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Photo by Ellen Butler



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On behalf of all Half Moon Lake Residents,
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SPRING/SUMMER - 2023

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



Photo by Greg Kolbjornsen

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Letter from the Chair

by BUD ERICKSEN

With the amount of snow in our cabin driveway in early April I feared we would not have ice out prior to the Fishing Opener on May 6th. However, the warmth of spring did prevail and the ice was out prior to the opener.

Now that the weather will allow us to return to summer activities, we have two projects started in 2022 that will carry over into the summer ahead. The Eurasian Milfoil, although significantly reduced from last year, still will need continued treatment to complete our hopes for a complete remediation. See Jim Benike's report elsewhere in this edition of Loon Lines. In addition, construction on the boat landing will continue to its completion this spring. While almost complete the boat landing is awaiting the handicapped dock and the blacktopping of the driveway access to the ramp.

There has been some good financial news on the boat landing. Last fall we were at a cost overage to the total budget. The DNR had requested that we hold the budget until further review. We had identified two items that we thought could reduce the budget overage. After further review the DNR agreed we should rebid the items we identified and found that we could save a significant amount on the handicapped dock. The handicapped dock will be built according to the original plans by Sunnyside Marine of Balsam Lake. The amount we have saved on the rebid is enough to place the total budget in line with our original budget. So we now have no overage!!! The contractor returned to Half Moon Lake on May 18th to finish the handicapped parking area, pavement striping, and clean up. The handicapped dock is scheduled to be installed prior to Memorial Day weekend, so the summer use of the new boat landing will be fully installed by June 1st. I'm sure we will all enjoy use of the new ramp and dock facility.

As part of the second round of treatment of the Eurasian Milfoil we were required to submit a long-range plan to the DNR. This winter Jim Benike and our consultant at Barr Engineering completed a plan for approval by the DNR. So again this spring we will monitor water temperature to assure that the chemicals will work. We are very fortunate to have Jim Benike on the Board to oversee the Eurasian Milfoil eradication effort. His work on our behalf has been significant.

Another person that has performed above and beyond is Ellen Butler. Partial funding for both the boat landing and the Eurasian Milfoil has been obtained from the Wisconsin DNR. While we appreciate the funding, it has required significant time on Ellen's part to formally request the money from the DNR, obtain the money and schedule subsequent applications. How does that go? There is no such thing as free money.

My final thought on this year is to thank the homeowners of Half Moon Lake for the patience you have shown allowing the Board to generate solutions and support our efforts. With work on the boat landing and milfoil continuing into 2023, we will have more inconvenience this summer. Hopefully the time impact will be short, and that all areas of activities will be completed soon.

Thanks,
Bud Ericksen
Chairman, Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board



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Trish Meade, Kim Hunwardsen, Lori Balestri, Sarah Balestri, and Annemarie Bryan enjoyed the Balsam Lake Wine Walk last fall.



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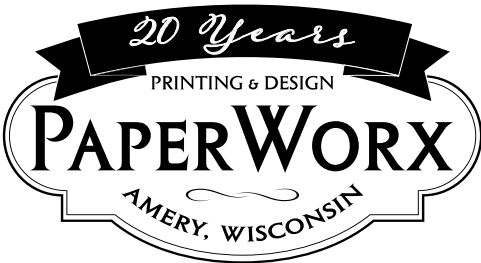
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Editor's Column

Ah, summer! I think. I hope. After enduring The Winter That Just Wouldn't End and The Spring That Never Sprung, I hope that Mother Nature will reward us all with a long, beautiful summer and fall. Note to the snowbirds that bolted for warmer climes: there was a lot of snow while you were gone. A *lot* of snow. It came early, it came often, and it came heavy. Several of the lake residents took advantage of a true Wisconsin winter to get out and enjoy the snow. Thank you to those of you who submitted pictures of our winter wonderland, especially Ann Bonewell, who sent photos of her family and friends really getting into the spirit (see page 10 for details).

Ann also happened to win the small ice-out prediction contest that I posted on the NextDoor app. In early March, Ann predicted ice-out would be on April 20. On that day, virtually the entire lake was ice-free except for one small patch of ice that had blown to the very southern end of the lake. Ellen Butler and Joe Lonsky officially declared ice-out on April 22. It may surprise some people that April 22 is actually early based on the 30-year average. Average ice-out date is actually April 24. Back in 2008 we had two ice-outs. That year, the ice went out on April 25 but then the lake froze over again. Psych! The ice went out again five days later on April 30. A list of ice-out dates going back to 1968 can be found at <https://www.halfmoonlake.net/iceouts> See the graph on this page for the most recent 10 years of data.

