



P.O. Box 118 • Balsam Lake, WI 54810



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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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4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE

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If you own a lake home on Half Moon Lake and also own a business,
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Half Moon Lake newsletter not only lets your neighbors know about
your business, but all the proceeds from these ads go towards
the yearly Fireworks fund! Contact Kim Butler or Sally Klevgard



SUMMER 2017

Loon Lings

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



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Letter from the Chair

by JOHN WEBER



Hello everyone,

It seems that this year we are having a non-nice spring, lots of rain and lots of dreary, following a winter that had little snow but otherwise not too extreme. Oh well, as they say, if you don't like the weather, wait a while and it will change. As I am writing this the prediction is to have a relatively good Memorial Day weekend. I, for one, am looking forward to it.

Plans are being made for all of the summer events: July 4th festivities, Annual Meeting & Picnic, Clean Boats/Clean Waters program, and of course all of our own family and friend plans. Further information about the District Activities is included in this newsletter. For family and friend stuff, you are on your own.

Sadly, Arne Kolbjornsen passed away earlier this year after a brief illness. Many of you knew of Arne. He was the unsung volunteer who spent a lot of time maintaining and updating the lake maps. He will be greatly missed by everyone.

One board position is open this year.

A leader or chairperson is needed for Clean Waters, or as it is affectionately known "The Weed Rangers". Dan Leh, as well as myself, will help someone get started. A number of people have commented in passing that they could help, but without coordination this program has been stagnant recently. It is interesting, you learn a lot, but it will require a bit of time. Please contact Dan or I for additional information.

Now I would like to commend and thank all of the people who keep our District and programs running smoothly. Since I would almost certainly miss one or more people if I try to name names, let's leave it a blanket acknowledgement, thanks again.

**Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting,
10 AM Saturday, July 15, 2017.
Lunch to follow at approximately 12 noon.**

John N Weber
Chair



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

COMMISSIONERS & OTHER RESOURCES

John Weber, Chair
Cell: 612-366-4854
Email: jjweber2002@gmail.com

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Chris Nelson
Polk County Board of Supervisors
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christopher.nelson@co.polk.us

Sally Klevgard, Newsletter Publisher
Address: 131 Birch St. E., Amery
Phone: 715-268-5800
paperworx@amerytel.net

GARDEN PARTY CARROT CAKE (from Cooks.com)

2 cups Flour
2 tsp Baking Powder
1½ tsp Baking Soda
1½ tsp Salt
2 tsp Cinnamon
2 cups Sugar
1½ cups Oil
4 Eggs
2 cups Grated Carrots
1 can (8 ½ ounce) Drained, Crushed Pineapple
½ cup Chopped Pecans

Blend All. Use a Bundt Pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool in pan, then turn out onto rack.

Cream Cheese Frosting (optional)
Blend
½ cup Butter
1 8 ounce Package Cream Cheese
1 tsp Vanilla
1 16 ounce box Confectioners Sugar.

Blend well, and spread on cooled cake.

- 1. Keep Emergency Numbers updated and posted on the wall by the phone. Include the address of your home in case a guest uses a cell phone to call.**
- 2. To prevent unused electrical cords from being plugged in by children, stick a paper clip through the holes of the plug at the tip of the plug prongs.**

Many thanks to the Walkers for their generous donation of A&W Root Beer for the Annual Picnic!



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Friday-Saturday 10:30am-10pm
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26 Library News

Milltown Library has been busy changing course this winter. Plans have been revised for the library's expansion. The former grocery store building will now be sold to the current tenant, the auction house. The proceeds will be used to purchase the former "Purple Parrot" site next door to the current library. The unsuitable "Purple Parrot" building and foundation will be moved and/or torn down to make way for a new addition to the current library. In addition, plumbing and electric in the current library will be brought up to code. Please consider donating to the Building Fund to realize these scaled back expansion plans. The library is a great resource for the town, and also for lake residents who pop in for free internet, library books and periodicals, and a multitude of programs for children and adults.

Check out the library's website, <http://milltownpubliclibrary.org> to see about children's outdoor movies and events for children and adults.

You are probably familiar with The Little Free Libraries popping up all over the country. These cute little boxes contain free books. Take a book or leave a book. We have a Little Free Library at the Half Moon Lake Public Beach. The next time you are clearing away clutter or finish up a juicy best seller, or find that even your grandkids have outgrown the



children's books in your cabin, drop them off at the HML box.

Milltown Library is sponsoring the Movie on the Beach, "The Secret Life of Pets" the night of the fireworks, Sunday July 2 at 9 p.m.

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Editor's Column.....

3

Welcome back to the lake!

I love watching the progression of spring, from the increased activity at my bird feeders, to the Sandhill cranes in my yard, and the bears on Breezy Bay Road. This blurry iPhone picture is of the 3 cubs I recently saw on the roadside, with a mama bear foraging about 1,000 feet away.



