



SUMMER 2015
Volume 8 • Issue 1

Loon Lings

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



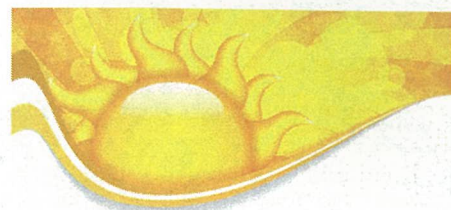
Pictured is Kayley Frenette Gores

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Letter from the Chair

by JOHN WEBER, PRESIDENT



Another Lake Season is upon us. Your Board and other volunteers are busy preparing for the Annual Meeting July 18, 2015 at the Township Park at the northwest corner of the lake. the meeting is open to all Lake District residents, followed by a picnic lunch. All are invited to participate.

There will be two openings on the Board of Directors this year; the position is a 3-year term. Anyone interested in serving, please contact a board member for additional information.

So far this year, I have been advised that a bear with 2 yearlings and another large male bear are in our area. Remember, these are **wild animals** and mother bears are very protective of their young. In other words, **please avoid any type of confrontation**. Some have been in our neighbor's yard; they were visible when the motion lights activated. Another neighbor heard and saw them on her deck and roof. Remember; **no confrontations**. I suggest putting garbage and trash out the morning of pick-up (if possible) rather than earlier. Also, it is recommended that bird feeders **are not be filled** during this time of year.

Another clarification, I have been promoting **incorrect** information regarding kids & life jackets (PFD). For the record, the Wisconsin DNR or State **does not have** any requirements for people of any age to wear a PFD either on shore, on the dock, in the boat or even in the water. Federal regulations have more strict rules in Federally regulated waters. Half Moon Lake is NOT federally regulated. Wisconsin regulations require an appropriately sized PFD on board a boat for all passengers, but does not need to be worn. All of that said, what is most important is the safety of our children and grandchildren. Even though I was incorrect in that children 10 or younger are required to wear PFD by law near the water, docks and boats; it is our family rule, and I do recommend it for others.

The Half Moon Lake Conservancy maintains a walking trail on 35 acres along Harder Creek. This is a **filtration** area for waters coming into our lake and helps to keep our water quality great. There is room for several cars to park at the entrance on Dau Drive. Please note that motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail. Unfortunately, someone has been in there on a four-wheeler and created some ruts. I did mow part of the trail, the parking area and cleared out around the sign. If anyone sees an ATV in this property, please let a board member know. If this continues, the entrance will probably need to be gated. This will certainly make it more difficult for anyone to use the trail. I do recommend it; it is a very nice outing, peaceful, relaxing, with several benches for "contemplation".

Dan Leh has a more complete report on the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, but briefly, Josh Hatton, our oldest grandson, has been monitoring the landing since the program began. He is now a senior in college and has a summer internship so is no longer available. His brother, Charlie Hatton, has been working weekends for the past several years, and now, a third brother, Jack Hatton, will be helping, along with Sam Butler, to maintain our vigilance at the boat landing.

Sincerely
John N. Weber, President



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www.halfmoonlake.net

Editor's Column

by Sarah Anderson
Newsletter Editor
sarahwyls@hotmail.com

Sarah Anderson, Editor

Spring has arrived and I am glad to once again be able to enjoy it on Half Moon. The grass is just as green (and growing!), the frogs are just as loud, the loon calls just as glorious, and the sunsets are just as awe inspiring as always. This year we followed spring north which was always a dream of mine and were able to enjoy it in Georgia, Virginia, Vermont, and Ohio before arriving back in Wisconsin.

As you can see, we have another newsletter filled with great articles, photos, and information. Thank you so much to all of you who contributed. John Weber, in his president's column, posted some warnings and precautions in trying to reduce human/bear interaction. Bears are attracted to our garbage and not to us. I will pass on a tip that we received from Jane Swanson which is: pour a little vinegar on the top of the can which evidently doesn't smell as good to them as the fermenting garbage. It has worked well for us both storing our can next to our garage during the week and also putting it out on the road on Monday morning. To date, we have not seen any bears.

Arne Kolbjornsen has made some additions and address corrections to our lake map and will have a few updated copies at the annual meeting for those interested in having an updated copy. This is a labor of love for him but is very time consuming. Please remember to thank him for this when you see him.

