DNR stocks on odd year- in fall 2015- every other year on odd. 5500 fingerlings- who will monitor this fall? DNR confirmed stocking will happen this fall 2015. County Supervisor- Jim Edgell was not present

Milltown Township- Harlen Hegdal reported that the township is in great shape. The township opened all of its roads to ATV's. He worked with Luck ATV club who are very responsible. A road can be closed to ATV's with majority vote. These rights can be removed if they do not obey the rules. County BOA- new zoning laws- a cabin within 75' of shoreline no longer has to go B4 the BOA to remodel, do maintenance and repair. Up to 35', need to receive permit. Consider your neighbors with "light trespassing and pollution" with big yard lights and all night lights. Smalldge Memorial donation(\$724.00) is not a district issue, so will give the money to the water ski course permit people.

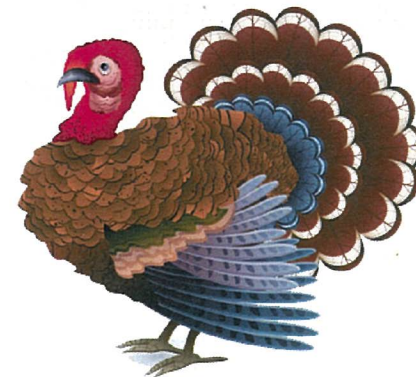
Newsletter Report- Sarah Anderson- 10 issues of the Loon Lines have been published! Sarah is going off the Board and off the newsletter- Thank you Sarah! Pat McMahon will continue on the newsletter and Diane Erickson will become co-editor with Pat. Thank you Ladies! PaperWorx in Amery does the publishing. The mailing labels are created from the tax roll lists, so any changes need to be made at the County level. There will be a Facebook page for the Loon Lines, and a digital copy in the future. Send articles and pictures to halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com. The website for the lake is managed by Rick Miller and the address is www.halfmoonlake.net. He updates this once a week. Please send information, pics, news, history, etc. to Rick.

Fireworks Report- Successful weekend with tie dye, movie, popcorn, lemonade and fireworks. Boothill Pyrotechnics is hired to do fireworks for \$2700.00. The costs are collected from ads in the newsletter. Milltown Library hosts the movie night at the public beach. 30 kids came to tie dye t-shirts. There were 80 people at the movie on the beach park. The fireworks were 25 minutes long and a great display! Many boats were on the lake watching and enjoying. Need help with soliciting for ads in newsletter for revenue.

HML Conservancy- Ellen Butler gave report. The HML watershed is 5100 acres and extends mostly to the north. 50% of our water comes from Harder Creek, 40% comes from Tamarack Bay. Need to keep clean the area around these inlets and create buffers on front yards to lake. Long Range Planning committee- no report. Lake Map- Arne Kolbjournsen had updated the lake/cabin/names map. Send your updates to him. Kids Water Ski Day- Matt Smith- First Saturday of August- meet at South end- bring skis and 75 foot rope. The record is pulling 14 kids behind one Mastercraft ski boat in 1985. 2014 Advisory Motion- review- "continue to add \$10,000.00 each year to the reserve fund as directed by the membership". Motion made by Marv Christofferson, 2nd by Doug Eberling, voted and passed. 2016 Budget- Dan Leh- no tax raise! Same as 2014 and 2015. tax \$19,380.00 budget + \$10,000.00 reserve fund (emergency invasive species treatment) = \$29,380.00. \$29,380.00 for 2016 expenditure proposed. Motion made by Diane Erickson, 2nd by Chris Schneider, voted, and passed. Thank you gifts to Dan Leh and Sarah Anderson who are going off the Board.

New business: Discussion- Does district take on responsibility for fireworks, movies, popcorn, lemonade, tie dye? Need new firework committee, new ads person, do we find volunteer and if not, do we hire someone to sell ads for the newsletter? Pat McMahon made a motion that we hire PaperWorx to sell ads, as no one volunteered to do this job. 2nd by Tom Lennertson. Lighting discussion about bright yard lights at night- discussion about providing cones/shades for downlighting. Township will ask Polk Burnett to put a cone/shade on the public beach light so we can see what they look like, and how they work. Motion by Dan Leh, 2nd by Diane Erickson to put cones on all the big yard lights owned by PB. Amendment to give discretion to the Board to make that decision. Will begin with cone on beach light. It is common to put a cone/shade to prevent light to go horizontal, reflected light will still go vertical. Polk-Burnett designed the cones. We can not mandate cones on all lights. Put cone on beach carried and passed. 5 opposed. Discussion on idea on lake directory. Harlen H. said that Balsam Lake has one and people really like it and find it handy. Comments- yes! Dave Balestri mentioned making an online "nextdoor" for HML that people can sign up for- need separate email.

