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THANK YOU!

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FALL 2016



Loon Lings

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



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Letter from the Chair

by JOHN WEBER



Hello everyone,

Once again our summer is pretty much done, now we can enjoy fall colors along with (all of the end of season) projects, like docks out, clean up leaves, etc. I trust all had a good season, we surely did, for us it finally included "a many times previously canceled" Alaska trip.

For those of you who were not able to attend our annual meeting, all seems to have gone well. There are a number of reports in the Loon Lines. We did have a good attendance with plenty of food, including leftovers. A special thanks to Randy and Sherri Walker for providing the A&W root beer. IT WAS A HIT! And that did run out. Add attending next year to your to do list.

Every year there are a few mailings returned, this year seemed more than usual, so I spent a lot of time reconciling the county mailing list with our publishers' mailing list and our own lake shore map. One of the things going on, is that there are quite a few new owners in the past several years. The county updates their records only once per year, depending on when we request a mailing list it might be a year behind. Also some properties are residences, some are seasonal, some have multiple owners, some are owned by trusts, some are managed by another entity. Keeping this current is challenging and time consuming. We try very hard, but also need every one to keep their information current. If corrections or updates are needed, please contact a board member. (Contact info in Loon Lines) Thanks for your help and understanding.

At this time I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new neighbors, and as time goes by, getting to know all of you. It's good to see all of the sprucing up and improvements, we are all committed to (broken record here) our special place.

Sincerely
John N Weber



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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CHEESY BAKED CABBAGE

Serves 6

1 large cabbage, cut into 6 wedges, keeping the core intact. Parboil cabbage, then remove core.

Place in greased casserole dish. Mix 1 jar of Cheese Whiz and 1 can of cream of mushroom soup. Pour over cabbage wedges.

Bake 30-45 minutes at 350, or until hot and bubbly. This can be made the day ahead.



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Township Report

Milltown Township

Our maintenance crew has put the plows on the trucks so another season draws to a close. This summer, we had the most "lost animal" calls and firework complaints that I can remember. But all else was pretty quiet. Hope everyone has a great winter and we will see you next spring.

by Harlen Hegdal, Chairman, Milltown Township



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Editor's Column

by Pat McMahon and Diane Erickson
Newsletter Editors



We know that the saying goes "the older you get, the faster time goes" - and it sure seems true for summertime! It's hard to believe that another wonderful summer at Half Moon Lake has wrapped up, with much fun had by so many - boating, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, wake surfing, tubing - and just relaxing in a hammock, listening to the sounds of summer and enjoying a beautiful view of our lake!

The fall season is upon us, with the leaves already turning, and many acorns and pine cones fallen from the trees. Many boats, docks and lifts are already out of the lake as many have closed up their cabins for winter. Yes, it's sad to see the summer season ended, but always gives us much anticipation for next summer!

This fall season is also seeing a transition for the newsletter. Our terms for editing the Loon Lines is ending, and we will be turning over that responsibility to Kim Butler - please see the article on her in this issue. We have had a great time preparing the Loon Lines for all of you, and know Kim will continue to get us great information in future issues!

We hope to see everyone around the lake next season! We also hope everyone enjoys the holidays and has a great winter!

- Pat and Diane

www.halfmoonlake.net



HELLO LAKE NEIGHBORS

I am excited to take over this wonderful newsletter from Pat and Diane, who have done a great job with it for multiple years. I appreciate all their work to keep us informed and entertained by the activities and beauty of our lake. I first came to Half Moon Lake in 1995, and married into the Butler/McMahon clan. My husband David has come to the lake since he was born, and my mother in law, Mary Martha McMahon Butler, has been coming here since the 1930s.