Spring brings the ramping up of Mother Nature, but also increased activity around the lake: opening of cabins, docks going in the lake, boats being put in the water, and the many chores that come with owning a cabin. What is on your to-do list this summer? Repainting and staining are always high on my list. But I also need to make a dent in the stack of good books I've accumulated, find a place for my hammock, and get out on some early morning kayak trips. And while I try to stay close to the lake as much as possible, I plan to check out the Harder Creek Nature Trail at the Half Moon Lake Conservancy, get some flowers and food at the Farmer's Market in Balsam Lake, hope there is a good book in the Little Free Library at the Boat Landing, and see the

improvements at the Polk County Museum and grab an ice cream at BLICS. Plus the Milltown Drive-In is now owned by the Taylors Falls Drive-In folks, who have amazing root beer floats.

Which reminds me that "Shop Local" is a phrase we hear a lot these days, and it is especially important here in Polk County. Small, locally owned businesses depend on summer traffic. So the next time you need a can of paint or a new bird feeder, try to make your first stop the local hardware store. When you need eggs, try the house with the FRESH EGGS sign out front. If you run out of bread, run up to Luck. You save gas and time, and your dollars will go into the pockets of a local family. And if one of these local businesses advertises in Loon Lines, please let them know you appreciate it. Their advertising pays for our Fireworks!

A new feature I would like to start is "Lake Perspectives" to showcase your thoughts on some fun topics. We have a diverse group of new owners, second and third generation families, Minnesotans, and local folks. So look for a "prompt" question and submit your answers to halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com.

Please include your name, and you could include a photo of yourself too. This issue's question is "What is your favorite activity or thing to do at the lake?" Answers will be published in the fall issue. Encourage your kids and grandkids to submit answers too. Please include their age.

Finally, make plans to attend our Annual Meeting. This is democracy in action, a great way to get your concerns heard, and stay up on the issues affecting the lake. Moreover, it is a great way to meet your neighbors, and enjoy a fun lunch. Friendships are made at the playground and conversations struck up in the line for ice cream or browsing the merchandise at the Loon Ladies' sale tent. The meeting starts at 10, and lunch is at noon.

See you there, or on the lake.

Kim Butler
Editor

And please remember, this is your newsletter. Do you have some great photos of sunsets, nature, or your family having fun on the lake? Know a new neighbor, or have a question about a fish or animal or an idea for a story? Shoot me an email!

Stay in Touch Keep up with the latest news, ice out dates, neighborhood concerns and more. Also share articles, ideas for articles, new neighbor info, and photos of Life On The Lake!

On the Web
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search for then "Friend"
Loon Lines

Email halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com
Send address changes to this address.

Nextdoor App & Website Go to www.nextdoor.com. Enter your HML street address and email address & click "Find My Neighborhood." Add a few more details and you are done. You can also download the app to your smartphone or tablet. If you already use NextDoor at your permanent home, you'll need to make a new email address at Google/gmail or Yahoo.

This is an online neighborhood bulletin board that could include topics like storm damage, free stuff, recommendations for plumbers or caterers, suspicious activity, buy and sell, etc.

LOON REPORT

by Pat Mechelke

Ice out on Half Moon Lake this year was early, the 30th of March. The first loon arrived on March 29th. On April 2nd, a territorial pair was seen on the north end of the lake. By the middle of April, we had two pairs of loons, one on each end of the lake and a floater loon looking for a home. The pair near the boat landing went on the nest on the 29th of April, very early for loons to lay eggs. The pair on the south end of the lake, nesting on the old loon platform for the second year in a row, began nesting on either the 5th or 6th of May. Last year, we only had two eggs hatch on the south end of the lake. The pair on the north end nested but for some unknown reason, did not hatch any chicks.

You may wonder what my duties are as your loon ranger. We are registered with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute's Loon Watch Program at Northland College. Early in the spring, I receive forms that I am to fill out weekly in regards to how many loons are on the lake, when they nest, how many chicks hatch and survive, and when they arrive and leave our lake. This monitoring form is returned to them by mid-November thus providing a clearer picture of not only loon reproductive success but also population trends in Wisconsin. Additional duties include educating cabin owners about our loons and how we can protect them by getting the lead out, staying approximately 200 feet away from the loons during the summer, etc. I find that I have done a good job of the latter as I was yelled at twice last summer by cabin owners about getting too close to the loons while monitoring them in my kayak. Good job folks.

It may interest some of you as to how loons mate. Loons become sexually mature at the age of three and attempt to claim a breeding territory at approximately the age of five. The male loon selects the nest site. Loons normally nest in quiet, hidden spots, typically in a sheltered bay where the nest site is protected from predators by water. Loons have difficulty walking on land so nests must be built very close to the water. The male and female build the nest together over the course of about a week by making a mound out of dead plant materials such as the marsh grasses that grow along the lake's edge. One of the loons then crawls on top of the mound and shapes the interior of the nest to the contours of its body. The finished nest is about 22 inches wide and looks like a clump of dead grasses. Loons usually lay 1-2 eggs and take turns incubating them for 28-30 days. Both parents aggressively defend their nest and young.