The 2016 annual meeting will be at 10am at the public beach park on Saturday, July 16th. Thanks to previous Board members: Pat, Dan, Sarah and others from John W. Adjourn at 12noon. Board of Directors Meeting. A Board of directors meeting was called immediately following by President John Weber. All members attending. Order of business- to elect officers. Ellen Butler was nominated for Treasurer, vote was taken and election carried. Dave Balestri was nominated for Secretary, vote taken and election carried. Bud Erickson was nominated for Vice-President- vote taken and election carried. All other positions remain unchanged. Meeting was adjourned.





Half Moon Lake 2015 Water Quality Report

By Dave Balestri

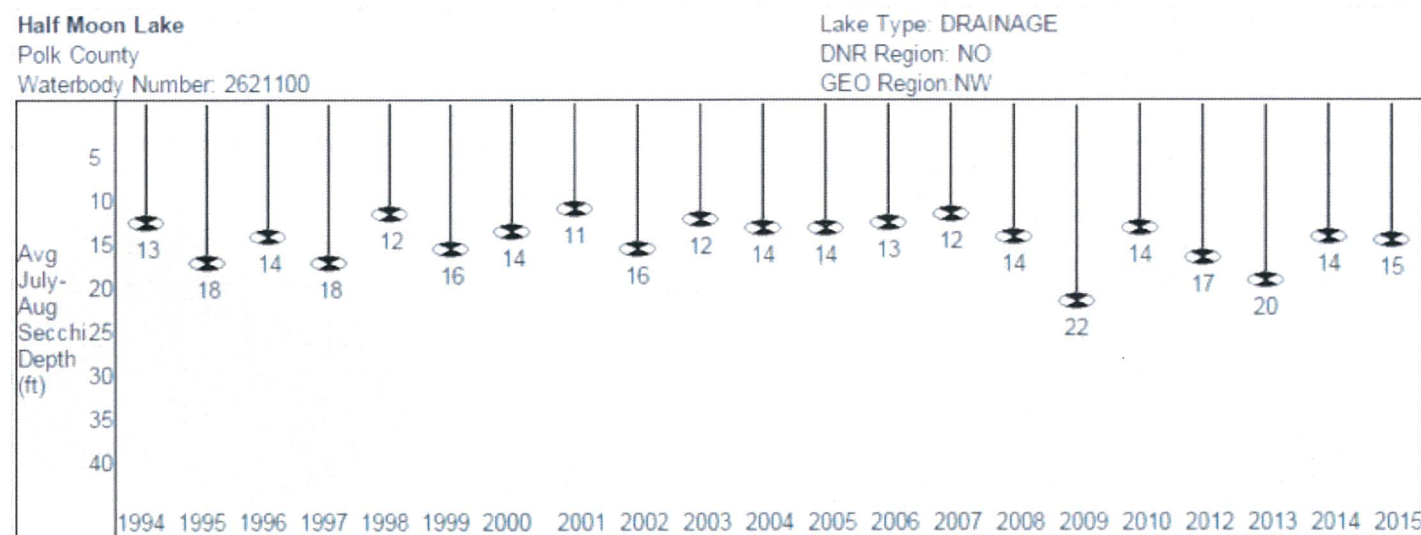


Since 1993, volunteers have been measuring Half Moon Lake's water quality and contributing data to the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. We've now built up over 20 years' worth of data, which you can view on the Wisconsin DNR website at the link below. <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/station.aspx?project=8195845>.