David and I moved up here full time from Minneapolis in 2001 where I had been a tv and video producer. My husband owns the Milltown based specialty flooring company, Greatmats.com (profiled later in this issue.) I write content for him and do a variety of volunteer work, as well as raise our two kids who went through Unity school, and now both attend high school in St. Croix Falls. Our cabin is on Breezy Bay Road, and a comfy chair on my screen porch qualifies as my "Happy Place," where I watch the water sparkle, listen to the loons, and spy on our resident Great Blue Heron. We have a shorter "commute" to our cabin than most of you, but its' proximity makes it no less special. I look forward to meeting more of you, hearing your story ideas, and seeing your great photos.

Till Spring

- Kim



LOON REPORT

Half Moon Lake has seen another successful season of 2 loon chicks surviving all of their predators and growing almost as large as the adults! The loon couple from the south end of the lake and their chicks seem to have left the lake already, though it is unusual for the chicks to leave as early as the adults. The adult pair on the north end of the lake are still swimming around, but expect to see them leave soon!

Half Moon Lake Conservancy Report:

"Take a walk on the Harder Creek Trail"

by David Butler

If you are looking for a fall walk in the woods to take in the changing colors, or want to see the work of the beavers who have created valuable wetlands with their dams along Harder creek, I suggest you take a walk on the Harder Creek Trail. To get there, exit County Road G at Dau Drive and it will take you to a sign designating the trail. The trail is on property owned by the Half Moon Lake Conservancy and is maintained by volunteers like John Weber who has mowed the trail three times this summer. In a couple years the recently planted native wild flower garden will add to the attraction of the trail. Dave Balestri told the Lake District board recently that he and his family have enjoyed the Harder Creek trail many times this summer. Take time to sit on the bench installed by Hunter Johnson and other eagle scouts from his boy scout troop and take in a view of the wetlands.

Fishing Report

by John Briegel

As another summer draws to a close we all look back and wonder how the summer could possibly be over already!

From what I have gathered, the fishing has been fairly brisk this year. Reports of decent catches of panfish and even some walleye have come down to me. As many of you know, I don't seem to find the time or don't make time to fish, but I applaud those of you who love it. It's a great way to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our beautiful lake.

Our lake was stocked with approximately 5000 walleye fingerlings last fall (2015), and will be stocked again in the fall of 2017. Hopefully this process will ultimately be successful in bringing our walleye population back up to where it should be again.

Good luck to all on the water this fall and winter. See you next spring!



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. Please join us in July for Family Movie and Fireworks Display at our beach.