As I am going off of the Board this year after serving two terms, this will be my last newsletter. I have enjoyed being the editor of Loon Lines and have very much appreciated working with Pat McMahon and Sally Klevgard of PaperWorx. The three of us have collaborated to try to produce an enjoyable and quality bi-annual newsletter for you, the Half Moon Lake residents. This is a big job, single-handedly and selflessly done by Sheila Waldoch for several years. We are so indebted to her for beginning the first Loon Lines publication and have striven to carry on the legacy that she began. We also have much appreciated your support and all of you who have contributed to this endeavor. Please continue to support your new editor(s) with news articles, information about your lake and the surrounding community, and we will enjoy an informative and quality newsletter for years to come.

Sarah Anderson



Photo by Arnie Kolbjornsen

4 Loon Report

by Pat Mechelke, Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger

SPRING 2015 LOON REPORT

There's good news and bad news. The good news is that breeding loon numbers in the state of Wisconsin have grown from 3,017 in 1995 to 4,010 in 2010 according to the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in Ashland, WI. That is a growth rate increase of over 25% in 15 years according to Michael Meyer, a wildlife toxicologist and research scientist for the DNR. For the last three years, the pair of loons on the north end of Half Moon have hatched chicks successfully despite the black fly outbreak of 2014. Our loons returned soon after ice out this year and went to nest around the 8th of May. At least one egg hatched on either the 9th or 10th of June. Another pair of loons has been seen on the south end of the lake but appear to be hopping from lake to lake as they aren't seen regularly and once again have not gone to nest.

Unlike most birds, loons have solid bones giving them more weight and reducing their buoyancy making it easier for them to dive under water for their food. Loons eat fish, crayfish, frogs, snails, salamanders, and leeches and swallow their prey whole. To help digest their food, loons ingest small pebbles from the bottom of clear lakes leading up to the bad news. When ingesting these small pebbles they may inadvertently ingest small lead pellets. They can also eat fish that have ingested lead tackle or even go after your bait while you're fishing. Ingesting lead tackle is deadly to loons. In Vilas County, WI, lead fishing weights less than one ounce or smaller than one inch in diameter are prohibited for fishing. Other counties should consider adopting this regulation.

Stop using lead tackle and do not dispose the lead sinkers you do currently have by throwing them in lakes. Spread the word to fellow anglers. We all love hearing the haunting calls of our loons. Let's all join in protecting the loons by not using lead sinkers and also by keeping a sharp eye out for loons when boating and jet skiing.

Have a great summer; any questions re: loon behavior may be sent to tmechelke@gmail.com.

(All photos taken by
Pat and Terry Mechelke)



TOWNSHIP REPORT

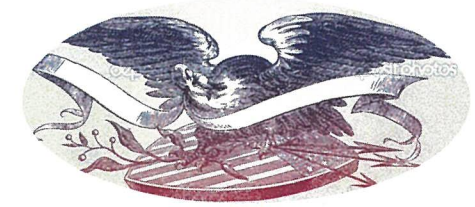
by HARLEN HEGDAHL, TOWNSHIP CHAIRMAN

Milltown township would like to welcome you back to the Lake! A few things to report,

- 1) Due to the vandalism at the beach, we worked with the Village of Milltown to find someone to live at the beach in their motor home during the summer. This is a common way to help address issues at the beach and many Towns use this approach to watch over and maintain public areas. Unfortunately Polk County Zoning has decided that because the Township owns half the beach we have to follow their rules and motor homes are not allowed more than 14 days during the summer. We will continue to make the argument that because the beach is half owned by the Village, it is exempt.
- 2) The new ATV ordinance is in effect, if you live on a dead-end road and a majority of homeowners sign a petition, the road can be closed to ATV use. We have had a few issues around Antler lake but by and large it has run smoothly. The Luck ATV club has been great to work with in addressing issues and we will continue to monitor the new ordinance.
- 3) We were unable to put in the third dock at the beach this year due to a beaver issue.
- 4) Remember that there is an animal ordinance in place and any dog not on a owners property must be leashed. Also there is a fireworks ordinance that prohibits fireworks at any time unless a permit has been issued.

Have a great and safe summer!!

Harlen Hegdal



History Corner

With the passing of Doug Voss, Clayton Gage and Ida Hinz, we have lost three of the stalwarts of the lake community. Doug was a part of the Voss Century Farm operation and a talented singer and entertainer. He built one of the first homes on the lake, which is now the Misner cabin, but spent most of his years on the farm adjacent to the lake. Clayton witnessed his parents build a major resort operation on the north shore of the lake. He took over the operation of the resort when his parents died and lived out his retirement in one of the cabins. Ida built the dance hall and tavern that later became the Blacksmith Shop, and turned it into a major entertainment center. She retired to the home on the hill overlooking the lake with the beautiful display of purple phlox. Doug and Clayton leave families who love the lake and have deep concerns for its care. Ida told me she was too busy to have children and never used the lake. She lived into her 90s. She had sold her home but reserved a life estate. She told me, "They never thought I would live this long, I got the best deal."