Sherm Gardner conducted the tests from 1993 through 2007. Dave Balestri and his family have been conducting the tests since 2008. There are four tests that we try to conduct each year: water clarity, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and chemical content (phosphorous and chlorophyll). This summer, we were only able to conduct tests on water clarity and temperature. Due to an equipment failure, our test for dissolved oxygen was rendered unusable, and we were not provided the updated supplies to conduct chemical testing. 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, we 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 we can still see it. Ideally, the measurements should be taken on relatively calm days, with light winds and little boat traffic. Also, we try not to take them soon after a rainfall, since runoff will temporarily cloud the water. This



Past secchi averages in feet (July and August only).

year, we were able to take measurements on three separate days. On May 27th, the water clarity was 15 feet. On June 29th, it was 16 feet, and on July 7th it was back to 15 feet. As you can see from the historical graph below, this is quite normal compared to other years. In fact, 2015's average of 15.3 feet is even slightly better than the 20-year historical average of 15.0 feet.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE GRAPH:

- 1) For some reason, there is no data shown for 2011, although there was an 18' measurement in the online database.
- 2) Any measurements taken in May and September are not included in the data, as those months are not representative of "normal" water clarity (according to the Wisconsin DNR). We often see clarity in excess of 20 feet in May. 27 feet is the best we've ever recorded; that was on June 21st, 2009.
- 3) The unusually high readings in 2009 and 2013 were probably due to a lack of rain those years – the testing notes from 2009 indicate "no rain in weeks".

WATER TEMPERATURE:

The water temperature was slightly cooler than normal this summer – at least through early July when we took the readings. On July 7th, the water temperature 5 feet below the surface was 73 degrees. It was 72 degrees at 10 feet deep and at 15 feet. At 20 feet, it dropped to 69 degrees; at 30 feet it was 57, at 40 feet it was 48 degrees. At 50 feet, the water temperature was 47 degrees. There is not as much information in the database for water temperatures, but these figures put 2015 slightly warmer than 2014 and quite a bit cooler than 2013.

All-in-all, the water quality of
Half Moon Lake remains excellent.



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ANIMAL TRACKS

Animal tracks provide clues about the animals on your shoreline. Look for tracks in the damp sand along the water's edge near lake plants, especially in the early morning.



River Otter

Front Print:
2.5" - 3.5" Long
2" - 3" Wide

Hind Print
3" - 4" Long
2.5" - 3.5" Wide



Finding these webbed tracks may lead you to some really smelly otter droppings full of crayfish claws and fish scales nearby.



Mink

Front & Hind Print:
1.5" - 2" Long
1.5" - 2" Wide



The mink love to lope along the shore searching for frogs.



Blue Heron

Print Length:
to 6.5" Long

Straddle: 8"

Stride: 9"



These birds walk along the shoreline in search for frogs and fish.



Turtles come out of the water from time to time to lay in the sunshine. Notice how their tail drags and the mark they make with their claws.

Painted Turtle

Straddle: 4"-10"



Green Frog

Straddle: to 3"



FUN FACT
What is a straddle?
A straddle is the distance between the animals' left and right foot prints

The best place to find frog tracks is along the muddy shoreline. They sometimes come out at night to sing.



“Nextdoor” website for Half Moon Lake

By Dave Balestri

A topic that has come up several times over the years has been the idea of a directory of phone numbers and email addresses for Half Moon Lake lakeshore owners and neighbors. Such a directory could be used to broadcast such information as when the next annual picnic is, when the ice-skating party is, or what the 4th of July activities schedule is. It could also be used to alert neighbors to such things as storm damage, loose boats, or crime alerts. The challenge of such a directory has always been the task of collecting the information and maintaining it when people switch phones or change email addresses. There are also some people who prefer not to share their phone numbers and/or email addresses.

An option that provides all the benefits of such a directory while eliminating the creation and maintenance challenges is to use a website and smartphone app called “Nextdoor”. By signing up for Nextdoor, you can post and/or read message to/from your Half Moon Lake neighbors. You can use the website or the smartphone app or both. There are settings which will determine how and what type of updates you receive. (If you’re like me, as soon as you hear “settings”, you get a little wary. However, the system is very easy to use and you don’t really need to adjust any settings at all – the default settings work just fine for our use.)

A few of us have been advocating using Nextdoor for Half Moon Lake for a couple months now. We’re up to 16 people using it. So far through the system, I’ve been able to give a grill and picnic table to neighbors as well as get advice on how to deal with a huge boulder on my shoreline. As more and more of us start to use the site, its uses and value will increase. People in my neighborhood in Minneapolis use Nextdoor to alert neighbors to suspicious activity, give away items (“curb alert” is a frequent topic), ask for recommendations on everything from piano lessons to concrete repair, and notify each other of neighborhood meetings. I can imagine the HML neighbors selling, borrowing, or giving away water toys, tools, or even boats (anyone need some youth life jackets?). A simple request for help with an outdoor chore might yield multiple responses.