But enough about winter and spring. On to summer! The water level of Half Moon Lake is high, the ponds are full, the creek is running, and the yards are lush. Hopefully, we'll all be out on, in, or near the water any day now. Since there are several new families and a lot of new boats on the lake, I'm re-publishing some reminders about the rules, regulations, and common courtesies for boating and living on the lake.

This issue also includes the annual update on the resident loons, the notes from last year's annual meeting, the latest information on the Eurasian milfoil in the lake, a special, dubious "History Corner" and a few other notes and tidbits that I hope you'll find interesting and/or informative. Sadly, I also include obituaries of several neighbors and friends that we lost over the winter.

As always, I welcome your suggestions and contributions for content and photographs. Putting the Loon Lines together is a team effort, and I always appreciate the help.

See you on the lake!

Dave Balestri



A couple south-end Half Mooners celebrate ice out on April 22

Ice Outs

- 2023 - April 22 - From Ellen Butler
- 2022 - April 23 - From Joe Lonsky
- 2021 - March 29 - From Ellen Butler
- 2020 - April 8 - From Joe Lonsky
- 2019 - April 23 - From Joe Lonsky
- 2018 - May 4 - From Joe Lonsky
- 2017 - March 30 - From Joe Lonsky
- 2016 - March 29 - From AT
- 2015 - April 3 - From DL
- 2014 - May 2 - From JS

4

Steve Schatz – Newest Half Moon Lake Board Member

Steve and Terry Schatz have been homeowners on Half Moon Lake since 2016. They are the proud parents of two children, Matt and Emma and soon to be a new son-in-law, Jack.

The lake definitely has become their favorite place and you can usually find them here every weekend year-round. Actually, Steve is up here during the week most of the time too! Winter is also becoming an equally favorite time of the year and they enjoy hanging out in front of the fireplace with a bottle of wine and a good movie. In addition to spending time on the water, Steve and Terry enjoy playing golf at Luck Golf Course and have become enthusiastic Pickleball players on their new court.

Steve joined the board in 2022 and is passionate about making Half Moon Lake a great place for everyone.



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Half Moon Lake Safety and Etiquette

by Dave Balestri

Last summer, during the busy 4th of July weekend, my lake neighbor came over to tell me that someone had just run over our swim raft at high speed with their pontoon boat. Apparently, they went over it with a single pontoon and continued on without stopping. Fortunately, no one was on the raft or in the water nearby at the time. I don't know whether anyone on the boat was hurt or if there was damage to the boat because the driver didn't stop.

Also last summer (and for a couple summers previous to that), someone hosted a party and amplified loud music out over the lake until deep into the night and into the early morning.

And finally, during the 4th of July weekend, a drunken driver with a toddler in their car sped along Highway G at the north end of the lake, veered off the road, and rolled the car. Incredibly, they didn't hit anyone or damage property.

I don't want to be the "fun police" for the lake, but these incidents and others detract from the enjoyment and safety of other people on the lake. And since we have so many new neighbors, I thought now would be a good time to remind everyone of some of the basic rules and etiquette on the water and around the lake. Please share this information with your guests – especially guests that may use your lake home or cabin while you are not there.

Noise, including Fireworks:

Sound carries across water. On a calm night, it can be pleasantly surprising to hear laughter or conversation from across the lake. In a previous issue of Loon Lines, I wrote about a friendly back-and-forth between guitarists on opposite sides of the lake one evening, which was enjoyed by several people who stopped their boats to listen. After dark, though, not everyone wants to hear loud music and fireworks. The key is to just be considerate of your neighbors and aware of how the sound carries. Conversely, we need to understand that some weekends are just going to be more celebratory than others. Consideration and understanding need to go both ways.

As for fireworks in particular... some people love them, some do not. If you're in the "love them" camp, please be considerate of your neighbors as to how late into the night you set them off. And please remember that some veterans with PTSD are highly affected by the sound of fireworks. Fireworks can scare pets, babies, and other people as well. If you're in the "don't love them" camp (I confess, I'm the troop leader of that camp), please understand that certain weekends are going to be loud. It is legal to light them off, so tolerance and consideration needs to go both ways.

Boating:

First, some basic rules: Wisconsin law requires slow/no-wake speed within 100 feet of the shore, docks, rafts, swimmers, and other vessels. 100 feet is actual pretty close, so many boaters voluntarily keep a greater distance out of courtesy and safety. Personal Watercraft (jet-skis) are further restricted – they must maintain slow/no-wake 200 feet from shore. All children under the age of 13 must wear a personal flotation device (life jacket) when on board any watercraft.

Right-of-way rules always favor the least maneuverable vessel first. So canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards always have the right-of-way over other watercraft. Then come sailboats, and finally powerboats and PWC. This means that powerboats and PWCs should alter course to avoid sailboats and other craft that have right-of-way and that sailboats should alter course to avoid kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. Please be conscientious about the wake that you're putting out and the distance that it travels. Although the rules state that you need to be 100 feet away from other watercraft, the wake from a powerboat can really toss a sailboat or kayak around. Out of courtesy and in deference to shoreline impact, wake boats should operate in the middle of the lake as much as possible.