The number one reason loon nests fail in Wisconsin is predation. The prime predators are eagles, raccoons, gulls, crows, weasels, and skunks. Nest flooding due to wave action and wakes from power boats and personal watercraft can also cause nest failures, and ingestion of lead sinkers continues to be a major health problem for our loons. All of us should be aware of our actions so that we do not prevent our precious loons from becoming a family. Let's all work together to make certain that Half Moon Lake continues to support nesting pairs of loons that we and future generations can enjoy.

Pat Mechelke
Loon Ranger



Loon nest on north end of lake



Man made loon platform in Breezy Bay.

Photos by Pat Mechelke

UPDATE: I checked on our two territorial pairs of loons on May 23 and watched as one chick left the nest on the north end while the pair changed places on the nest. Several minutes later, a second chick began swimming and both loons swam around them. The pair on the south end could hatch theirs by Memorial Day.

MEETING ROOMS. GROUP DINING. COOKING CLASSES. CATERING

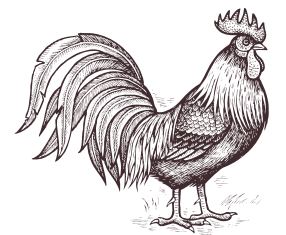
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★ 4TH OF JULY ★

EVENTS & TIMES

Sunday, July 2nd 10:00 a.m. T-Shirt Tie Dye - Public Beach
(bring your own washed t-shirt)

1:00 p.m. 4th Annual Sailboat Race
Begin at Rosie's Point, sail to the south buoy,
then north again.
Contact Rick Miller for information: rpsm2002@gmail.com.

9:00 p.m. Family Movie and Popcorn at the beach
(See details below)

Dusk **Half Moon Lake Fireworks Display**
Watch on your boat, dock or the public beach.
Dont forget bug spray!

Monday, July 3rd 1:00 p.m. Decorated Boat Parade
Gather at the south end of the lake.

Tuesday, July 4th Happy 241st Birthday to the U.S.A!

**The Milltown Library is showing
“THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS” as the movie on July
2nd. This animated movie will have an intermission
for the fireworks display and resume when finished.
Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and mosquito repellent.**

**Popcorn and lemonade are for sale during the movie.
The money is donated to the Milltown Library
and helps to pay for the movie copyrights.**

internet

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For updates, pictures, and other great information, don't forget to visit our website at www.halfmoonlake.net

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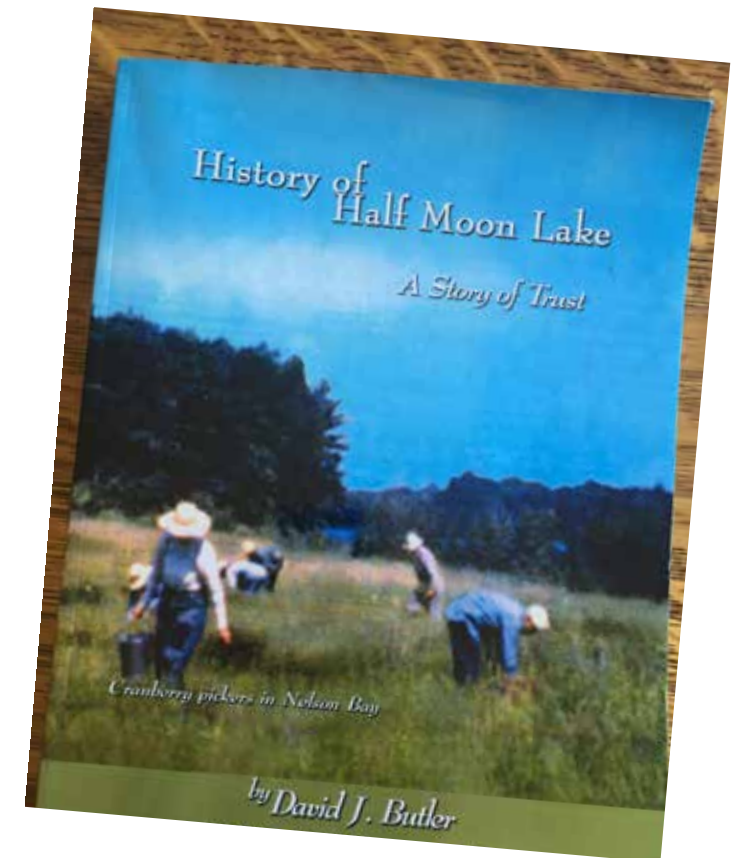


The History Corner

by David Butler



Are walleyes natural to Half Moon Lake? According to Steve Gilbert, former head of the fisheries department of the Wisconsin DNR, the answer is No. Walleyes were natural to the rivers in Wisconsin, but only occurred naturally in lakes that were connected to the rivers. Stocking of walleyes in Wisconsin lakes first occurred in 1883. The DNR's first record of walleye stocking in Half Moon Lake is a report of walleye fry being delivered in 1908 by train to J.W. Hack who lived in Centuria. The fry were obtained by applying to your state representative for a portion of the fry that were scheduled for delivery that year. In the 1940s the walleyes far exceeded the bass in the lake. Now the opposite is the case. For more details on walleye and bass in the lake, see "History of Half Moon Lake, a Story of Trust."