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



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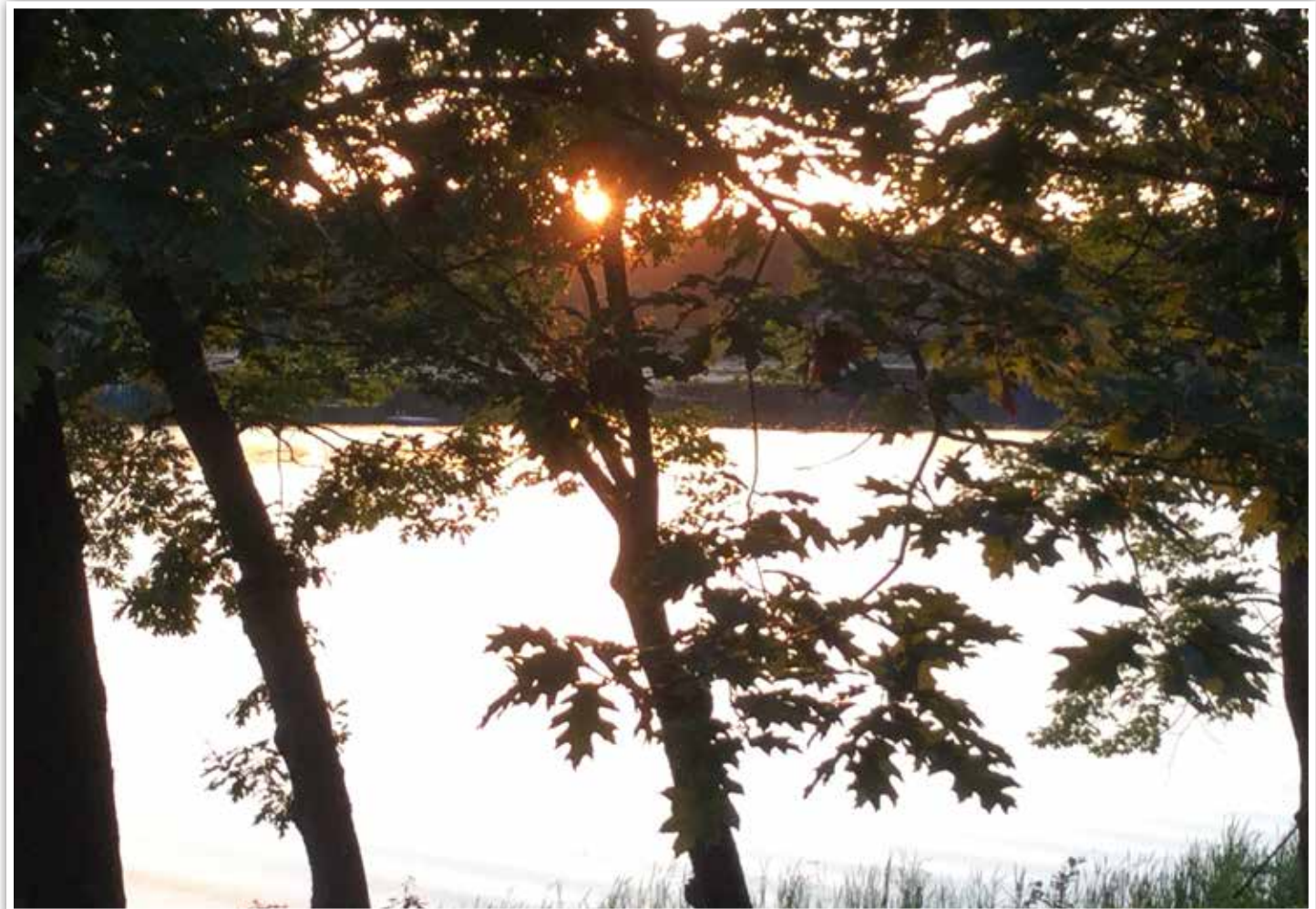
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The History Corner

by David Butler



Few people around Half Moon Lake get memorialized, but we do have Oscar Lane, Baldwin Bay, Nelson Bay and now we will have a memorial to honor Ida Hines, better known as the lady with the purple phlox on the hill. Ida died a few years ago and Sandra and Patrick Tokach purchased the house with the phlox. They tore the house down and built the beautiful log cabin. Sandra and Patrick read about Ida in the Half Moon Lake History book and to do something nice to remember her, they decided to restore the phlox on the hillside and add to the purple phlox a plaque to honor Ida. Also, out of respect for Ida, they have implanted into the first floor of the new house, the 3' by 3' gravity furnace grate from Ida's house in a way that the light from the skylight above, shines into the house, down through the grate, and into the basement. I asked Sandra why they are doing this for Ida and she answered, "We like history and we want to be a part of the community spirit." In our best spirit, we welcome the Tokach family to the lake community. Sandra's brother Clayton George and his wife Peggy are building the house next door.

