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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.

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION AND
REHABILITATION BOARD AND
4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE

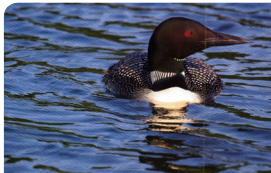
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Advertise...



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If you own a lake home on Half Moon Lake and also own a business,
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SPRING/SUMMER - 2018

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



Photo by Gary Schwartz

WHAT'S
INSIDE

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Letter from the Chair

by JOHN WEBER

Another lake season has begun. Do hope that everyone's enjoying our "mixed" spring weather. As most of you know, the ice out this year was one of the latest ever, officially May 5th, or 6th 2018. Since Wisconsin's Fishing Opener is the first Saturday in May, it was pins and needles whether or not anglers would be able to launch their boats, but faith was rewarded and the lake was open in time. Don't know about the fishing, but presume it was successful for all in one way or another.

As in the past, we began monitoring the launch at the public beach on fishing opener weekend, and our workers have continued since then as school classes have been finished. They will continue through Labor Day, also, as fall school schedules allow. One weed violation was recorded on our camera in early June, later in the day after the monitoring shift, and has been forwarded to the Sheriff for action.

Last fall we began plans to hold a "goose roundup" this year to reduce our resident goose population. We applied for and received all of the necessary permits and are ready to go. Unfortunately those pesky geese did not cooperate. I had asked all of the board members, as well as myself, to check, and also ask other friends and neighbors about any sightings. To date no one has seen any geese this year on our lake, except for one lone goose landing briefly near the beach and then leaving (one time only). It appears that our threat of a roundup has scared them away. Or maybe the fall DNR approved hunt at Balsam Lake fall was far more successful for us than we knew. (I read a report several weeks ago in the Ledger).

When we were starting our application for the weed and water study, outlined briefly in the last fall Loon Lines, it quickly became apparent that recommendations, and costs, far exceeded what was anticipated. The grants are limited or tied to matching donated volunteer hours (or we would need to pay someone to provide those 'volunteer' services). There are significant grants available from the DNR for these things to offset costs, but our contributions need to be more thoroughly evaluated, and approved by the District. The District along with the Conservancy is proceeding with a weed study this year (with a cap on costs). A report will be available in the fall, but not before our annual meeting this year. It is expected to show any differences in the lake vegetation since previous studies, which will allow us to get a preview, or snapshot, of our lake quality or potential issues. This report should allow us to do a better job of providing a recommendation to our District.

Every year there are expiring HML board positions. This year two positions are expiring: Dave Balestri, and Bud Ericksen. Bud has been nominated for another term, but Dave is not available. We would ask that anyone interested please contact me or another board member. I would especially like to encourage some of our newer residents to become involved or perhaps some of the lake's younger residents. In addition to the Annual Meeting, the positions entail approximately 4 meetings a year, and perhaps some committee work.

Not much else, except that I have already had several comments about excessive dog barking. As a good neighbor, please do something to minimize that issue. To the best of my knowledge, there are no dog nuisance ordinances in our area. As most of us are, or have come, from more urban areas, we know those ordinances are easily enacted. Please everyone, do your part to avoid problems.

Respectfully,

John N Weber, Chair



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & OTHER RESOURCES

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

Bud Ericksen, Vice Chair
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bsericksen@comcast.net

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ellenk@visi.com

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halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com

Dan Leh, Clean Boats Committee
Cell: 612-490-1002
halfmoonlake@hotmail.com

Jon Eckel, Supervisor
Milltown Township
715-825-2305
jkeckel8@gmail.com

Chris Nelson
Polk County Board of Supervisors
715-557-0169
christopher.nelson@co.polk.us

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

INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS OFFERS HELP TO LAKE SENIORS AND OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER

A day on the lake sometimes turns into a lifetime on the lake. Interfaith Caregivers is a non-profit organization that helps Polk County area seniors and disabled adults stay in their homes as long as possible. We provide rides, visits and chores at no cost. Are you (or do you know) a senior on your lake that you feel could benefit from our program? Maybe you have someone that would be interested in becoming a volunteer and helping out a neighbor.

Interfaith Caregivers is always looking for caring volunteers. Someone with a few extra hours in a week to help their neighbor doing light yard work, taking them to a doctor appointment or just sitting and visiting. Helping seniors or people with disabilities in Polk County stay in their homes as long as possible is what we are all about.

Rick, a dialysis patient, relies on our volunteers to get him to and from his dialysis appointments three times a week. Light housekeeping, reading and helping Rick with his mail are other things that our volunteers help him with on a weekly basis. Rick will tell you that without Interfaith Caregivers, living independently in his home would not be possible.

Becoming a volunteer is easy and is so rewarding. Times are flexible to fit your schedule and interest. Too busy to volunteer? A donation to our organization is also a great way you can help. If you are interested in helping out your neighbor, please give us a call at 715-825-9500 or visit www.interfaithpolk.com

Meet Your Neighbor



Dave and Jen Loeffler and their 15 year-old son bought AJ and Martina Johnson's lake home on 200th Ave last fall. Dave writes, "We currently live in Eagan, Minnesota where the daily grind happens 5 days a week, but now we look forward to our days up at the cabin. We love to ski, tube (just Brooks), surf, paddle board, kayak, atv rides, x-country ski, snow shoeing, and fishing. We are also big golfers and joined the local Luck Country Club for a whopping \$360 for 3 years.... can you believe that?" Dave is a science teacher and Jen is a CPA, and they are interested in getting involved with the HML Lake Board (Editor's Note: Yey!) Please welcome the Loeffler family.