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It's Easy Being Green

How to Recycle Around Half Moon Lake

Since local garbage haulers do not pick up recycling, you can cart it home with you or bring it to several convenient locations near Half Moon Lake.

What Can I Recycle?

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Office Paper (in a Brown Paper bag)
- Glass/Plastic/Aluminium/
Tin Cans and Bottles
- Cardboard

Where Can I Recycle?

- Balsam Lake, east of the Government Center at the 4 Corners of Hwy 46 & Co. Rd. I
- Milltown, near the Community Center, by the Softball Field
- Luck, by the Town Shop on 3rd Ave. (west of Library and Co-op)
- Blue Bins at Luck, Milltown, and Balsam Lake are open 24/7

Main Facility at Highway 8 also accepts appliances, electronics, tires, and light bulbs for a fee
6:30am - 4:30pm Monday-Thursday
1302 208th St. - corner of Hwy 8, across the Roundabout from Menards.
www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling

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Kids Water Ski Day

In honor of Warren Smallidge, Sr. "Mr. Water Ski" on Half Moon for many years.

Saturday, August 5 • 11am

Meet at the south end of Half Moon Lake • Bring water skis, life jacket, and 75 ft rope
Bring your Mastercraft for a group photo of all the HML Mastercraft ski boats

First Pull - Little kids and light weights
Second Pull - Bigger kids

SPREAD THE WORD!
For more information, contact Jim Smith
at jimsmt@lakeland.ws



2016 Mastercraft Fleet of Half Moon

Milltown Township News by JON ECKEL

Polk Co. has adopted a new zoning ordinance that includes changes to the shoreland ordinance. (see page 18 for more information). Shoreland rules have been changed by the State, and we are told there are more changes to come. The Town has adopted the County zoning ordinance.

A new dump truck with snow plow arrived in late 2016.

A new well was installed at the Town shop, because the old sand point was bad, and the water was not drinkable.

Burning permits will very soon be issued by the Milltown Fire Department. Please apply for one online at the Milltown Fire Department website, <http://www.milltownfire.com>, or by calling 715-825-2217 to apply in person. During the transition period, you need to call the Town Clerk, Virgil Hansen at 715-825-2494 and he will issue the permit.

As requested at the annual town meeting, we will be upgrading the Town website, and looking at imaging and indexing the Town's old paper records.

THE CURRENT TOWN OF MILLTOWN BOARD IS:

Chairperson: Harlen Hegdal
1867 138th Street, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
715-205-7829

Treasurer: Mary Sue Morris
1510 240th Ave, Luck WI 54853
715-825-3237

Supervisor: Chris Nelson
1447 200th Ave, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
715-825-2159

Clerk: Virgil Hansen
2272 155th Street, Milltown, WI 54858
715-825-2494
Tmilvirg@lakeland.ws

Supervisor: Jon Eckel
2389 175th Street, Luck WI 54853
715-825-2305

Polk County Update by CHRIS NELSON, County Supervisor for District 4

Hello. I want to thank you all for trusting in me to vote me in as your County Board Supervisor. I live between two of the best lakes in Polk County, Balsam and Half Moon. I have family and friends who live on and enjoy Half Moon Lake.

Since being on County Board for the past year, I learned much about how our County policies affect us daily and how the taxes we pay are spent. I see how ordinances affect our own personal property rights and work to balance these rights with the public interest.

Polk County has great county employees doing some very good work that I've seen first hand. Polk County has a very capable staff in Land & Water. The Zoning Department also has my confidence, as they are doing a great job with implementation of new ordinances and helping out lake property owners and lake districts.

Polk County is financially in good shape and current budgets look in better shape than most counties in the state, thanks to our current administration. Presently, the county levy is stable, with no increase of any property tax being discussed in the next budget which is 3 years out on the horizon. Polk County has had a record year in sales tax collection.

Items on our current agendas: Manure and Water Quality Ordinance update • Polk County Fair's original Grandstand restoration or replacement • Polk County Highway Shop relocation • Road and bridge maintenance • Public safety/ Homeless / Drug treatment / Mental health issues challenging Polk County

Items we have completed: 911 upgrades • ATV ordinance which allows access to our county and town road system to our community and local businesses • Strengthening our local ordinances for property owners to maintain and improve your lake homes and cabins while requiring and completing very important mitigation and water run off issues • Passing a resolution asking the State to make new legislation to supply Polk County taxpayers with more services from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College system, a higher education system we have funded for years as we remain underserved by it. I am encouraged about WITC starting a pilot program here in Polk County, which will benefit citizens and businesses New Highway Shop location and starting on designs of new facility

There is lots more going on day to day, so if you have any questions, please call 715-557-0169.

NOTICE: 2017 Annual Meeting
Half Moon Lake Protection and 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 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (Sign in table begins at 9:00 a.m.)