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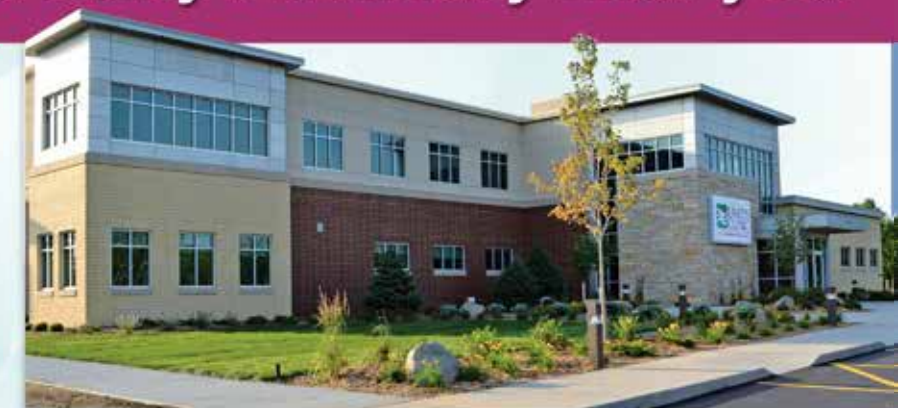
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Ask the Expert!

Angie Nelson
Balsam Lake Hardware



Every year we at Balsam Lake Hardware are asked how to make the lawn look better? So I thought I would take some time and put some ideas out there for you and help you to an easier better lawn. Remember, weeds are opportunists and will take advantage of any weakness to run wild.

The best way to maintain a weed free lawn is to have strong healthy grass. To do that, you have to care for roots, stem, and top of your grass. When the ground becomes too compacted and hard, the rain will run off along with all the nutrients that your grass may need. This may also happen if the old grass that has been cut is left to thick on the lawn and creates thatch. A little bit of thatch is ok; it is organic material that will help your soil; when thatch becomes too thick, it also allows rain to run off. Once thatch is over a ½ thick, your grass will start to become weak.

There are 2 ways to remove this by dethatching or aerating. This can be accomplished by using either a dethatching rake to scratch the surface of your lawn or a power rake which will do the same thing only motorized.

Or using a plug aerator which is wheeled across the lawn and actually pulls plugs of soil out of your lawn. This method is less stressful on your lawn and it allows the air, water and fertilizer to easily reach the roots. In return your grass will become stronger and healthier and the weeds less able to grow. It is best to do this when the grass is growing most vigorously.

Both of these pieces of equipment are available to rent at Balsam Lake Hardware. It is recommended that this is done anywhere from yearly for lawns in poor shape to once every 3 to 5 years.




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Memories of Half Moon Lake

– by Jim Smith, “Mayor” of Half Moon Lake

Jim’s Uncle Fred Barr built his cabin and boathouse around 1935 (now Waldoch’s). His mom would visit Half Moon Lake (HML) as she was growing up and stay with Uncle Fred. He was pals with Oscar Johnson. Jim’s first trip to HML was around 1950, when he was 6 years old. The family would spend two weeks at his Uncle Fred’s every summer. Fred was a bee keeper, had bees at HML, and was the person you saw in the Bee Cage at the MN State Fair every year.

Oscar Johnson would give kids rides to the Old Half Moon Store in the rumble seat of his Model A for penny bubble gum. You could catch a boatload of walleyes or sunfish 24 hours a day. If you wanted fish, they were always caught fresh. Mom and Dad eventually acquired Fred’s cabin, and Waldoch’s are on part of his property with the lagoon and boathouse. Mom was the person that suggested the name Oscar Lane in memory of Oscar Johnson. Dad, Ken Briegel, and Uncle Fred installed cables in the lake in the 50’s to keep the bogs from breaking loose from the backwaters by the beach. The bogs float down the lake and damage docks. Some were big enough to play on as they floated around the lake.

When I came up to the lake, if you saw Tom Lennartson, you saw me. Tom and I would swim back and forth, and he always had his dog swimming next to him. Some of the kids we hung around with were Craig Johnson, Warren Smallidge, Jane Brodie (Swanson), Sarah Sawyer, and others. HML was just way too much fun, and I couldn’t get enough of it.

Years ago, you could watch an outdoor movie in Milltown behind the Hardware Store. The first 6 or 7 cars to arrive got the parking spots and saw the movie. There was an old racetrack north of Milltown to watch jalopy races every week. We’d sit on old car seats and watch the mud fly. (I’d guess this is when the obsession with the cars started, and it’s out of control in 2016.)