If you are new to the lake, please send me an email at halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com. I would be happy to publish a photo and a brief biography. Your new neighbors want to get to know you!



LOCAL AUTHOR

On a local note, Cheryl Crofoot Knapp wife of Chuck Knapp is sharing her knowledge about caregiving. She's recently published an inspirational book about caregiving to her parents, both of whom died from Alzheimer's. Her book is "Undeclared Innocence" available on Amazon and her web site is CherylCrofootKnapp.com She's speaking at the national caregivers conference in Chicago this November and she's always trying to help other caregivers with helpful information.

Many thanks to the Walkers for
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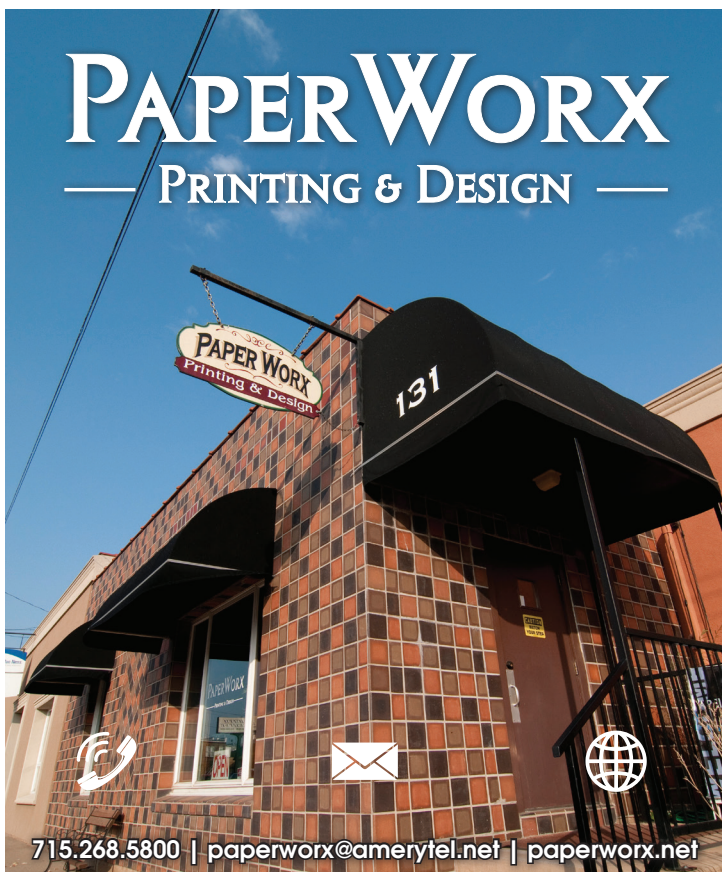
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I grew up on the east coast, so I am an ocean girl at heart. I remember spending one summer at a lake cabin in the Catskill mountain area in upstate NY. It was probably beautiful, but at age 7, that lake terrified me. Deep, dark, weedy and full of fish, with a murky bottom, I felt like I was going to get sucked off the swim raft by the Loch Ness monster.

But I grew up, moved to the Midwest, and fell in love with someone with strong ties to Half Moon Lake. My first summer weekends here were spent at my in-law's cabin, and while I was initially trepidatious about the weeds and the fish, I grew used to swimming out to the raft, and jumping off the boat on hot days.

When our kids were little, we owned a small RV and used to camp around WI and MN, and saw all sorts of lakes. But it wasn't until a friend's party on Gull Lake in Minnesota, that I came to realize what a gem of a lake we have here in Half Moon. Our lake was, and is, so clean, and quiet, and clear compared to Gull Lake.

Then we bought our own cabin, and I fell in love with Half Moon. Tubing with the kids, jumping off the pontoon in the middle of the lake on a scorching hot day, or floating around my dock on an inner tube were no longer scary activities. I learned the fish would not bite, the weeds were just plants, and no lake monster existed here.

I was further reminded of the clarity and cleanliness of Half Moon Lake when I attended a recent meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers. This is group of lake representatives, concerned citizens and local representatives from The Polk County Land and Water Resources Department and the WI Department of Natural Resources which meets several times a year at the Polk County Government Center.

The presentation was on alum (aluminum sulphide) treatments for lakes which have an over abundance of phosphorus, which encourages the growth of algae. Nearby, East Balsam and Long Lake are two example of lakes with high phosphorus levels. The alum, a chemical also used in municipal water treatment plants, binds with the phosphorus and sinks to the bottom of the lake, making it unavailable as a nutrient for algae.

High levels of phosphorus happen for many reasons - sometimes because of natural reasons like the makeup of the local soil or the shallowness of the lake. Runoff, including runoff with farm chemicals and manure, and lawn chemicals and clippings, all contribute to high phosphorus levels. I was not very familiar with any of this going into the meeting, since this isn't a big issue for Half Moon Lake. That doesn't mean we shouldn't create and improve buffer zones on our lakeshore. A strip of vegetation along the shoreline provides habitat for insects and critters, and discourages geese. But it also serves as a filter so soil and any chemicals are less likely to run into the lake. Of course, we should all be mindful of what chemicals we use close to the lake, but please be especially vigilant about using lawn food with no phosphorus, which is the middle number of the NPK rating.