- 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 the consideration of projects or other actions
 - 7. Review and approval of Proposed Budget

	January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018
Revenues	
Tax Levy	\$29,225
Lottery Credit	\$ 556
Interest	\$ 37
Total Revenues	\$29,818

Cost of Operations	
Administration-	600
Info & Education- newsletter, annual meeting and lunch	6,418
Lake Management- CBCW beach monitoring	12,800
Capital Fund-	10,000
Total Expenditures	29,818

Non-Lapsable Capital Fund

Balance on June 19, 2016
95,956.14

Proposed 2018 Tax Levy

Operating Budget Tax Levy 29,818

- 8. Approval of corresponding tax levy
- 9. Election of commissioner (The 3 year term of Ellen Butler is expiring this year. She has been nominated for an additional 3 year term.)
- 10. Old business
- 11. New Business
- 12. Adjourn Meeting

Fishing Report

by John Briegel

Greetings to all on Half Moon Lake. I hope all is well with each of you after another winter. I have not heard any reports this year on how winter fishing was, and I haven't been able to get to the cabin much so far this spring due to outside interference.

The one important item I do know is that this is the year that the DNR will be stocking walleyes in our lake! We are on a schedule to be stocked every other year with approximately 5,500 walleye fingerlings. They are doing this on the odd numbered years, so this is the year. Hopefully, this will produce better walleye fishing in the coming years. I have heard of some nice sized fish being caught, which means that the previous stocking efforts have been successful.

I would really appreciate any feedback about your fishing experiences on Half Moon. Just a brief email telling about what you have been catching would be awesome!

Thanks, and good luck this year,
John Briegel - Fishing, Half Moon Lake District E-Mail - houseofwood@hotmail.com



Half Moon Lake Conservancy Report

by David J. Butler, President



Half Moon continues to rank as one of the cleanest lakes in Polk County, due to its 60 foot depth and minimal runoff of harmful pollutants from streams in its watershed area. The Conservancy continues to monitor the runoff situation and to acquire title to property in critical areas as land becomes available.

The Conservancy's wildflower garden on its Harder Creek property has been slow to get started, but Jon Hol of Balsam Lake Pro-Lawn Floral has put in extra time planting more seeds and keeping the garden mowed. Plans are underway for growing more milkweed plants in the area to attract butterflies and to find bee keepers who are willing to bring in some bee hives. If you would like to walk the trail along Harder Creek, access is from Dau Road."





Shoreland Zoning News

Polk County has adopted a new version of the Polk County Shoreland Protection Zoning Ordinance. Some key changes in the ordinance include:

- Property owners are allowed to create a viewing corridor up to 35% of their lot width with a permit. (100' lot X .35=35' wide viewing corridor)
- Every property is allowed up to 15% impervious surface without mitigation, but mitigation is required for over 15%.
- Each parcel can have a developed pedestrian access up to 5' in width to access the water.
- Boathouses are allowed at 10' from the ordinary high water mark, and can be up to 14'x26' in size.
- Bunkhouses can be permitted with conditions
- All structures are allowed maintenance and repair without a permit such as replacing: shingles, windows, doors, and siding.
- Some nonconforming structures may be expanded if they qualify.

Please Remember:

- A land use permit is required to remove trees or vegetation within 35 feet of the water. (ordinary high water mark)
- A land use permit is required for all new construction and expansions of existing structures. A structure means a temporary or permanent principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, stairway, walkway, patio, deck, retaining wall, porch, or fire pit.

Please contact the Polk County Zoning Office at: 100 Polk County Plaza Suite 130, Balsam Lake, WI 54810 or at 715-485-9279, before you begin your project so they can assist you in obtaining the necessary permits.

Who Can Vote at the July 15 HML P&R District Annual Meeting

PER THE WISCONSIN LAKES ASSOCIATION:

Any property that is held in a trust, corporation, foundation, or association is entitled to one vote, even if the trust is listed in two names, i.e., The John and Mary Smith Trust. An exception to this is if you are a qualified voter in the Half Moon Lake District, such as legal resident of the district. The owners of a property, whose names appear in the tax roll, are qualified to vote. This would include spouses. A sibling could be qualified, but must bring documentation to the meeting proving proof of ownership. John Weber suggests that you contact a board member before the annual meeting to arrange documentation. If you own more than one piece of property, you are only entitled to one vote. If you rent or lease, you must bring proof of eligibility to the registration. There are no absentee ballots or proxies. Please arrive early for registration.

In Loving Memory

We are sad to report that our longtime lake neighbor, Arne Kolbjornsen passed away peacefully January 19 with his family by his side. Here is a note from his son Greg.

Dr. E. "Arne" Kolbjornsen
November 18, 1940 - January 19, 2017

To say Arne loved Half Moon Lake is as understated as you get. If it wasn't for a successful dental practice and family life in Plymouth MN, he'd have moved here full time. With his wife Kathie, kids Greg and Kristi in tow, they bought their first cabin on the north east side of the lake in 1978 from Helmar "Babe" Olson. In 1987 they sold and purchased property just south towards the end of the road from the Walgreen family, known to many as "Rosie's Point" - the pink cabin on the point.

Arne and Kathie enjoyed entertaining and made visitors feel welcomed and special. Whether Arne took guests skiing, tubing or showed a young person how to cast a lure for the first time, "Dr. K" absolutely loved sharing "lake-life" with others.