David J. Butler



3rd Annual
Half Moon Lake Sailboat Race
July 5th, 2015 at 2 pm
starting at Rosie's Point,
around the skt course,
around the south sand bar,
then finishing at Rosie's Point.

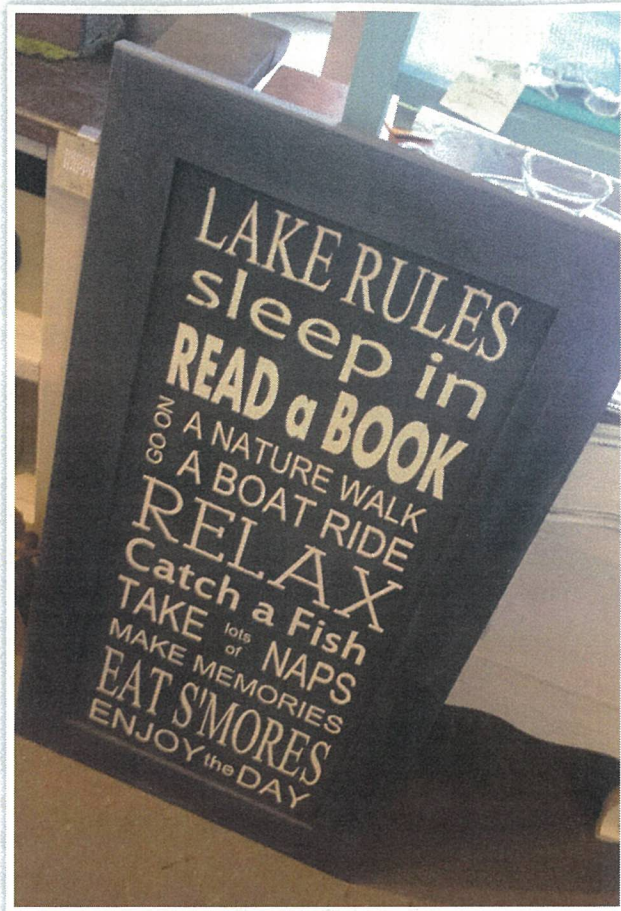
The Cabin Chicks are coming to Half Moon Lake!

The Loon Ladies (Sheila Waldoch and Sue Schnieder) have sold their cabin apparel business to Kate Campbell and Tauna Wigfield. Neighbors in Chaska, these two young mothers have been partners for the past year, specializing in home décor and original handmade goods. Their creations can be found at Mama's Happy in both Stillwater and St. Louis Park.

Half Moon Lake has been home to Kate Campbell her whole life. She is the granddaughter of Art and Martha McMahon, and her parents are Mike and Pat McMahon. The family has had the same property since 1937. Kate said that she, her husband Brice, and all four of her boys have enjoyed wearing the Half Moon Lake label for many years, and she and Tauna are excited to carry on the tradition.

The Cabin Chicks will offer some of the traditional apparel that has been available. They have also teamed up with EZ Teez of Minnesota! EZ Teez has been in the apparel business for over 20 years. All types of sizes, colors, and types of apparel will be available at the annual meeting for viewing. Something new this year is online ordering right at the meeting! Kate or Tauna will be able to help you place your order. Your order will be ready in a few weeks. All merchandise will be given to the Cabin Chicks directly and they will make deliveries right to your cabin door!

The home décor will include coffee trays, pillows, signs, yard dice, door tags and more! All home décor will be lake or cabin themed and customizable. Apparel and home goods can be purchased with check or credit card. A PERCENTAGE OF ALL SALES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE DONATED TO THE FIREWORKS FUND FOR THE 4th OF JULY. Follow Kate and Tauna on facebook for a chance to win a free Half Moon Lake sign. They can be found by searching Cabin Chicks on Facebook where they regularly post pictures of their new creations. They are eager to hear from you and also to see everyone at the annual meeting.



Tauna Wigfield and Kate Campbell

• Local Events •

MILLTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm
May 9th thru October 24th

Location: Holiday Station parking lot

AMERY FARMERS MARKET
Mondays 3 pm - 6 pm
Saturdays 9 am - Noon

Location: Soo Line Park



MUSIC ON THE RIVER
Friday, July 17th
Amery, WI
Michael Park at the Amery Dam
Outdoor Event
Food, Beer, and Wine available
Cruise-In Car and Motorcycle show
Charlie Uehlin and Chris Kroeze 5:30-7 pm
Featuring: Mighty Wheelhouse Band 7 pm - 9:30 pm



MUSIC ON THE RIVER
Friday, August 21
Amery, WI
Michael Park at the Amery Dam
Outdoor Event
Food, Beer, and Wine available
Cruise-In Car and Motorcycle show
Ten Mile Creek 5:30-7 pm
Featuring: Lightning Creek 7 pm - 9:30 pm

If you have a local event you would like posted, please contact Pat McMahon at 715.825.2148.

HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR AT THE LAKE?

Invite them to attend the HML District Annual
Meeting and Family Picnic
Saturday, July 18 10:00 a.m. at the beach

WANTED

LOON LINE ADVERTISER NEEDED

As you see, there are
no advertisers in this
issue of Loon Lines.

Katy Johnson, our
volunteer for this job,
has retired.

We desperately need
someone as a
replacement. All
work is done by email
and can be done in
your own home. This
job is so important but
takes only a few hours
in the spring and fall.

Remember, no ads...
no fireworks!

Contact
John Weber
if you are
interested
612.366.4854
or Pat McMahon
715.825.2148



KIDS ARE FIRST FISHING CONTEST

Over 140 kids entered the 1st annual fishing tournament on Half Moon on Saturday June the. This was a bittersweet day for many. Fred Jenderny, of Centura, started this tournament He died suddenly this past March. This was a real celebration for many of his friends and family members, all who wore orange t-shirts with BIG FRED to honor him. The youngest contestant was 1 week old. This is a fun event, all prizes come from area merchants and the Lions Club.

RESULTS:

- 1st Place Northern 1.3 lbs
- 1st Place Sunnie 1.5 lbs (hard to believe)
- 1st. Place Perch 1 lb.
- 1st Place Bass 1.72 lbs.



Photo by Terry Mechelke

The Half Moon Lake Conservancy began in 2005 with a land donation of 35 acres along Harder Creek, to the north of the lake. The forests, grasslands, and wetlands on this property help to clean, or buffer, the surface water flowing into the lake. The Conservancy sold the conservation rights for this property to Polk County who purchased them with funds from the WI DNR. The Half Moon Lake Conservancy Harder Creek property has walking trails that are open to the public. You can access the trails from Dau Drive. There is a sign and a parking place. The trail is mowed and ready for exploring. The wild flowers in the field are beautiful and attract many butterflies, bees and dragonflies. An eagle scout project organized by Hunter Johnson, cleared the trails and placed a bench along the creek with a scenic view. Harder Creek begins in the watershed north of Half Moon Lake and flows into the lake at highway G. The HMLC also has land around Tamarack Bay- which is located on the west side of the channel by the public beach. Much of our fresh lake water flows from Tamarack Bay. Half Moon Lake is 580 acres and our watershed is over 5,000 acres, and extends to the north and west of our lake.

The HMLC Board members are David Butler, Florian Lauer, Gordy Mommsen, Ellen Butler, Harlen Hegdal, and we welcomed 2 new board members: Dr. Eric Johnson and John Weber. In 2013. we received a memorial fund from the Mary Ann Lauer family. Please contact any of the board members if you have questions or are interested in joining the HMLC.

Half Moon Lake Conservancy Report

by Ellen Butler

Clean Boats Clean Water



By Dan Leh

The 2015 boating season has started and the CBCW teams are working hard protecting our beautiful Half Moon Lake! This year we were ahead of the curve again and installed the I-lids camera before the fishing opener. Our inspection program started on fishing opener as well. Charlie Hatton (CBCW Ambassador) has returned this year along with our newest inspector, his brother Jack Hatton. They greet each boater and observe for weeds on trailers before the boats are launched. We say goodbye to Josh Hatton who is now committed to his summer internship in college. We will miss you Josh, and appreciate all the goodwill you accomplished at the boat launch!

The weekend of June 20th-21st we will partner with the Wisconsin DNR to distribute ice packs at the boat launch. This is to remind the fishing public that travelling on roads with a livewell full of water is against the law. Always drain your livewell before leaving the boat landing. Use ice or ice packs to transport your catch.