Boaters should stay 300 feet away from loons. Of course, this isn't always possible since the loons can pop up just about anywhere from underwater but if you see one, steer clear. Unlike gulls, loons are not able to just up and fly away. They need a long runway in order to take flight.



Clean Boats Clean Waters

Another great Fishing Opener! Our Ilids camera and cleaning station are all working together in conjunction with our CBCW inspectors. Our "Kids don't float" lifejacket station needs repair after several tough winters which blew the unit over and damaged some panels. We will continue to replace lifejackets as needed and throw away those that have no useful life left. If there is a handy carpenter that would like to assist on repairing the station, please reach out.

Again, this year on the 4th of July weekend, we will be passing out towels (for fishing) to those that launch. It is a good reminder to do the following:

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 water body.

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.

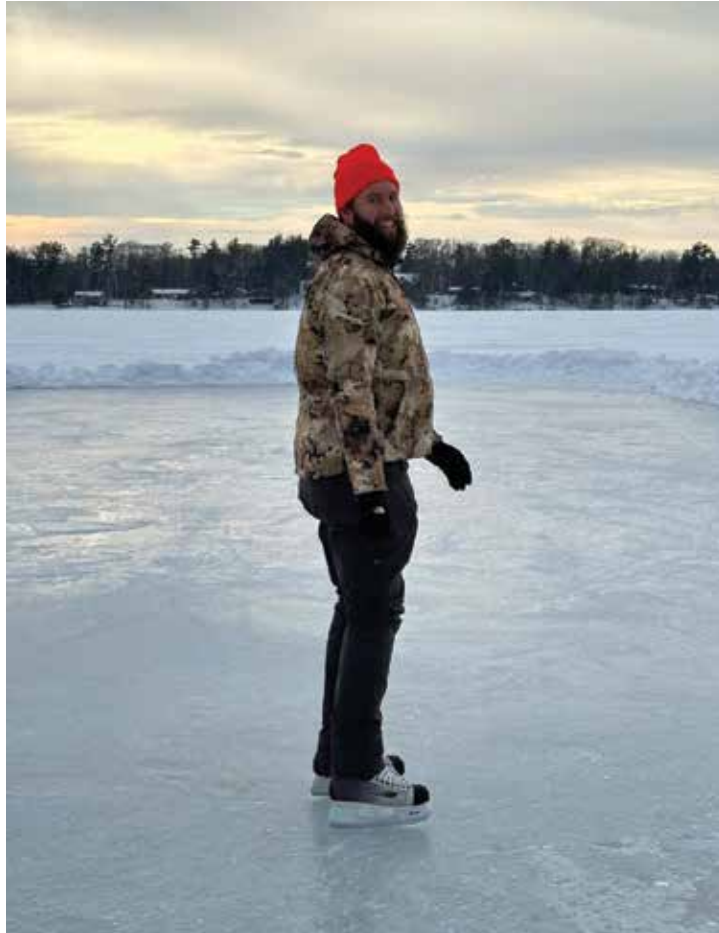
Have a wonderful summer!

Dan Leh
CBCW



Winter Fun on Half Moon Lake

The Ann and Wes Bonewell family, along with friends and pets, celebrated the New Year at their cabin on Half Moon.



Nic Bonewell



Left to right - Nic carrying Zoey Bonewell, Becky, Amy, Tyler, Erin, Josh Bonewell with dogs Duke, Karl, Mya, Finn and Archer