To sign up for Nextdoor, simply go to www.nextdoor.com. Enter your HML street address and your email address and then click “Find My Neighborhood”. It should quickly find the Half Moon Lake neighborhood. At this point, you’ll just need to create a password and enter some basic information (gender, etc.) and you’re in. You can then download the app to your phone; however, it’s not necessary to have the app in order to use the system. Note that if you use Nextdoor at your permanent home you’ll need to use a different email address for your HML neighborhood. If you need a second email address, you can create a free one on either Google (gmail) or Yahoo. And don’t worry, your neighbors won’t see your email address. Take a look and join the Half Moon Lake Nextdoor neighborhood! You can always opt out if you find it’s not to your liking.

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PADDLE BOARDS ON SALE



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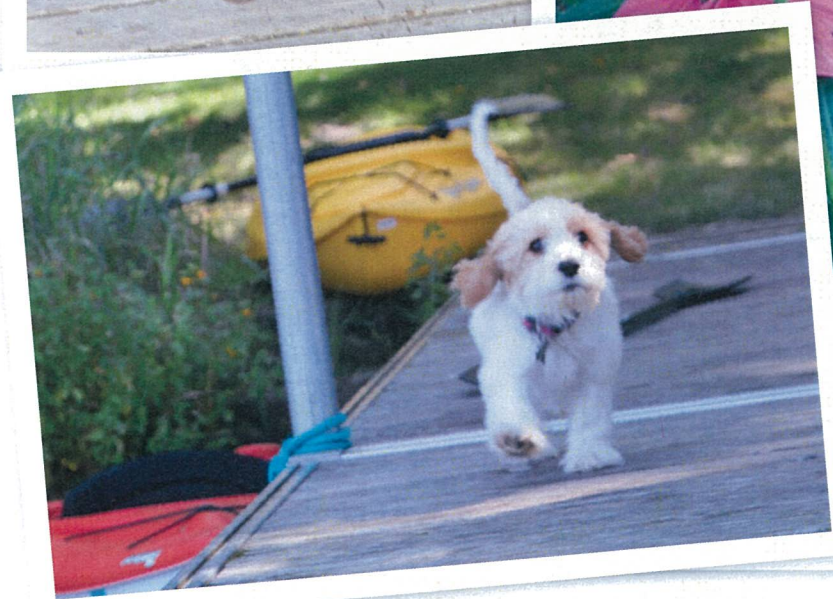
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SUMMER FUN

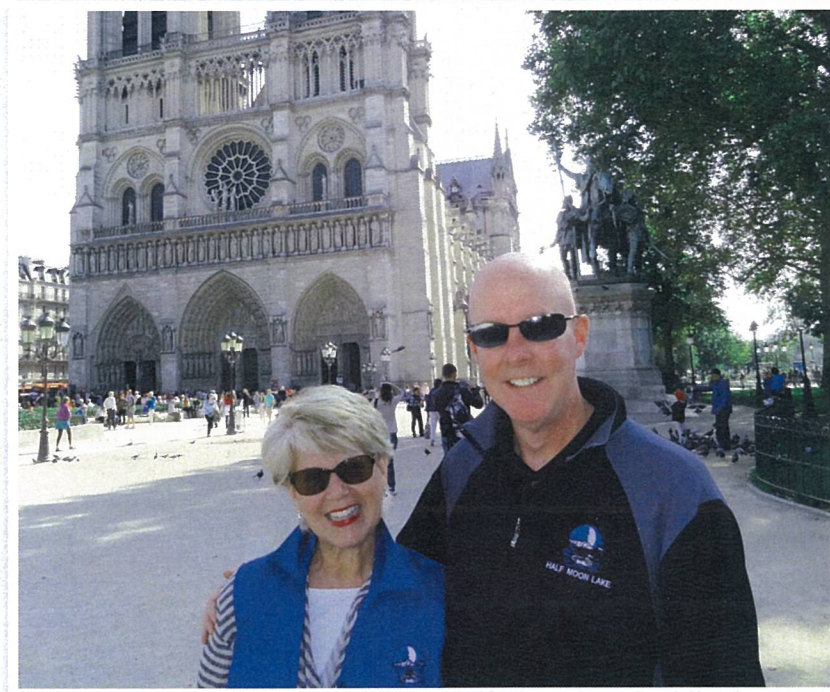


AT THE LAKE



Where in the World is Half Moon Lake?