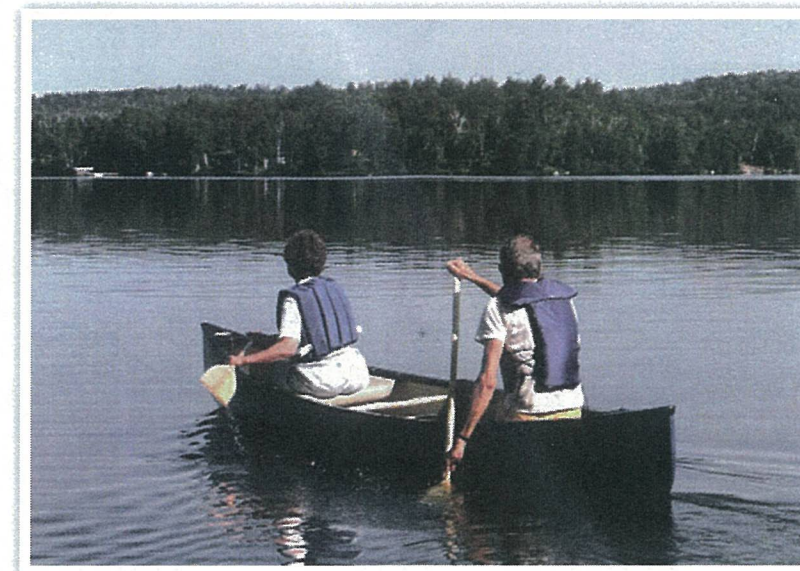
The weekend of July 3rd-5th we will pass out towels to the fishing public. The towels will have the following printed reminder of the basics to avoid Aquatic Invasive species:

INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment and REMOVE visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud before leaving the water access.
DRAIN water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the water access.
REPORT new sightings.
DISPOSE of unwanted bait and other animals or aquatic plants in the trash.
SPRAY, RINSE, or DRY boats and recreational equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when leaving a waterbody.

To learn more information check out the University of Wisconsin-Extension website: www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/
You can also help this year by educating your family, guests and neighbors on the importance of stopping Aquatic Hitchhikers.

Have a great summer and we will see you at the Annual District Meeting.

Dan Leh
Treasurer, Co-Chairman,
CBCW, Weed Ranger Volunteer
612-490-1002
halfmoonlake@hotmail.com



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ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

NOTICE
2015 Annual Meeting
Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Pursuant to Section 33.30(2) Wisconsin Statutes and the Bylaws of the Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District, the annual meeting and budget hearing will be held at:
Place: Half Moon Lake public beach, (200th Ave) East of Highway 46.
Time: Saturday, July 18th, 2015 at 10:00am
(Sign in table begins at 9:00am)

- AGENDA**
1. Call meeting to order
 2. Approve minutes of last year's annual meeting
 3. Chairperson and committee reports
 4. Treasurer's report
 5. Presentation and submission of the annual audit
 6. Report on consideration of projects or other actions
 7. Review and approval of proposed budget
- January 1, 2016 - December 31st 2016

REVENUES

Tax Levy.....	29,380
Other.....	404
Carryover	
Total Revenues:.....	<u>29,784</u>

COST OF OPERATIONS

Administration.....	580
Info & Education.....	6,000
Lake Management.....	12,800
CBCW Fund.....	10,000
Total Expenditures.....	<u>29,380</u>

NON-LAPSABLE CAPITAL FUND

Balance on June 1st, 2015	
CBCW equipment/supplies.....	87,386.47

PROPOSED 2016 TAX LEVY

Operating Budget Tax Levy.....	29,380
Total Proposed Levy.....	<u>29,380</u>

8. Approval of corresponding tax levy
9. Election of commissioners
10. Old business
11. New business
12. Adjourn meeting



Who Can Vote

At any annual meeting of the Lake District and/or special meetings of the Lake District where voting will take place, voter registration is required. The Lake District gets its registration list from the Polk County Treasurer, who gets this from the Real Estate Tax Rolls. In some cases, the county treasurer has only one name listed as the owner of the real estate, even though in reality, more than one person, usually the spouse of the listed owner, also owns the real estate.

This creates a problem at registration time, since property owners may have up to two votes if the property is listed in two names. If the property is in a trust, then it would be listed as: John and Mary Doe Family Trust, or some similar wording.

A person or persons who own more than one piece of property are entitled to no more than one vote. Renters and lessees must bring proof of their eligibility to the registration. There are no absentee ballots or proxies.

Please contact the Polk County Treasurer if you have any questions.