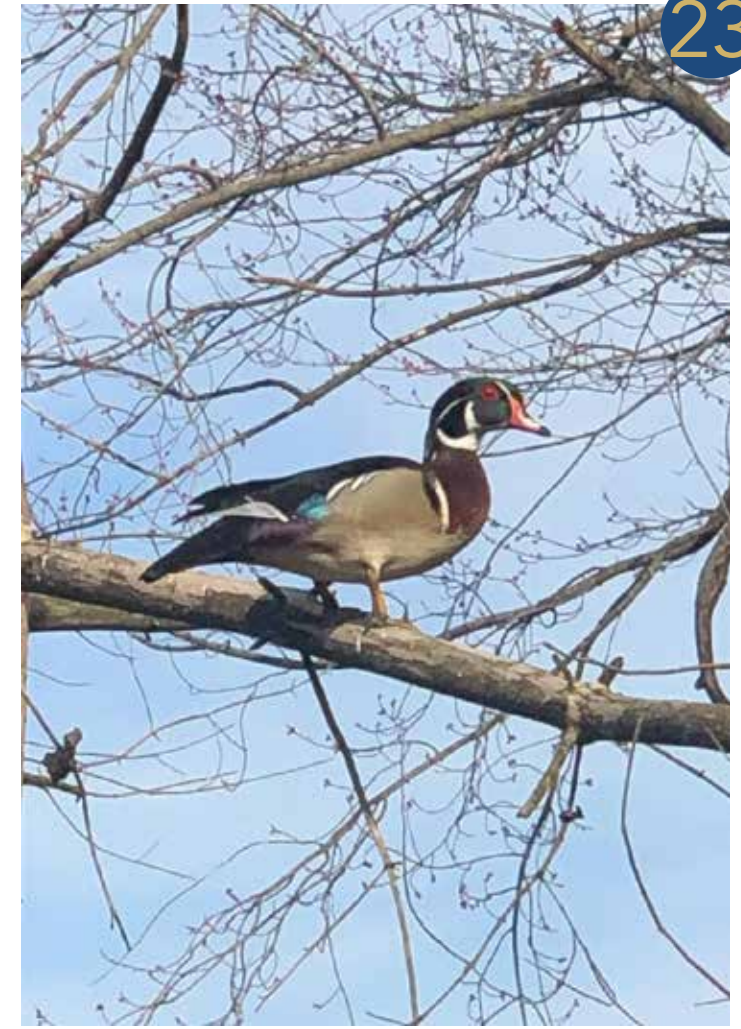
Tyler Bonewell, Amy and Nic Bonewell, dogs are Karl and Duke



Wes, Tyler, Josh Bonewell



Tyler Bonewell and Duke





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Apple River man, wife see object

Sight UFO near Half Moon Lake

Richard Breault, a town of Apple River farmer, said he hasn't slept well for nearly two weeks.

On Thursday, Oct. 25, he and his wife had an encounter with an unidentified flying object (UFO) about 6:30 a.m. while driving on CTH G near Half Moon Lake.

"We were on our way to our deer camp," said Breault. "We left our house about 6:15 a.m." About 1 1/2 miles from the Half Moon store, the couple's attention was directed to a bright, shining light in the sky.

"My wife thought it was a bright star and I said it looked more like a weather balloon," Breault observed.

Suddenly, the bright light descended on the Breaults "just past the Half Moon store."

"My wife thought we were going to smash into it and screamed at me to hit the brakes," observed Breault.

The UFO came at the car about 80 feet above the ground and then came straight down until it hovered about 20 feet above the road. He described the UFO as about 40 feet in length with a hump in the middle. One end of the craft was square with the other end sloped.

"I've never seen such speed in all my life," he said.

It was out of sight in about six seconds, Breault estimated.

About three-fourths of the UFO was reddish in color. He described the top quarter as a combination of red, green, yellow and orange.

The craft then shot across Half Moon Lake at 4,000 or 5,000 miles an hour, according to Breault.

While there was no damage to the pickup truck, Breault said both he and his wife experienced a good case of the jitters including "butterflies in the stomach and we couldn't swallow."

The couple didn't tell anyone about the incident, except their children, "because you know what people think when something like this happens."

Sitting next to Breault on the pickup seat were a loaded camera and binoculars.

"It all happened so fast, I didn't think to use them," he observed.

No other sightings were reported to the Polk county sheriff's department.

This is the second sighting of a UFO in Polk County this year. Earlier, several persons reported seeing a UFO near East Lake located east of Dresser.



Invasive Species Report:

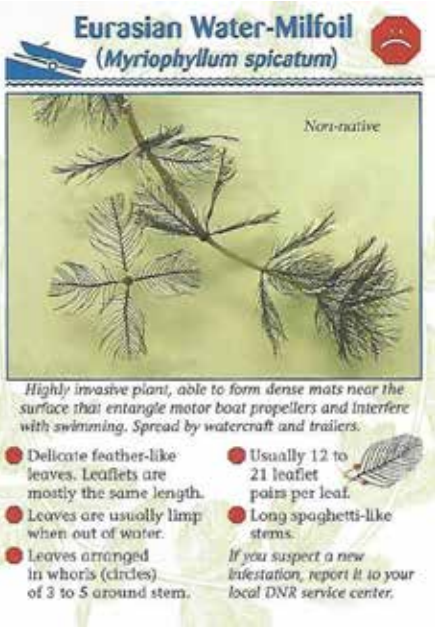
By Jim Benike

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

As of last fall Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was located in several areas totaling one acre. We removed 22 acres in 2022. During the winter months we applied for permits to remove EWM using ProcellaCor in January and using Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) in April if the ProcellaCor permit isn't approved. DASH is almost twice as expensive.

There will be a meeting June 1 of the Voigt Intertribal task force to determine if ProcellaCor will be allowed on lakes with wild rice. Half Moon has a very modest amount on the east side of the swimming beach. After their decision and when the DNR grants us a permit we will move quickly to treat as we discovered last year EWM grows quickly in our clean clear lake.