Phosphorus is like junk food for algae causing it to grow out of control, turning out waters green, lowering water quality and even killing fish. Even big brands like Scott's make lawn fertilizer without phosphorous. So why all the diligence? The costs I heard to treat a lake ranged from \$200,000 to two million dollars. Often, treatments take place over a period of years. Alum, which is aluminum, may rise in price due to recent tariffs, making costs even more expensive. The WI DNR has grants available up to two million, but one lake home owner noted that the DNR could never have enough money to treat all the lakes.

Fortunately, our phosphorus levels are within guidelines. As usual, our Clean Boats Clean Waters program, the Weed Ranger Program and our lake board are watching for curly leaf pondweed, and Eurasian water milfoil. Sometimes trapped in those weeds are various snails and mussels. Later in this issue, I write about the encroaching danger of zebra mussels which have taken over several beautiful lakes in Minnesota. So far, we're in the clear, but I know we all want to keep it that way. I heard that natural resource personnel routinely receive calls from realtors and prospective buyers asking about the health of local lakes. Turns out healthy lakes aren't just nice to look at - they have higher property values.

Hope you have a great summer on our beautiful lake.
See you on the lake.

Kim Butler
Editor

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.

Editor's Column



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
www.halfmoonlake.net

On Facebook
search for then "Friend"
Loon Lines

Email halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com
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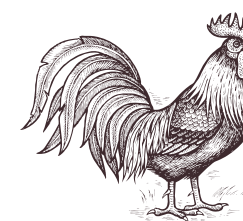
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information, don't forget to
visit our website at www.halfmoonlake.net



Upcoming Events on Half Moon Lake

4TH OF JULY EVENTS AND TIMES

Wed., July 4th **Happy 242nd Birthday to our USA!** *(No planned events)*

Sat., July 7th 10:00 a.m. **T-SHIRT TIE DYE - Public Beach**
Bring your own white cotton t-shirt.

2:00 p.m. **BOAT PARADE**
*Decorated boat parade around the lake.
Gather in south end to begin.*

Before Fireworks.. MOVIE - “Despicable Me 3” - Public Beach
*Begins before the fireworks, pauses for the fireworks show,
then finishes after. Lemonade and popcorn will be for
sale. Bring blankets, chairs, and bug spray.
Hosted by Milltown Library.*

Dusk FIREWORKS - Public Beach
Watch from the beach, your boat or dock.

Sun., July 8th 1:00 p.m. **SAILBOAT RACE**
*Open to all sailors - Meet at Rosie’s point
(Kolbjornsen’s cabin), sail north around ski
course, then south around flag, then north
to Rosie’s point.*

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting:
Saturday, July 21, 10 a.m. at the public beach. Free picnic lunch for everyone at noon!

Who Can Vote at the July 21 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.

Visit our Website www.balsamlakehardware.com
Facebook: Balsam Lake Hardware & Rental

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**Notice
2018 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 21st, 2018 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, 2019-December 31, 2019

Revenues

Tax Levy	29,225
Lottery Credit	309
Interest	87

Total Revenues 29,621

Cost of Operations

Administration-	600
Info & Education- newsletter, annual meeting and lunch	6,421
Lake Management- CBCW beach monitoring	12,800
Capital Fund-	10,000

Total Expenditures 29,8621

Non-Lapsable Capital Fund

Balance on May 21, 2018
96,907.12

Proposed 2019 Tax Levy

Operating Budget Tax Levy 29,821

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

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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.
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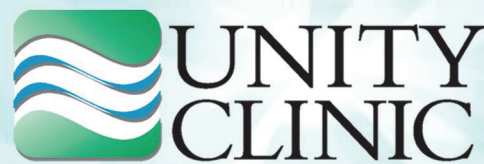
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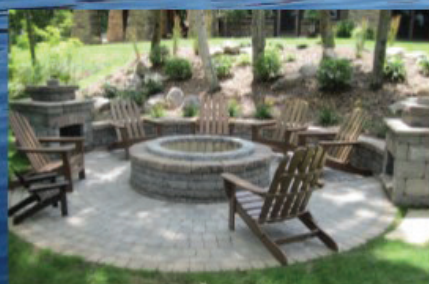


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The chrysalis stage needs to be watched closely as the metamorphosis to the butterfly happens quickly. With the container open, the monarch will sit for several hours until its wings are dry enough for it to fly. It's amazing to watch as the chrysalis is quite small and out comes a full size butterfly. We carried our plastic container back and forth from the lake just in case it emerged and needed to be released.

Taking the effort to protect a monarch caterpillar through the stages to becoming an adult butterfly not only aids in restoring the population of monarchs but can also be a fun and educational experience for you, your children, and grandchildren. Our four year old grandson knew the term "chrysalis", what it meant and explained metamorphosis to us. I was so intrigued by the caterpillar turning into the chrysalis that I spent an entire day waiting for the event to occur. In the end, it was worth the wait. Whether it's creating milkweed habitat or protecting a caterpillar through metamorphosis, any effort you make will help assure these beautiful, interesting creatures will be around for future generations to enjoy.