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4TH OF JULY

EVENTS & TIMES

4TH OF JULY EVENTS AND TIMES

Friday, July 3rd	10:00 a.m.	T-shirt tie-dying at the beach Free! Just bring your own white shirt
Friday, July 3rd	Dusk	Family Movie & Popcorn at the beach. "Adventures in Zambezia"
Friday, July 3rd	after movie	Half Moon Lake Fireworks Display
Saturday, July 4th	1:00 p.m.	Decorated Boat Parade
Sunday, July 5th	2:00 p.m.	Annual Half Moon Lake Sailboat Race contact Rick Miller for information & registration. Meet at Rosie's Point rpsm2002@gmail.com

Saturday, July 18th
10 am
Half Moon Lake
Annual District Meeting
& Family Picnic

A SPORTSMAN ON STEWARDSHIP

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Burnett County

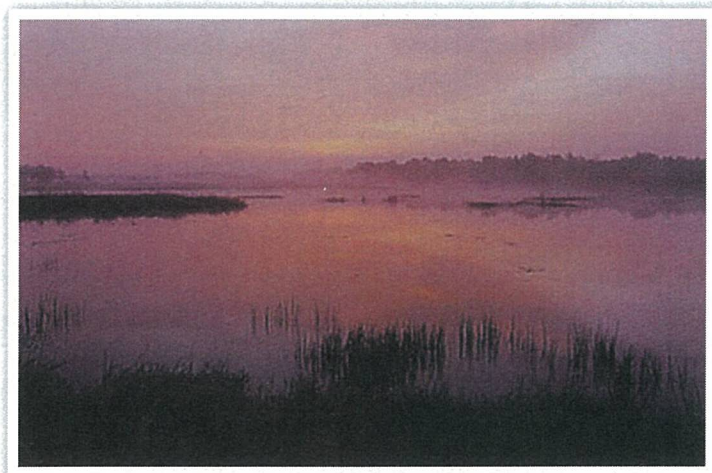
By Jim Evrard

The Crex Meadows Wildlife Area near Grantsburg in Burnett County encompasses over 30,000 acres of wetland, woodland, and restored brush prairie. The area has been publicly protected since 1946, with Stewardship funding continuing to support its growth, preservation and maintenance. Crex Meadows is known for its hunting, hiking and wildlife observation opportunities.

As a retired DNR wildlife biologist and an active volunteer in several conservation groups, I've been involved in public land acquisition in Wisconsin for nearly 40 years.

When I started with the DNR, most of our acquisition money for wildlife management lands came from a tax charged on arms and ammunition. When Gaylord Nelson was governor, he created the Outdoor Recreation Act Program (ORAP), providing funds for recreational land acquisition by imposing a penny per pack tax on cigarettes. That program has evolved into the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund we know today.

Many tracts of land near my home in northwestern Wisconsin were bought with Stewardship funds, but a recent acquisition is my favorite. Some years ago, a key tract of land on the northwest corner of the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area was put up for sale. The 170-acre tract was an old farm with idle agricultural fields, a young red pine plantation and the northern half of a small prairie lake. A local attorney bought the land, and when he died, his widow inherited the old farm.



The south shore of the lake had been owned by the DNR for years, and it was home to nesting waterfowl, loons, and even a pair of osprey. It was feared that when the land on the northern side was sold, summer residences would be built and the wildlife use of the wetland would decrease drastically. But these fears were never realized due to good land stewardship by the former owners. The only change made to the land was a duck hunting blind used by the family on the northern edge of the lake. The widow's son-in-law is conservation-minded, and he suggested that she sell the land to the DNR so that it would be included in the Crex meadows project. Now the lakeshore is completely owned by the public and should remain wild forever.

In addition to the Stewardship Fund, the Friends of Crex and the Sharp-tailed Grouse Society contributed funds to purchase the land, but the Stewardship Fund was the catalyst that put together the partnership needed to buy the property. This partnership between a public agency and

private conservation groups is a good example of cooperation between the government and its citizens. This spirit of cooperation continues in other projects including habitat management and recreational development.

As a retired person on a pension, I can't afford to own land for hunting and other outdoor recreation. Land values have skyrocketed to a point where only wealthy persons can afford to buy and own extensive tracts of land or lakeshore. The rest of us increasingly depend upon public property for

our outdoor recreation needs. Through the years, I've watched wildlife on the lake and surrounding grasslands. I've hunted deer and wild turkeys on the edges of the property since the DNR acquired the land, and I'm looking forward to hunting ducks on the lake. Thanks to the Stewardship Program, I should be able to continue my recreational use of the property for many years in the future.

(Story taken from Stories of Stewardship: Tales from Wisconsin's Big Back Yard. Produced by The Gathering Waters Conservancy)



Supporting Bats at Half Moon Lake

By Dave Balestri



At last count, there were at least 86 bats living in the bat house on our property on Half Moon Lake. That's how many I counted on the evening of June 5th as they emerged to begin their nightly feeding. Based on a conservative estimate, those 86 bats ate well over 200,000 insects that night – mostly mosquitoes. Research cited by Bat Conservation International suggests that a single "little brown bat" (myotis) can eat between 500 and 1,000 insects per hour, including mosquitoes, moths, and beetles. A nursing little brown bat mother can eat up to her body weight nightly (up to 4,500 insects). Other sources cite slightly lower numbers, ranging from 300-600 insects per hour. Using any of those numbers yields a really large number of mosquitoes consumed every night, which is what prompted me to build and maintain a bat house on our lake property. Although I can't say for sure that the bats make a big dent in the number of mosquitoes in the area, it does feel good to know that we're promoting a natural means of control, rather than spraying pesticides.