The long term effect of not treating the EWM is that it takes over the native plant areas growing very dense so one can't boat or swim through it. It grows too thick for the predator fish to get at the panfish and baitfish so long term the small fish become stunted and the predator fish become smaller and fewer.



YELLOW IRIS

June is Yellow Irish blooming season. Judy Proell and Doug Ebling have volunteered to help identify and mark Yellow Iris on the north and south ends of the lake. They will be marking the Yellow Iris with yellow tags from boats. Please feel free to contact us if you have a question or need help. We have made real progress on eliminating Yellow Iris from our lake. Remember Blue Iris is a friendly native plant.

ZEBRA MUSSELS

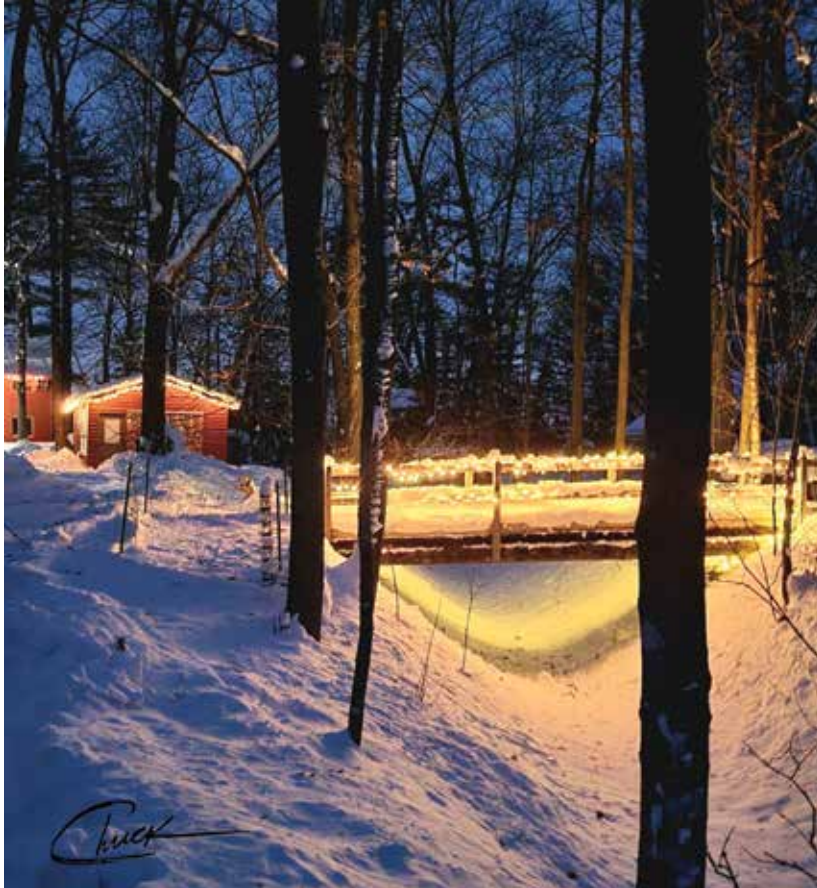
There was a Zebra mussel seminar for Polk County last winter. Several of our surrounding lakes have Zebra mussels. Fortunately, to my knowledge we don't have any. If you are launching a boat that has been in any of our neighboring lakes please take extra precautions to clean your boat. We do not need another invasive species in our lake.

Please remember the DNR issues grants and permits but your tax dollars pay for the bulk of the costs for testing, engineering, reporting, and treatment.

Enjoy your summer. We are committed to keeping your lake clean and clear for you and future generations.



Memories of Fall & Winter



Chuck Knapp



Kim Hunwardsen



Kim Hunwardsen



Ellen Butler



FLYING SQUIRRELS AT HALF MOON LAKE

By Pat Mechelke

Last fall when cleaning out our bird houses, we were not surprised to find one occupied as mice tend to build nests in empty houses; however, we were surprised to see a plumper animal with huge eyes peering back at us. My husband Terry asked for a step stool so he could get a better view. As he reached in again, the animal scrambled out of the bird house and glided to an adjacent tree. It was a flying squirrel with a nest of babies!

Flying squirrels are not that uncommon but seldom seen; our son living in Southern Wisconsin has one visit his birdfeeder regularly at night as they are nocturnal. These squirrels are able to glide through the air using a fold of skin called a patagium on each side of its body connecting the front and back legs. When in flight, the legs stretch out and the fold forms wings. Its broad, wide tail helps in navigating the direction of flight. It can glide up to 150 feet. Flying squirrels eat berries, birds' eggs, fungi, insects, and nuts. They also eat meat from dead carcasses they find.