His grandkids Colin and Evin will always remember growing up on Half Moon: riding on the lawn tractor, cruising in the pontoon or driving the speedboat with grandpa for the first time. His daughter-in-law Melissa will always remember, with a smile, countless hours discussing future remodeling and landscape projects while soaking in the hot tub "think tank."

Arne shared with his family that he enjoyed getting to know many of us by volunteering to assemble the Lake Association Data Map, collecting names and property owner information in person. He made a lot of friends along the way.

Editor's Note: The lake association map project was an enormous project, and we are all grateful for all Arne's work. He will be missed by many around the lake.



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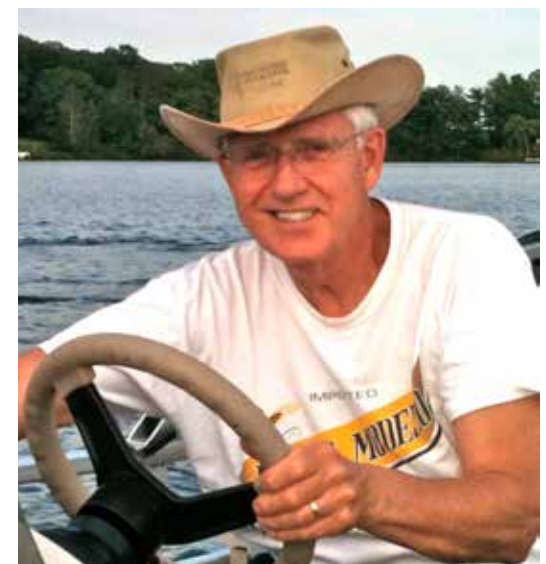


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12 Bats at Half Moon Lake Update

By DAVE BALESTRI

A couple years ago, I wrote an article for Loon Lines about the benefits of little brown bats and the bat houses I've built at our cabin to attract them. I told about how our first summer at Half Moon Lake had been a particularly bad one for mosquitos, and after reading about how many insects a single bat eats in a night, I built a house, carefully following the instructions for how and where to mount it. A couple summers later there were over 100 bats living in it. A few years ago, we tore down the old cabin and I constructed a stand-alone pole with a new house on it, which drew bats in its first summer.

I also mentioned that I had become a volunteer for the Wisconsin DNR study on bats, reporting bat counts throughout each summer. That article drew a lot of interest, with several people approaching me at the annual picnic to talk about it. Given the level of interest in that article, I thought I'd publish an update.

First, the bad news: white-nose syndrome, a disease that started out east and has been progressing westward for the last several years, has now hit Wisconsin hard. White-nose syndrome (WNS) is named for the powdery white fuzz that develops on bats' noses, ears, and wings while they're hibernating in caves in the winter. It is a fungus that causes bats to wake often during hibernation, thus burning up critical stores of fat they need to survive winter. This winter, 24 of the 28 Wisconsin counties with known colonies of hibernating bats were confirmed to have bats infected with the disease. The results are catastrophic: sites in their second and third year of infection see population decreases of 30 to 100 percent. Healthy bat populations aren't just good for hobbyists like myself; they're important to agriculture. According to the DNR, researchers have estimated that bats save Wisconsin farmers \$600 million to \$1.5 billion per year on pesticides.

Now the good news: some bats seem genetically more resistant to the disease than others. The surviving bats will help the species rebound after WNS has run its course. And apparently – at least for now – the bats that inhabit the bat house at our cabin are survivors. "My" bats returned right on time this spring, and on May 13th, I counted 75 of them coming out of their house at dusk. That number is consistent with spring counts in other

years. The number should go up over the next month as the mothers give birth and teach their young to fly. They'll be here until mid-August, when they return to their hibernacula.

To help in the study of white-nose syndrome, the DNR is encouraging more people to monitor bat populations. If you'd like to participate in the study, you can contact:

Heather Kaarakka
Conservation Biologist- Bureau Natural Heritage Conservation
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Phone: 608.266.2576
heather.kaarakka@wisconsin.gov

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.

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 latest Roost Monitoring Report can be found under the "Volunteer... Roost Monitoring" tab.

Pole Mounted Bat House

Photo courtesy
of WI DNR



BAT FACT:

According to Bat Conservation International, one little brown bat can eat 60 medium-sized moths or over 1000 mosquito-sized insects in one night!

Meet Your Neighbor



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Welcome to the Adams Family

Teri writes, "Hi, we are the Adams family, Greg, Teri, Cole, Dane, and Willow (yellow lab). We purchased our cabin in the Fall of 2016. We had been coming to Half Moon to spend time with my sister and brother-in-law, Sherry and Randy Walker. After going for a walk one rainy day last summer and peeking around the property that was listed, we were hooked. We knew it would be great to have a cabin on the same lake as family.

We spent the winter giving the inside of the cabin some TLC, painting, new flooring, etc. We are from Baldwin, WI. Greg is a civil engineer with Cedar Corporation in Menomonie, WI. Our oldest son, Cole, is 19 and attending South Dakota State University, studying engineering. Dane is 16 and is very busy balancing school, work, school sports (soccer and track), and traveling soccer. I am a chiropractor and am in business with my brother at Baldwin and Durand Chiropractic Health Centers.