I built our first bat house back in 2002, during a particularly bad year for mosquitoes. It was our family's first summer at Half Moon Lake. Our daughters Jill and Erin were 3- and 4-years old at the time and were getting a nasty introduction to "the cabin life". We'd arrive on a Friday evening and have to run from the car to get inside as quickly as possible before being bit all over. I don't remember if that spring was a particularly wet one, or if the summer before was wetter than usual, but

I do remember our neighbor Nancy Gardner saying it was the worst year for mosquitoes that she could recall – and she and Sherm had been coming to the lake since the mid-80's.

After doing a little research about the number of mosquitoes bats eat, I built and mounted our first bat house. I followed the instructions in a booklet published by Bat Conservation International, building the house per the suggested dimensions and design. It was quite easy. As suggested, I painted it dark and mounted it on the south-facing side of our old cabin, so as to be in direct sunlight for as much of the day as possible. Apparently, bats like their roosts warm. Although the booklet had said that it may take a couple years for bats to find a newly-installed house, we had our first residents the following summer. They've returned every year since, usually arriving in April and leaving in August. The highest number of bats we counted in that first house was 103. When we tore our old cabin down in the fall of 2013, I decided to move the bat house to a pole rather than mount it on the new cabin. However, due to construction I didn't get the new pole installed until mid-summer – well after "my" bats had returned to find their home was gone. Some of them temporarily moved into a gap in the siding on our shed – not ideal for them nor for us. However, shortly after I built a new-and-improved house and mounted it on a post, a single bat found it and moved in for the rest of the summer. This spring, I was happy to see that they had all migrated to the new house.



Although some people may cringe at the idea of bats on their property, they are not a nuisance at all. They don't bother us and we don't seem to bother them. In all the years we've maintained a roost on our property, we've never had one in the cabin – something we can't say for our home in Minneapolis, where we seem to get a bat in the house about once every other year (and we don't maintain an actual bat house in the city). And I think having them in a designated bat house is preferable to having them in the roof of your cabin or in your gazebo or patio umbrella.

If you're interested in installing a bat house on your property, I'd be happy to show you ours and offer some tips on construction and placement. You can reach me at dbalestri@yahoo.com or at 612-770-6153.



Here are a few of the basics for building and installing a bat house:

- Build your own. You can find good designs on the Internet, or I can show you what works. The houses I've seen for sale in stores are not the optimal size and look to be missing some key features.
- Paint it a dark color.
- Mount the house 12-20 feet high on a south-facing building or on a 4x4 wooden post in an area free of trees and other obstructions. Do not mount it on a tree. I had read that bats will not inhabit a house mounted on a tree (for fear of predators, apparently), but I installed one on a tall pine tree on our property at the right height and facing south anyway. In over 4 years, not a single bat has ever moved into that house.

A couple of other notes:

- If you already have bats inhabiting an undesirable location (the roof of your cabin, your gazebo, your patio umbrella), there are humane ways to "exclude" them from those locations without hurting them. Giving them a better alternative (a nice bat house) when you exclude them may help keep them out of other places you don't want them.
- A few years ago, I started contributing our counts to the Wisconsin Bat Program (WBP), an organization that monitors roosts across the state. Our site is one of about 75 that have been reporting counts since 2010. The organization is always looking for additional monitoring volunteers.

If you're interested in learning more, the Wisconsin Bat Program has a lot of good information on their website: <http://wiatri.net/inventory/bats/>. Instructions for building a house and the 2014 Roost Monitoring Report can be found under the "Volunteer... Roost Monitoring" tab. And I'm always happy to give tips and advice. You can reach me at dbalestri@yahoo.com or 612-770-6153.

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 and you will be featured in an upcoming Loon Lines newsletter.



Terry and Pat Mechelke are at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro on October 8th, 2014. Unfortunately, the Half Moon insignia is not visible as it was attached to her heavy down jacket which was beneath her rain/wind jacket.



KIDS WATER SKI DAY

(In honor of Warren Smallidge, Sr. – Mr. Water Ski on Half Moon Lake)

1st Saturday in August • 11 a.m.

Meet at south end of Half Moon Lake

Please pass the word to all kids!