Why are monarchs important?

First, conserving and creating monarch habitat will help many of our pollinators.

Every third bite of food we eat comes to our table courtesy of a pollinator. Monarchs, bees and many other pollinators share much of the same habitat—so what happens to monarchs, happens to other pollinators. We need to protect all of our pollinators—the many bees, birds, bats, and other insects that provide us with pollinator-services and ultimately put food on our tables.

Do you like blueberries, strawberries, raspberries? How about watermelon, apples, bananas or squash? Chocolate?

Then thank a pollinator!

Adapted from Monarchjointventure.org

POLK COUNTY NEWS

- Polk County Supervisor Chris Nelson, whose district includes Half Moon Lake, provided an update about County Board activity over the winter.
- ATV access is now allowed to all county roads.
- A lease was signed with Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) to bring a satellite campus to the government building in downtown Balsam Lake. Classes should be starting this fall.
- A new, and long awaited, Polk County Highway Department building and garage is in its final stages and is scheduled to open in August. This is located behind Bishop Millwork on the southeast corner of the Four Corners intersection in Balsam Lake.

ANYONE ONE WITH QUESTIONS OR ISSUES THAT WANTS TO DISCUSS THEM WITH CHRIS CAN REACH HIM AT 715-557-0169

Enjoying our Monarchs

by Pat Mechelke

Several years ago, it came to our attention that the monarch butterfly numbers were decreasing due to pesticide usage, climate change, and the mowing of ditches along roadsides. These factors eradicate much of the milkweed on which monarchs not only feed, but on which they lay their eggs. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation along with the National Wildlife Federation are trying to restore the habitats by sowing milkweed seeds along roadsides and recommending that individuals create habitats in their gardens or backyards. The Fish and Wildlife agency began an “On the grounds conservation project” and will provide milkweed seeds to anyone interested and willing to create natural habitats to help save this endangered species. The US along with Canada and Mexico are hoping that this project will help restore the numbers of pollinators like monarchs. Upon hearing of this endeavor, we began gathering milkweed pods and spreading the seeds in the roadside in front of our cabin. Within a year, we had multiple milkweed plants.

The life cycle of monarch butterflies consists of four stages. They are: the egg, the larvae (caterpillar), the pupa (chrysalis), and the adult butterfly. It takes approximately five to ten days for eggs to hatch on the undersides of milkweed leaves. The larvae and pupa stages each take approximately ten to fourteen days. The number of days from eggs being laid to adult butterfly is usually about 30 days and is weather dependent.

Four generations of monarchs are produced within a one year span. Normally, the first eggs are laid by adult butterflies returning to our part of the country in May and June; this may be later this year due to Mother Nature prolonging winter! These eggs will hatch and go through the stages to become adult butterflies (generation #1) in early summer. These butterflies will lay eggs that will become butterflies later in the summer (generation #2). The eggs of the generation #2 butterflies will hatch in the fall and these butterflies (generation #3) will migrate to Mexico where they will live for 7-8 months. They will begin the migration north in about March laying eggs in the southern United States that hatch into the butterflies (generation #4) that will arrive in Wisconsin in the spring to lay more eggs and begin the whole cycle again.

If you are lucky enough to find a young caterpillar, The National Wildlife Federation encourages individuals to place it in a safe environment to ensure it grows to maturation. Only a small percentage of caterpillars left in the wild live to become butterflies. Hatching a monarch requires some effort. We have collected several young caterpillars over the past two years, placed them along with a small branch, fresh milkweed leaves, and splashes of water in a plastic container designed for kids to collect insects, frogs, snakes, etc. Fresh milkweed leaves need to be supplied during the caterpillar stage; they not only consume a lot but they excrete a ton.



Ice out on Half Moon Lake was late this year. Last year, our two pairs of territorial loons arrived right as the ice went out on March 31st. Loons usually arrive by mid-April and are on their nests by mid-May. After a 1,500 mile migration, they need time to re-energize before mating, nesting, and raising chicks. While our loons waited for ice out this year, they were competing with hundreds of other loons waiting to return to their respective lakes. Many of these loons were seen on the St. Croix River. Our first pair of loons was heard on Half Moon Lake around May 1st.

By the 12th of May, we noticed one solitary loon egg laid by a pair of loons on the north end of the lake. However, a loon was not on the nest. A week later on the 20th of May, we observed two eggs on the nest but again, no loon. Several days later, both eggs along with the nest were gone! Northland College Loon Watch had sent us an e-mail stating later ice-outs sometimes in conjunction with temperature extremes may cause black fly outbreaks around the eggs causing nest abandonment. We had seen black flies on both eggs. Loons sometimes try nesting a second time but because of the late ice out we doubted it would happen this year. Luckily, however, sometime between the 2nd and 5th of June, the pair on the north end of the lake were on their nest again.

Once again, my husband and I were fortunate to observe a unique loon behavior. Last year, we were fortunate to be kayaking when both baby loons on the north end of the lake left their nest for the first time. This year, while kayaking we saw two loons towards the south end of the lake engaging in their subtle way of attracting a mate. The two loons were swimming in circles within several feet of each other while dipping their bills and heads in the lake. Around and around they went heads dipping up and down. We observed this on June 5th, but as of June 12th the pair is still on the south end of the lake but has not yet gone to nest.