We are looking forward to boating and fishing on the lake. We look forward to meeting our new lake family!"

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.

Ellen Butler and her sons, Nick and Andrew Knighton, with Andrew's fiance, Anna, at Navy Pier in Chicago.



Welcome to the Grother Family

Gordy explained that he and his wife Cindy had been looking at lake property for over 5 years. "We were in the area looking at a few properties not planning to build and we decided to stop by Chuck's property (Chuck Knapp, just north of the Miller's). We met Chuck and quite frankly sold us on the lake. We are only about a 90 minute drive from Hastings, MN where we live. We have two girls: Cassie is 23 and works for MWR on the US army base in Graphenwohr, Germany. Maria is 21 and going into her senior year at the college of St Benedict where she is majoring in nursing. Cindy, my wife, is a letter carrier for the USPS in Hastings and I am an aviation safety inspector working for the FAA out of Washington DC. We are looking forward to relaxing on the lake but the log home is a ton of work.

Gordy's wife and daughter are in Germany right now visiting Cassie so a recent family photo wasn't possible near press time.



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RESEARCH, PROGRESS AND DISCOVERIES FROM THE WISCONSIN BAT PROGRAM

Here are condensed updates of 2016 research, progress and discoveries from the Wisconsin Bat Program; check the program's website, <http://wlabri.net/inventory/bats>, for longer versions in the January 2017 Echolocator newsletter. Volunteer efforts involving bats are described in "Citizen-based monitoring is critical for Wisconsin," in the June 2016 *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine.

■ URGENT SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR VACCINES

Wisconsin scientists have been racing the clock to create vaccines to prevent white-nose syndrome in bats. Their task is daunting: Few vaccines have been developed for fungal diseases, even for humans or domestic animals. In addition, the vaccine must be placed in something the bats can ingest, and traditional methods and timelines for testing don't transfer well to bats.

Results are mixed so far. Fungal experts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine identified and are testing a protein for its ability to induce an immune response to WNS in bats, and UW veterinary experts are testing how to deliver that protein in a gel that bats ingest and transfer as they groom one another.

In a preliminary trial of these potential vaccines last winter, DNR biologists captured and immunized bats, treated bats infected with fungal spores, and placed them in an environmental chamber intended to mimic hibernation conditions. These lab tests delivered promising preliminary results but maintaining bats in captivity under artificial conditions is not ideal for judging real-world efficacy.

Whether or not the team's search for a vaccine succeeds, methods developed in this study are being applied to other bat diseases where vaccines could be useful.

– *Tonie Rocke, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, Madison*

■ GUANO SHOWS MORE MOSQUITOES IN BAT DIETS

All of Wisconsin's bat species consume insects, but their favorite foods and seasonal appetite changes are largely a mystery. Do certain bats mostly munch on moths or prefer a buffet of beetles?

A UW team has been analyzing bat guano in collaboration with DNR, the U.S. Forest Service Center for Forest Mycology Research and citizen scientists to better understand the diets of little brown and big brown bats and possible impacts of their foraging on insect populations.

The insects consumed by bats are digested and excreted but their DNA remains in guano. UW researchers have extracted and sequenced the genetic material so they can compare DNA in bat guano with known genetic sequences to determine the kinds of insects bats are eating.

Based on guano samples collected by citizen scientists and DNR staff in 2014, preliminary results indicate that big browns prefer beetles and little browns favor a variety of moths and flies. Some exciting results also suggest that during certain times of the year both species consume a variety of aquatic flies such as mosquitoes and midges, perhaps in much greater quantity than previously thought.

Bat diets also appear to change depending on landscape composition. Guano samples from 2015 and 2016 are now being analyzed and will soon provide an even better understanding of Wisconsin bats and the benefits of their snacking habits.

– *Amy K. Wray, UW-Madison*

■ CREATING WINTER HOMES FOR VULNERABLE BATS

An underground water reservoir that once served the Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo has been repurposed as a new winter home for bats. It's part of experimental efforts to entice species vulnerable to white-nose syndrome to use artificial, fungus-free hibernating sites.

In fall 2016, resource managers from the Ho-Chunk Nation and DNR took first steps to encourage bats to move into this new home, removing invasive shrubs and building and installing bat-friendly gates to the cistern. The gates allow bats to freely access the site on Ho-Chunk land while limiting access to humans. Foam-board baffles added to the ceiling inside the cistern provide "traps" for rising warm air, creating a range of temperatures for bats to select.

The partners, along with USDA-Dairy Forage Research Center and the Town of Sumpter, have been monitoring bats at Badger for many years. They worked from what little information is known about hibernation sites in general to create this potential winter home.

Partners are carefully monitoring the cistern for signs of winter residents and also are keeping an eye on a site in Madison where Dane County converted a tunnel beneath a former county building into an artificial hibernaculum.

– *Randy Poelma, Ho-Chunk Division of Environmental Health, and Jennifer Redell, DNR*

■ BATS ROOSTING IN TREES MORE ADAPTABLE THAN THOUGHT

Two Wisconsin bat species vulnerable to white-nose syndrome may be more adaptable in their summer habitat needs than previously thought and can benefit from sustainable forest management.