Seeing this animal in broad daylight and in flight was a real treat for us. Mom soon flew back to her nest and several weeks later, she and the babies were gone. After approximately five weeks, the babies are able to practice gliding and leave the nest when ten weeks old.



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2023 Upcoming Events
on Half Moon Lake

4TH OF JULY EVENTS AND TIMES

Saturday, July 1st2:00 p.m. BOAT PARADE

*Decorated boat parade around the lake.
Meet in south end to begin.*

DuskFIREWORKS - Public Beach

*Watch from the beach, your boat or dock.
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Sunday, July 2ndRAIN DATE - Fireworks - Public Beach

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting:

Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m. at the public beach. Free bag lunch at noon for you and your families. Yoder's ice cream will also be served!

Who Can Vote at the 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 a 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.



Rita McKee



Jason Obrien



Ellen Butler



Kim Hunwardsen



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

FINANCE REPORT

AS OF JULY 10, 2022

SUBMITTED BY ELLEN BUTLER, TREASURER

ASSETS

RCU Bank checking account:	\$24,448.08
Capital Fund:	
1. RCU Business 12 month Certificate Matures 12/15/22	\$84,083.89
2. RCU Business Money Market	\$42,629.38
RCU Savings account:	\$5.14
TOTAL ASSETS	\$151,166.49

RCU Fireworks checking account	\$1,789.86
--------------------------------	------------

REVENUE IN 2021

Taxes collected	\$32,410.14
Polk County Lottery	\$392.86
Bank Interest – checking acct	\$16.61
TOTAL REVENUE IN 2021	\$32,819.61

EXPENSES AND TRANSFER

Lake management- Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) and ILIDS camera at beach	\$14,470
Transfer to Capital Fund for AIS (aquatic invasive spwecies) treatment	\$10,000
Newsletter- 2 issues plus 2 postcards	\$6,547
Annual meeting	\$2,780
Administration	\$1,234
TOTAL EXPENSES AND TRANSFER	\$35,031



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11

FISHING REPORT

by Doug Ebeling

As we move into spring/summer the fishing will be picking up. This is a briefing on what to expect.

In the fall of 2021 the DNR provided 5,700 walleye fingerlings for Half Moon Lake. A fingerling is a 6-7 inch fish. This year they should be in the 10-12 inch size and will probably be hungry. As I hope you know this is NOT a legal size to keep. The survival rate of the fingerling is much higher than that of the fry. A fry is 1-3 inches and consumed by our huge bass population. As a reminder the walleye on Half Moon must be 18" to keep. Please be careful when releasing the smaller ones under 18 inches. The best way, if the fish swallows the hook, is to cut the line as close to the hook as possible and return the fish to the water as fast as possible. By doing this you give the fish a much better chance to survive.

Going forward to this fall of 2023, I have been in contact with the DNR in our district and was told the plan is to stock Half Moon with 5,730 new fingerling walleyes. They will range in size from 6-7 inches. This will improve our lake over the coming years so our children and grandchildren will be able to have fun catching fish. We will again encourage the DNR truck to distribute the fish at both ends of the lake. They were most cooperative in 2021 of doing so. Thank You DNR!!

In closing don't hesitate to keep the bass you catch. First, they are good eating in the spring and early summer. Second, they are the biggest predator of the walleye.

As usual the pan fishing in Half Moon is great so have a great summer of fishing.

Good Fishing!

A man with a beard and a baseball cap, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and orange plaid shorts, is holding a large yellow perch. He is standing on a concrete path in front of a lake house with tan siding. In the background, there is a lake, trees, and an American flag hanging on a pole. A potted plant with pink flowers is in the foreground on the right.

In Memory of...



Jeanette "Toots" Schwartz

Jeanette "Toots" Schwartz died at the age of 101 on January 9 at home surrounded by family. She first started coming to Half Moon Lake in 1947 after her brother flying over the area in search of the best, clean lake decided to build a cabin on 200th Avenue. Her parents then built the current family cabin also on 200th Ave in 1957. Though left with challenges after suffering a stroke in 2004 Toots continued to enjoy spending her summers every year at the cabin on Half Moon Lake. Preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Les. Survived by 3 sons, 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters and 2 great-granddaughters.



Donald and Caroline Frenette

Donald Frenette passed away on December 4, 2022 at the age of 83. His wife Caroline Frenette died two weeks later on December 19, 2022 at the age of 84. Carol and Don met at the University of St. Thomas. After a brief stint in Evanston, Illinois, they returned home to St. Paul to start a family. Carol and Don were married for 60 wonderful years. Carol spent many years devoting her time to the community through Catholic Charities and The Dorothy Day Center. She loved spending her time reading a good book, whether it was at their home in St. Paul, the cabin on Half Moon Lake or under the sun in Marco Island. She loved evening pontoon rides with Don and her family, as well as walking along the beach collecting sand dollars. Carol found her passion for painting in her later years, always asking her family for inspiration from their trips around the world. Don loved spending as much time as possible at the cabin, where he became an avid woodworker. When he wasn't in the workshop, you could find him tinkering around his garden or out on the lake on the pontoon. Don and Caroline are survived by their daughter Lisa Frenette and granddaughters Josie (Matt Johnson) and Kate Scheuemann.