**This is for the kids...bring water skis,
life jackets & 75 foot rope
(must be 75 feet)**



2 PULLS-----

1st pull - little kids & light weight's first – see if we can get more than 14

2nd pull – see whose left – bigger people.

**We are looking for a Master Craft Tow Boat that is ready to pull.
If any Master Craft's want to gather before, we will take some photos.**



In Loving Memory OF DOUG VOSS by David Butlet

For those of you who knew Doug Voss and have not heard of his passing, Doug died of a heart attack, while at home sitting in his chair. I talked with Beth, and she informed me that a Celebration of Life service was held Saturday, March 28, at the Milltown City Hall, 1:30 gathering, 2:00 service and 3:00 lunch. Doug was a supporter of conservation matters on Half Moon Lake. In 1954, Doug built one of the early houses on the west side of the lake, what is now the Missner cabin. He and his family have been long time members of the lake community.

The Life of a Frog

Some frogs lay as many as 1,000 to 4,000 eggs

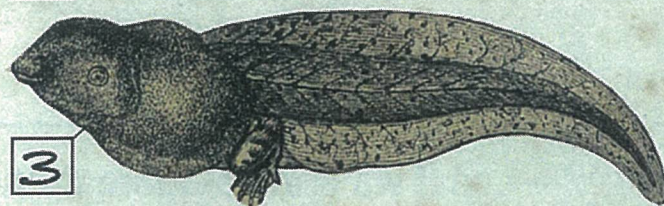
THAT'S A LOT OF BABIES!!



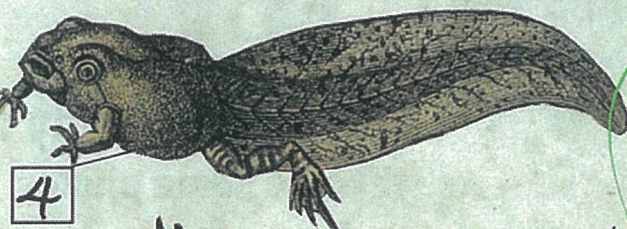
1 Eggs



2 Tadpole



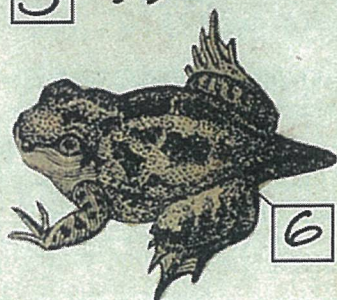
3



4



5



6 Grown Frog



Adult green frogs stay close to the waters' edge all summer. The male frogs begin calling when the water warms up. Their call sounds like someone strumming a loose banjo string.

WAYS TO HELP FROGS THRIVE!

1. Keep part of your shore natural, with lots of plants and places for frogs to hide.

2. Let the eggs transform & tadpoles grow! Depending on the type of frog, it can take 40 days – 2 years to grow from an egg to frog.

TRUDI'S TIPS

by Trudi Gores

Helpful Hints

ÉCLAIR CAKE

15-20 servings

- 1 cup water
- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 4 eggs
- 12 oz. cream cheese softened
- 4 ½ cups of milk
- 3 pkgs. (4 serving size each) instant vanilla pudding and pie filling
- 1 8 oz. container cool whip thawed
- chocolate syrup for drizzling
- slivered almonds (optional)
- cherries (optional)
- shaved chocolate (optional)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F

1. Heat water and reduce heat. Then add butter and melt.
2. Remove pan from heat. Add flour and beat slightly.
3. Add eggs one at a time, beat well.
4. Spread mixture on bottom of a slightly greased 10x13 baking pan and bake 20-25 min. until golden brown.
5. Let cool and transfer to serving platter.
6. In large bowl, beat cream cheese. Then add milk and pudding mix. Beat 2 min. until thick.
7. Spread over baked mixture. Refrigerate 1+ hours to set.
8. Spread on cool whip topping and drizzle with chocolate.
9. Garnish with slivered almonds, cherries and shaved chocolate, if desired.

- #1 **Opened cheeses should be stored in tightly wrapped plastic or foil. Molding can be safely removed and cheese used. Dried out cheese can be grated and used for cooking.**
- #2 **Did you know the almond is a first cousin to a peach and mostly grown in West Asia and the Mediterranean? California is becoming a large producer.**
- #3 **Sticky lock? Oil the key and insert into lock and give a few turns.**
- #4 **Sticking hinges? Rub pencil lead along the spine.**

Have a great day.
Trudi





Loon Lings

P.O. 118 • Balsam Lake, WI 54810



Aerial view of Halfmoon Lake

Photo by Rick Miller