We will continue to monitor both pairs of territorial loons as the summer progresses. PLEASE, please be watchful of the loons when boating and jet skiing on the north end of the lake this 4th of July weekend. It takes about 28 days for eggs to hatch, placing the possible birth of chicks very close to the 1st of July. If we're lucky enough to have chicks, they will be very vulnerable those first couple of weeks. Please use the 200 ft. rule when observing the loons and keep that distance from them. rs of loons that we and future generations can enjoy.

Pat Mechelke – Loon Ranger

FUN FACTS ABOUT LOONS:

- **Within the first twelve weeks of life, imprinting on the type of lake and its location occurs as the loon grows from chick to juvenile fledgling. This is why many of them find their way home to the lake they were born on when they mature.**
- **The Common loon swallows most of its prey underwater. The loon has sharp, rearward pointing projections on the roof of its mouth and tongue that help it keep a firm hold on slippery fish.**
- **A loon family can eat a lot of fish. Biologists estimate that loon parents and their two chicks can eat about a half-ton of fish over a fifteen week period. That's about 9.5 lbs. per day.**
- **Loons, unlike most birds, have solid bones making them less buoyant and better at diving. They quickly blow air out of their lungs and flatten their feathers to expel air within their plumage so they can dive quickly and swim fast underwater. Once underwater, the loon's heart slows down to conserve oxygen.**
- **Loons have been known to live at least 24 years.**
- **Enjoy the many calls of our loons and have a great summer on Half Moon.**

10 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 floatation device when on board any vessel.

Certain parts of the lake are very shallow with many rocks. Ask your neighbors where and it might save expensive lower unit repairs.

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

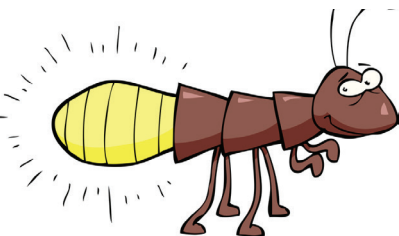
Please keep jet skis and other boats out of the Slalom course. If you'd like to learn the correct way to navigate the slalom course, ask one of the Mastercraft owners: Alex Trapp, Warren Smallidge, Dan Hale, or Rick Miller. If you knock a ski buoy off, please put on one their docks.

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.



19 In Loving Memory

MARLYS SAAD

Michelle Nelson and Terry McLaughlin write that their mom Marlys Saad passed away peacefully on April 9th, 2018. She and their dad Louie were long- time residents of Half Moon Lake. The sisters write,

“ Our parents, bought a little cabin on Half Moon Lake in 1959. I can recall, my dad coming home from work and mom would have the station wagon packed ready for the weekend at the lake. They enjoyed that cabin on the weekends until 1972 when they built a new cabin just next door to the original. In 1991 they moved to the lake as a permanent home. That was a dream come true. They were very social people and created lifelong friendships with lake neighbors. The 4th of July festivities were always an anticipated highlight of every summer. They both had their turns as King and Queen of the Breezy Bay Gang. To live on Half Moon Lake, raise your kids in a ski club, to fish, jet ski, boat, swim and sunbathe, tire swing, naps in the hammock, snowmobile, ice fish and ice skate, created so many wonderful memories.

We will always be so thankful for their wonderful memories. Now to try to live up to them and pass on their love and fun spirit to the future generations.”

~ ~ ~

FRANK HALE, father of Dan Hale, passed away as this issue was going to print. Below is his obituary. Burleigh F. “Frank” HALE Jr. passed away unexpectedly June 11, 2018. Frank was preceded in death by parents Burl and Helen; brother Steve; in-laws Wally and Marvel Gretsfield. Survived by loving wife of 45 yrs. Bonnie; daughter Jenny (Roland) Nisben; son Dan; grandchildren Max and Abby; siblings Mike (Dorothy), and Patti Quimby. A Gathering in memory of Frank was held June 19th at Oakdale Discovery Center, Oakdale, MN.



Marlys and Louie Saad and family

SPOTTERS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR WATER SKIING

Spotters are no longer required to tow a water skier as long as a boat is equipped with a wide angle rear view mirror. In March, 2018 Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker signed a bill allowing boats to tow skiers with either a spotter OR a wide rear view mirror. So it is no longer essential to find a third person when you and a friend want to go out on the lake. This is similar to the Minnesota law. There is not a specification as to how large the mirror should be. Experts note that while experienced skiers are safe without a spotter, newer and younger skiers might benefit from the added oversight of a competent spotter. Lake conditions might also warrant using a spotter in addition to a mirror. A busy Saturday afternoon with lots of boats, paddle boards and kayaks, and jet skis is a different situation from a calm, quiet early morning ski with few boats on the lake. Towing an experienced skier is different than driving a boat while teaching your child to ski.



THE FOLLOWING LAWS REMAIN ON THE BOOKS:

- No water skiing between sunset and sunrise.
- Boats towing a skier may not come within 100 feet of any occupied anchored boat, any personal watercraft (PWC), or any marked swimming area or public boat landing
- A PWC cannot tow a skier unless the craft is designed for at least 3 people and one is a spotter.