When you travel the world, wear your Half Moon Lake logo wear. Then send pictures to Loon Lines halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com and you will be featured in an upcoming Loon Lines newsletter.

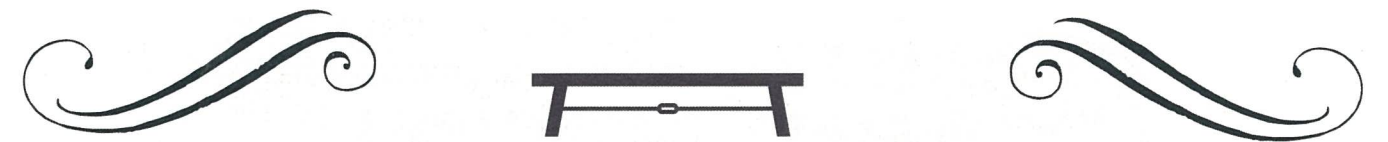


Dan & Laurie Leh at Paris "Notre Dame"

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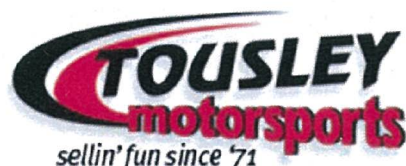


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Saddest Day at the Lake

As summer winds down, days shorten and temperature drops, closing the cabin up for the season is here. There are lots of things to be done to help to insure the safety and security of your summer getaway.

There are two major concerns. First the invasion of our little gray friends aka "mice". The rumor if you see one there are 10 more is true. So making sure all venting is blocked using metal screen and or steel wool. Building a drowning trap is an effective way to catch many mice. Plain mouse traps and poison are also used. Some people like a repellent such as Bounce dryer sheets or Mouse magic. I have used an electronic repellent and it has worked for me having friends running in my ceiling.

Second concern is the pipes freezing with water in them. That is a big problem. Some cabin owners shut off the heat and drain the water. Always remember getting the water out, blowing out the lines, adding RV antifreeze is crucial. Make sure the water heater is off before you drain it or the elements will need to be replaced. If you choose to leave the heat on and turn it down. It is a great idea to use a home protection calling device that has a thermometer on it and dials phone numbers if the temperature drops. Use a thermostatic receptacle plugged into a lamp; if the temperature drops, electricity is allowed to go into the lamp and a neighbor can alert you if the lamp is on.

These are some of the ideas and tips we use and can supply at Balsam Lake Hardware. Stop in, say Hi and let us help close up the cabin so you can rest easy.

TRUDI'S TIPS

by Trudi Gores

Helpful Hints

Ham and Cheese Sliders

Ingredients

- 24 white dinner rolls
- 24 pieces honey ham
- 24 small slices Swiss cheese
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup miracle whip

Poppy seed sauce:

- 1 Tablespoon poppyseeds
- 1½ Tablespoons yellow mustard
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 Tablespoon minced onion
- ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Instructions

1. In a small bowl, mix together mayonnaise and miracle whip. Spread onto both sides of the center of each roll. Place a slice of ham and a slice of Swiss inside of each roll. Close rolls and place them into a large baking dish or heavy cookie sheet. Place very close together.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together all of the poppy seed sauce ingredients. Pour evenly over all of the sandwiches. You do not have to use all of the sauce! Just use enough to cover the tops. Let sit 10 minutes or until butter sets slightly. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Uncover and cook for 2 additional minutes or until tops are slightly brown and crispy. Serve warm. Note: Sandwiches can be assembled ahead of time. I don't like to do it more than a day ahead because they can get soggy from the mayo mixture.



1. Fresh Milk - use 1/2 cup each of evaporated milk and water.
2. Buttermilk - use 1 tablespoon of lemon juice or vinegar and enough fresh milk to make 1 cup. Let it stand 5 minutes before using.
3. Cake Flour - use 7/8 cup of all-purpose flour for each cup of cake flour.



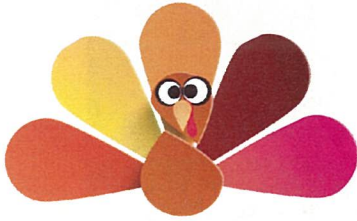
In Loving Memory Mary K. Krumrie

Born in Duluth, Minnesota on March 11, 1944 and died in Milltown, Wisconsin on July 10, 2015. Mary is survived by her son Peter and wife Kari, and six grandchildren, Brianna, Christopher, Dakotah, Trystan, Logan and Victoria.



Loon Lings

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