Those are preliminary conclusions of DNR research that is part of a multi-state, multi-year project funded by a federal grant to learn more about several hibernating bat species that use forests extensively in summer. The information will inform a habitat conservation plan to help biologists manage bats on the post-WNS landscape.

DNR researchers captured and outfitted female northern long-eared bats and eastern pipistrelles with small radio transmitters and tracked the bats back to the trees where they roost. Their research has revealed that northern long-eared bats are quite adaptable. They use many different tree species, both live trees and dead trees, and are found in the crevices or under bark that is sloughing off the trees.

"We do think they can positively respond to sustainable forestry," says Paul White, who leads DNR's Wisconsin Bat Program.

Radio-tracking of eastern pipistrelles started in 2016 and will continue next year. First-year results revealed that bats were roosting in leaf clusters in hardwood trees in small groups of six to 14 bats and that live spruce trees were one of their habitats.

– *Lisa Gaumnitz, DNR*

Article courtesy of Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine

Be a Good Neighbor

BOATING

Wisconsin Law requires Slow-No Wake within 100 feet of the shore, docks, rafts, swimmers, and other vessels. Many HML residents voluntarily extend this to 200 feet out of courtesy and safety. Personal Watercraft, i.e. Jet Skis, are required to stay 200 feet away from all objects. When at speed, stay further away from docks, other boats, and fishermen.

Watch for down skiers and swimmers. Please do water activities in the middle of the lake.

Please make sure your guests know the basic boating safety regulations. <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>. Also make sure they understand the need to check for invasive species before entering or leaving the lake.

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all boat operators complete a safety course. You can do this online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/outdoorskills/onlineed.html>. Classes are sometimes available in the area. Contact the DNR for more info. All children under 13 must wear a personal flotation device when on board any vessel.

WI law specifies that a driver AND observer must be in the boat for water activities like water skiing, tubing, etc. This is different than the law in MN.

Add a solar light to your swim raft for safety at night.

Please keep jet skis and other boats out of the Slalom course. If you'd like to learn the correct way to navigate the slalom course, ask one of the Mastercraft owners: Alex Trapp, Warren Smallidge, Dan Hale, or Rick Miller. If you knock a ski buoy off, please put on one their docks.

Be courteous of others, and if you see something wrong, please speak courteously to the offender. Long time lake residents prefer that we police ourselves, and keep the sheriff's calls to a minimum.

LIGHTING

Insects are drawn to light quite literally, like a moth to a flame. But new research shows swapping your outdoor lights for warm-colored LED lights attracts fewer insects than compact fluorescent lights, halogen globes, incandescent lights or yellow "bug lights." Also, warm LED lights scatter less intense light into the atmosphere than blue LED lights, reducing light pollution and its effects. Source: <https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2016/webprogram/Paper17736.html>

While Safety Lights are desired by some residents for security, some neighbors are bothered by the glare. Polk-Burnett has available a fully shielded globe that eliminates side glare. This changes the direction of the light and casts the light down, the same as a recessed "spot" light of a home. If you desire this shield and request it before initial installation, an additional fee of \$40 will apply. After installation, the fee to install or remove this shield is \$100 and must be requested by the party that makes the monthly payment.



FIREWORKS

While the sale of fireworks is legal in WI, a permit is required to set some off.

The following do NOT need a permit:

Sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs, caps, noisemakers, confetti poppers with less than ¼ grain of explosive mixture, and novelty devices that spin or move on the ground.

However, possessing or using any other fireworks, including, for example, firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars, in Wisconsin without a valid permit is illegal. (Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3).)

While some folks love fireworks, others do not. If you chose to set off fireworks, please be respectful of your neighbors and wrap up your celebration at a reasonable time. 11 p.m. or midnight should give you ample time for fun. Remember, your neighbors want to sleep and the noise frightens babies, pets, and some veterans. Conversely, some people have a lot of fun with fireworks, especially around the 4th July, so try to grin and bear the occasional loud celebration. However, if you are being unduly disturbed by fireworks, call the Polk County Sheriff at 715-485-8300



NEIGHBORS

Now you can find property information which is always current by going to the Polk County website polkcowi.wgxtreme.com. Zoom into Half Moon Lake and view all the properties around the lake. Click on a parcel in the map and the property owner name and lake address will appear at the bottom of the window. Click on the property owner name and a "Parcels Feature Information" box will pop up. Click "Report" in that popup box for legal description, property owner address, taxes and other information. Also, you can search by owner information, property address and other criteria. The District relies on this information to mail our newsletter and notices to property owners, among other tasks. If you find information that is incorrect, contact the Polk County Land Information office at (715) 485-9279.



BEARS

Bears have been seen frequently this spring. We do not want bears coming through our yards during the day, or when children are playing. Jim Smith spoke to the DNR recently and they said everyone must remove their bird feeders and other tasty bear treats. They recommend using an Air Horn to scare the bears away. The bears will leave and go to the woods once the berries are ready to eat, in late June or early July. If you can wait till garbage day morning to put out your can, please do so. Otherwise consider a bungee cord.