PWC (JET SKI) RULES

- PWCs must stay at a Slow/No Wake Speed within 100 feet of any other vessel or dock, pier, raft or any restricted area, like a swim beach. Some drivers consistently buzz docks. You are within your rights to take a picture and send it the the Sheriff. However, longtime residents of the lake have recommended that we don't involve law enforcement if it can be handled "neighbor to neighbor." PWC must also go SLOW/NO Wake within 200 feet of shore.
- PWC's must stay 100 feet away from any boat towing a skier, tube, wakeboard or other device. They must also stay 100 away from the person being towed.
- Chasing, harassing or disturbing wildlife with a PWC is against the law. This includes circling loons while on a jet ski.

Adapted from the 2018 Handbook of WI Boating Laws

Kids Water Ski Day

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

Saturday, August 4 • 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 to see if more than 14 kids
Second Pull - Bigger kids

SPREAD THE WORD!

For more information, contact Jim Smith
at jimsmt@lakeland.ws

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.

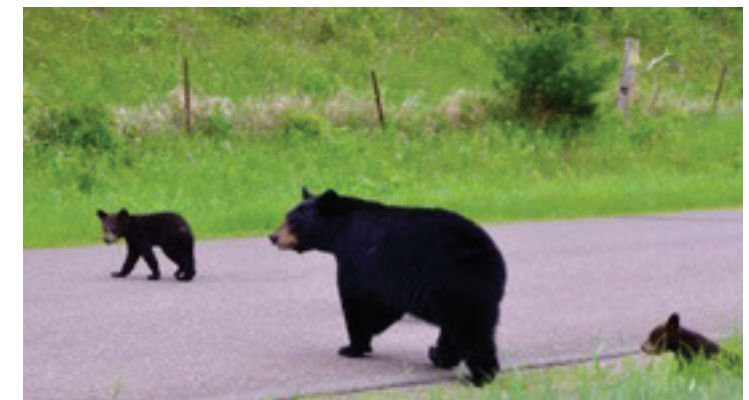
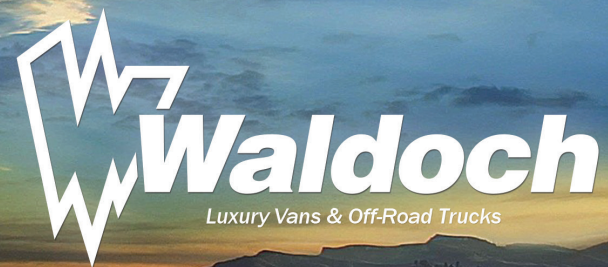


Photo by Cheryl Crofoot Knapp

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FIBER OPTIC UPDATE

You've probably noticed the pairs of bright orange posts along the side of our road, or maybe you have had workers digging trenches on your road. For the past couple years, Lakeland Communications has been working hard to install fiber optic cables to provide phone, high speed internet and cable television in our area. Some folks around the lake are clamoring to get the fiber installed, dreaming of faster, more reliable internet. Everyone around the lake who has had lines plowed in should be connected at their house by September or so.

Fiberoptic is the fastest residential internet technology available. It offers speeds far beyond DSL or cable.

The installation work Lakeland has been doing is free to all homeowners, regardless of whether you are phone or internet customer. The company will plow the lines to your house and test and check them. If you haven't had lines plowed yet, you should do this even if you don't currently have, or want, internet or phone service at your cabin. At this point, putting the lines in is free, but if you don't do it now, it will cost over \$5 a foot to do it in the future. When you sell your cabin, this could be a detriment. Future owners will probably want this service, so it makes sense to do it now when installation is free to the homeowner. If you haven't had lines plowed to your house, please call Lakeland's Milltown office, 715-825-2171.

Once lines are installed from the road to the house, the lines are spliced and tested at your house. The next step is bringing the lines into your house, get the fiber up and running and install a new equipment. Once the inside installation is done, you will be operating on fiber optic speed, able to download and stream at cutting edge speeds. Installation has been moving from south, on 190th Ave, north along 120th, and then west on G. Work is currently happening on Breezy Bay Road.

Lakeland has a new 6 month package designed for lake residents which provides internet service from April through November. You pay for 6 months and October is free. It automatically turns on April 1 and shuts off the end of October.



NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Sadly, the nationwide methamphetamine and opioid addiction crisis are going strong in Polk County. In fact, Polk County has one of the highest rates of meth crimes in the state. I asked Polk County Sheriff Pete Johnson to update us on what this means for our lake area:

"As a general matter we are seeing an uptick in property crimes within the county as a whole. Many of them are directly related to drug use and abuse and the majority of that would be methamphetamine use. I can't say Balsam Lake and Milltown are being hit any harder than any other part of the county, but these things generally go in clusters. When one area gets hit, several places in the area are involved. It stops either when we catch someone, or they move to another area.

Obviously we rely heavily on assistance by residents and homeowners. We need you all to be aware of who should be in your communities and who is out of place. When something or someone seems out of place we want you to gather information (vehicle plates, color, make, model, location, driver description, etc.) and call us at 715-485-8300. We'll send someone to the area to check the situation out. We have to cover 934 square miles and have limited staff, so some responses may take longer than others depending on the priority of pending calls or from where the deputy is coming from."