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Spring 2023 Loon Report

By Pat Mechelke, Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger

The winter that would not end created a problem for the loons migrating back to northern Wisconsin this spring. Northland College “Loonwatch” reported that freezing rain, sleet, and snow caused a phenomenon called “Loon Fallout”. They compare it to the icing on an airplane’s wings. When it happens to the wings of a loon, they are unable to fly and fall to the earth. Therein lies the problem. Loon’s feet are located far back on their bodies and are adapted for swimming and diving. They have difficulty walking on land; they are able to scoot with their wings and feet but would face a very difficult, dangerous journey if they had to travel very far on land to find a suitable body of open water. They require a quarter mile aquatic runway to achieve flight. Consequently, if those loons that were forced to land this spring were not rescued, they faced a high likelihood of succumbing to predators or to the elements. Many stranded loons were rescued in northern Wisconsin some as nearby as in Rice Lake. According to “Loon Watch” if you should come across an injured loon at any time of the year, please don’t leave the loon. A loon rescuer should be notified of the bird’s

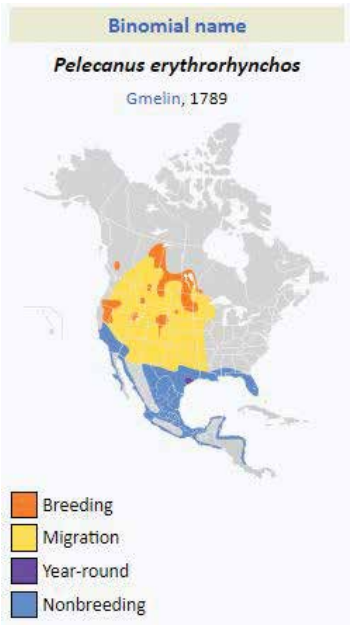


location and condition. The phone number for Loon Rescue is: 715-966-5415; if unable to contact them, call the Raptor Education Group, Inc. at 715-623-4015. Do NOT try to handle the bird; their beak is sharp and a potential weapon. Fortunately, a pair of loons successfully returned to Half Moon Lake on April 16th a few days prior to ice out. Hopefully, our second territorial pair has arrived by now. Loons generally return to the lakes they were previously on year after year. My only concern this year is that with the high-water level, they may have difficulty finding safe, suitable nesting sites. Let’s hope we have two successful nesting pairs and several baby loons to enjoy watching again this summer.






Pelican(?!) Report by Dave Balestri

This Spring I was startled to see large numbers of pelicans on the Apple River near Amery. I had always thought of pelicans as coastal saltwater birds. As it turns out, the American white pelican breeds in interior North America (mostly Canada), moving south and to the coasts in winter. Wisconsin is on the very eastern edge of the migration path, meaning these pelicans are just stopping by on their way from Florida and Mexico to North Dakota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.





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HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING - MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2022

Bud Ericksen called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. The meeting was held at the public beach on Half Moon Lake.
Board members present: Bud Ericksen Ellen Butler Jim Benike Doug Ebling Bob Cutshall. Board members absent: Mike Dau