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ICONIC MASTERCRAFT RETURNS TO THE LAKE

A boat synonymous with water skiing through the 1990s and an icon on Half Moon Lake for the last 25 years has made its way back to the lake. Here's a bit of history of the boat, and it's owner.

Warren Smallidge Sr was an avid water skier and a member of the Mastercraft promotional team for several years in the 80s and 90s. According to an article written by his wife Karen, Warren Sr. started skiing on the lake as a youngster at his parents cabin in 1956, on a pair of wide Sears double jumpers. The first slalom course was made from 6 inner tubes, each one folded in half and folded in half again, and tied to form a ball. The six balls were secured in the water, three on each side.

Karen's article continued, "The Half Moon Lake Surf Riders Water Ski Club was formed in 1961 with Bob Lennartson as the first president. The skiers practiced on Saturdays and put on several shows at the public beach for the Lake Association's Annual Picnic. Highlights of the shows included a chorus line, water ski jumping, trick skiing, pyramid, skiing on a canoe paddle, saucer, clowns (Arnie Moen and Ray Schlemmer), doubles routine, 360 around the boat on a slalom ski, and barefoot skiing. At one of the shows Bob Lennartson put on his downhill snow skis and water skied.

At another show, the chorus line of girls decided to sew a large white letter on the back of their red outfits spelling "hello" to the crowd. As fate would have it, Karen Smallidge fell getting up and she was picked up and put on the wrong end of the line. Thus the girls greeted the crowd with "o hell"!!!

A five foot water ski jump, purchased by Jim Smith and Warren was hauled to the lake. Going up and over the jump was sure to get your heart pounding rapidly and when you learned to land a jump it was really exciting. In today's water ski shows, skiers have both hands free when building pyramids or doing doubles routines because they wear belts to which the tow rope is attached. In the 60s, the skiers had to hold the tow rope with one hand and use the other hand to assist a skier up onto their shoulders. It took strength and coordination.

The first regulation water ski course was set up on the south end of the lake in 1966. Each of the six skier buoys was placed by using three ropes of specific lengths to form a triangle. Three swimmers held the ends of two ropes to form the triangle in the water. The anchor, subfloat and buoy were dropped in.

In 1988, the slalom course was moved to the north end of the lake. This time the course was measured on the ice. Augers were used to make the holes to drop the anchors and subfloats in. Buoys were attached in early summer. The challenge of the slalom course is the speed and the rope length. First, you increase the speed every time you make 6 buoys. When you reach a maximum specified speed for your age, you start shortening the rope.

Warren Sr. was a self taught skier, experimenting with slalom, trick and jump until he'd figured out a new trick or mastered a faster speed in the slalom course. He became a Wisconsin Chief Water Ski Judge and was in charge of many tournaments over the years. Several of his children went on to compete as well.

Warren's kids recalled the time their dad wanted to see how many water skiers he could pull up with his Mastercraft tournament water ski boat. Twelve skiers were successfully pulled up after being dragged, and dragged, and dragged through the water. Two more skiers were transferred from another boat and the lake record was set at fourteen! This tradition continues every summer on the first Saturday in August. Look for another article in this issue detailing the specifics.

The last boat Warren St. bought was the 1993 Stars and Stripes 25th anniversary edition. The boat could be seen regularly on the lake pulling all the Smallidge kids and grandkids water skiing. The boat was sold in 2013. Warren Smallidge Sr passed in 2014. Last year the Smallidge family had an opportunity to purchase the boat back. The family purchased the boat and brought it back to Half Moon Lake, where it belongs. The family is looking to keep the boat on the lake and is looking for a family that may be interested in purchasing it. The boat is in incredible condition and has 1100 hours on the engine. Asking \$14,500. Contact Warren Smallidge Jr. at: Warren.Smallidge@AndersenCorp.com



1993 Mastercraft "STARS & STRIPES"



Water ski enthusiasts Warren Smallidge and the Smiths back in the day

14 Zebra Mussels Inching Closer to Moon Lake

HOW TO PREVENT THEIR ARRIVAL

by Kim Butler

WHAT DO DANDELIONS, ASIAN LADY BEETLES, AND NIGHTCRAWLERS HAVE IN COMMON?

They are all invasive species, some of which were brought over from other countries quite innocently. For example, French immigrants prized dandelions, the USDA imported asian lady beetles in the 1970s to devour aphids that were destroying pecan trees, and carp was brought over in the 1880s as a food source. But if you've ever tried to get rid of buckthorn or purple loosestrife, you know that once established in an area with no natural predators, a non native species can run amuck. The Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Board continually monitors our lake for the presence of eurasian milfoil, as does the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. But a new invasive species threat is present for western WI and MN - zebra mussels. These fingernail-sized yellow and brown striped mollusks attach to surfaces with byssal threads. They spread across the lake bottom and become a physical nuisance. But they also feed on the plankton that young fish eat, competing with fish (like the walleye fingerlings we stock) for food. What's more, zebra mussels might also improve conditions for growth of aquatic plants including eurasian water milfoil.

A single adult zebra mussel was found in Deer Lake in 2016, and fortunately, even with extensive monitoring by multiple agencies, no other mussels have been found. However, Big McKenzie in Burnett and Washburn Counties, Bass Lake in St. Croix County, and the St. Croix River south of Stillwater all have zebra mussel infestations, so vigilance is needed to make sure Half Moon Lake isn't affected.

HOW DOES AN INFESTATION HAPPEN?

Over the past three decades, at least 20 non native species of aquatic plants and animals have hitchhiked their way in to the northern midwest in bilge or ballast water, on boats and motors, or in bait buckets. Zebra mussels were introduced into Lake Superior in ballast water from transcontinental ships. These mollusks coat every hard surface they find underwater: docks, boats, rocks, boat lifts. They also coat plants. In recent years, years zebra mussels have shown up in the Mississippi River, Lake Minnetonka Gull, Prior, Pelican, and Forest Lakes in Minnesota.



Directly west in Lake Mille Lacs they are covering the entire bottom of the lake. In some spots, not a single rock is still visible. In 2005, when they were first found, a series of about 60 dives turned up only 3 other mussels. 12 years later, in 2017, a diver counted 3,720 in a single heavily infested square foot. Their incredible spread is one reason why they are being monitored so closely in area lakes.

Ducks, loons and other animals are not responsible for the transport of invasive species. Almost all new infestations are the result of people unknowingly carrying plant fragments or microscopic larvae of invasives as they move boats, trailers, bait and docks.

A female zebra mussel can produce as many as 500,000 eggs a year. The eggs develop into microscopic larvae called veligers which can be inadvertently transported in boat buckets and bilge water. The mussels can also cause boat motors to overheat (see sidebar)

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT ZEBRA MUSSELS FROM COMING TO HALF MOON LAKE?

If you purchase a used dock or lift, leave it out of water for 21 days to kill any organisms before placing it in another body of water like our lake.

Do not dump live bait into lakes, on the shore, or on the ground.

Rinse boats and livewells with hot water or dry at least 5 days to kill zebra mussels

Never release aquarium plants or animals into the environment, including down a toilet or drain.

August, September and October are important times to search for zebra mussels in their full form. A citizen found the mussel in Deer Lake, If you see something unusual, please call the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department.

15 PROTECT YOUR BOAT AND ENGINE FROM ZEBRA MUSSELS

Is your boat protected against zebra mussels? Do you know what to do?

Unfortunately, some boat owners are seeing and feeling the damage caused by zebra mussels first hand. Their boat hulls are being damaged and their motors are overheating because they do not know how to minimize the impacts zebra mussels can cause. These small invasive mussels attach to hard surfaces including boats and motors! There are simple and proactive steps owners may implement to protect their investment and prevent the spread of invasive species into more of Wisconsin's waters.

Proper boat hull, engine maintenance and cleaning are key to saving thousands of dollars in repair costs resulting from damage caused by zebra mussels. Juvenile and adult zebra mussels have the ability to attach to many different types of substrate including fiberglass, aluminum, wood, and steel. This ability to attach decreases fuel efficiency and damages the boat's finish. Their larvae (called veligers) are extremely small – too small to see without a microscope. When veligers are present in the water they can be drawn into engine passages or can move into them on their own.

Use a boatlift to completely remove the watercraft from the water. Boat lifts prevent the attachment of zebra mussels by lifting the boat out of the water when it is not being used.

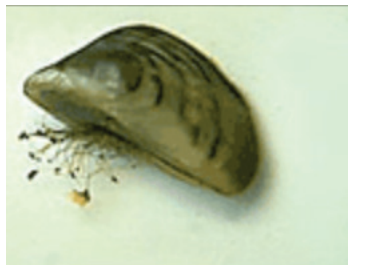
Use your boat. If boats are left moored in zebra mussel infested waters run the engine at least twice a week at slow speeds (about 4-1/2 mph) for 10 to 15 minutes. The hot water will kill the zebra mussels in your engine's cooling systems. Keep an eye on your engine temperatures – if you notice an increase, it may mean that zebra mussels are clogging your cooling system. Immediately inspect the system inside and out, and remove any zebra mussels disposing of them in the trash.

Lift the motor out of the water between uses if mooring. By lifting the motor out of the water you will reduce the chances of zebra mussels colonizing the intake grate. Fully discharge any water that may still remain in the lower portion of the cooling system as this water may contain veligers.

Rinse boat and equipment. Adult zebra mussels should be removed from your boat, trailer, and equipment by hand (whenever possible) and discarded in the trash before rinsing the boat. Boats and equipment may be pressure washed to remove veligers and juvenile zebra mussels. Biologists who have studied zebra mussels recommend using high-pressure hot water to remove and kill zebra mussels that are attached to your boat hull (use water >104 degrees F if possible). It is okay to use high-pressure cold water if hot water is not available. Avoid pressure washing classic and wooden boats that are not made of metal. For these boats, manually remove plant and animal materials, drain all water, and dry in the sun for 5 days.

PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO PREVENT THE TRANSPORT OF ZEBRA MUSSELS AND OTHER AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TO NEW WATERS:

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment.
- Drain all water from your motor, livewell, bilge, transom, etc.
- Dispose of unused bait in the trash.
- Wash your boat and equipment with hot and/or high pressure water, particularly if moored for more than one day, OR
- Dry your boat and equipment thoroughly (in the sun) for five days.



Written by: Amy Bellows, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Special thanks to Doug Jensen MN Sea Grant and Chuck O'Neill NY Sea Grant for reviewing and providing technical information for this article