- I. The first order of business was for Bud Ericksen to confirm that proper legal notice had been given for the meeting and that there was a quorum present, which he did.
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**
Steve Minn made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as prepared by Bud Ericksen
Mike McMahon seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously
- III. **APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 17, 2021**
John Weber made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Reese Bracken seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously
- IV. **NEW COMMISSIONER FOR THE BOARD (Doug Ebling’s 3 year term is completed)**
Bud Erickson nominated Steve Schatz to fill the open position
Steve Minn made a motion to approve this appointment by acclamation
The motion passed unanimously
- V. **TREASURER’S REPORT**
Ellen Butler presented the treasurer’s report
John Weber made a motion to accept the report as presented
Judy Proell seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously
- VI. **NEW BOAT LANDING**
Bud Ericksen presented the financial information on the new landing
The cost of the landing (after receiving the DNR grant) is to be split three ways equally among the Township, the Village and the District.
The District board was authorized at the 2021 annual meeting to spend up to \$30,000 for its share.
We have received a DNR grant commitment for 50% of the cost of the landing
We have also received an engineer’s estimate of the probable cost of the landing from Cedar Corp. Their estimate is \$160,786.
That will result in the District’s share being \$26,798, based on the estimated costs. That is below the amount of \$30,000 previously authorized. However, no firm bids have been secured yet.
Bud then reviewed the schedule for the project
The design of the new landing has been completed.
The project’s engineer (Cedar Corp.) will solicit bids for the project shortly
They expect to receive the bids on August 4th.
The planned construction start date is September 19th. The landing will be closed at that time.
We expect the construction to be complete by about October 7th. The landing should reopen then or shortly thereafter.
Bud reminded everyone that no boats will be allowed to enter or exit the lake at the public landing during the construction of the new landing.
- VII. **LOON REPORT**
Jim Benike gave the loon report
We have two mating pairs of loons on the lake
- VIII. **EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (EWM)**
Jim Benike stated that EWM was discovered in the lake on October 11, 2021.
Shortly thereafter, the District retained Barr Engineering to work with the DNR to develop an acceptable treatment plan. Jim and Barr have had dozens of phone calls and email messages with the DNR about this matter.
The DNR has authorized an emergency response grant to the District to pay for some of the costs involved in dealing with this situation.
We have received a partial funding of this grant, but the final payment won’t be made until the treatment has been completed. We have applied for a permit from the DNR to do this work but it is currently being reviewed by another agency because of the presence of some wild rice in the area we will be treating. Jim and Barr continue to pursue this permit diligently.
Typical treatment plans allow for the use of chemical herbicides if the area being treated is small (10 acres or less). Plants outside of this area need to be pulled by hand by trained SCUBA divers.
To receive any future grants from the DNR, we will need to develop a Lake Aquatic Protection Plan. Jim will work with Barr Engineering to develop this plan.
- IX. **YELLOW IRIS**
Jim Benike reported that the yellow iris problem wasn’t as bad this year as it was last year.
Jim has been helping property owners treat this plant by themselves rather than hiring a contractor to do the treatment (as we did in 2021).
- X. **BUCKTHORN**

- Jim Benike reported that buckthorn is being treated in the Oscar Lane area, but is spreading to other parts of the lake.
- XI. **FISHING**
Doug Ebling gave the fishing report
The DNR stocked the lake with 5,700 6” to 8” walleye fingerlings in the fall of 2021. The stocking was done in two locations.
The DNR will continue to stock the lake every other year in future years.
 - XII. **JULY 4TH ACTIVITIES**
Ellen Butler reported that everything went well this year
Steve Schatz volunteered to chair the 4th of July committee for 2023
There was some discussion as to when to have the fireworks in future years. Trudy Gores made a motion to hold them on the Saturday the closest to July 4th.
Doug Ebling seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
 - XIII. **LOON LINES**
Dave Balestri stated that the Loon Lines is published and distributed twice a year.
There was some discussion of the use of social media to communicate with property owners, but nothing was resolved.
 - XIV. **HALF MOON LAKE WEBSITE**
Joe Lonsky maintains the website
The Internet address is halfmoonlake.net
 - XV. **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS**
Dan Leh stated that we our continuing our boat inspection program (about 1,000 hours per year) and our camera operations (24/7).
We currently have a small amount of curly leafed pondweed in the lake as well as EWM, as mentioned above. Our most important concern now (in addition to the treatment of the EWM) is to keep zebra mussels out of the lake.
There was some discussion about the compensation paid to our boat inspectors. The message to the board from the property owners was that we need to be paying competitive wages so that we continue to get competent, dedicated people (which we have) doing this important work.
 - XVI. **BOAT CLEANING STATION**
Doug Ebling has been working on this for over two years now.
The total cost of the cleaning station (which has been installed) was \$35,420. We received a grant from the DNR for \$15,667.
This results in the District’s cost being \$19,753. This amount is below the \$25,000 that the District board had been authorized to spend at the 2021 annual meeting.
Our boat inspectors reported that the cleaning station was getting a lot of use.
 - XVII. **TAX LEVY**
Much of the District’s reserves are being spent this year dealing with invasive plant problems. Had we not had these reserves, we would have been unable to do much of anything to attack these problems in a timely manner.
There was a lot of discussion about rising operating costs in general and the desire to make sure that we have sufficient reserve funds to deal with any future problems that require immediate action.
Steve Minn made a motion to increase our annual tax levy by 20% over and above the current amount.
Mike McMahon seconded the motion.
With the exception of one “no” vote, the motion passed unanimously.
 - XVIII. **DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMIT**
The District’s board is currently limited to spending a maximum of \$5,000 on a discretionary basis (without the prior approval of the property owners at the annual meeting). That restriction was put in place many years ago and has never been adjusted for inflation.
After a brief discussion of this matter, Reese Bracken made a motion to increase this amount to \$10,000.
Mike Wallace seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
 - XIX. **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**
Doug Ebling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m.
Steve Minn seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, July 15, 2023
at the Public Beach