Around 1960, dad brought a boat with 60 HP Mercury to HML. What? 60 HP? At the time, everyone had 35 HP Johnsons and Evenrudes, and that’s when the waterski / fisherman battle started. Eventually, everyone got used to the bigger motors. We had unlimited boat gas at 20 cents a gallon so you could waterski sunrise to sunset.

(cont’d p. 10)

The slalom course has been in the lake since about 1959. Bob and Tom Lennartson, Warren Smallidge, and others maintained it for many years. All the necessary Wisconsin State Permits have been in place since the early '70s, and the ski course was recently named 'Warren's Run' in memory of Warren Smallidge. His grandkids are probably the most active skiers on the lake. These days, Dan Hale, Alex Trapp, and Rick Miller do most of the maintenance and work. It's fun to watch skiers in the course practice.

The Smallidge kids waterskied and qualified for the State, Regionals, and skied in the Nationals. They have many awards. Chris and Stacia Bank wake surf at the World's Tournament and have won at all levels. Compare it to the gold medal at the Olympics. Their kids are following in their wake. HML is recognized and represented worldwide in waterskiing and wake surfing. Thanks everyone.

There was a Ski Club years ago. Warren and I would spend time teaching the kids how to waterski and drive boats. Many have brought their kids around and told them that Warren and I taught them how to waterski when they were kids. I taught Boating and Snowmobile Safety for the DNR, was a Special Polk County Deputy for Water Patrol for years, and was Safety Director for the Wisconsin Waterski Association for a few years. Waterskiing and boating have always been a huge part of life on HML. We now have 23 MasterCrafts on HML in 2016.

Four Native Americans spearing early in the spring in the early 90's were saved when their 10' John Boat capsized. Pam Armstrong thought she heard someone hollering for help. The MasterCraft was the first boat in the lake in the spring, and the water temperature was 38 degrees. It was cold and super windy. Steve Hillesheim and I went on the lake, stopped the boat and heard them screaming for help. We pulled them in the boat, took them to the house, and called 911. We had ambulances and police in the driveway with lights flashing, and Matt and Rick slept through the whole ordeal. We were later informed that the two had very low core temperatures and wouldn't have made it much longer. Everything turned out okay, but we could have had our first drownings on HML. Timing is everything!

July 4th weekend is always fun. Movie and fireworks at the beach, boat parade with the water fight. Gislasons are always in costume and bring their 'A-Game' for the water balloon fight. The Kids Waterski Day is always



the 1st Saturday in August in memory of Warren. Around 1988, we skied 14 behind a MasterCraft and have never had enough people to do it again. Harley Kruger (KDawgFilmz) has posted a number of fun HML videos on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/KDawgFilmz>.

I knew early on (before I was 10), that this is where I was going to live someday. Sandy loved the lake, and we were married 38 years ago on the front lawn at the north end house. Our first house was built about 1972 on the north end and the current home in 1991. What a great place to raise our sons, Matt and Rick. They could ski with Sandy every day in the summer. Our kids grew up water skiing and snowmobiling on Half Moon, and they graduated from Unity. Sandy retired as a teacher from Turtle Lake. Matt and Katie have Wesley and Annie. Rick and Krystle have Genevieve and Caroline, and the grandkids (ages 2 and 4) carry on our love of the lake. Just ask one of the grandkids to leave to go home, and you'll get a lot of resistance. They want to be with Grandma Sandy at Half Moon so they can swim and play in the lake!

The phone would often ring with people asking questions about the lake. I guess they thought I knew something. Somewhere along the line, residents started calling me the "Mayor" as a joke, and it stuck. I guess I'm the Honorary Mayor. Does anyone want the job?

Keep the fun button up because you never know when it will end. Enjoy Half Moon, and protect it for your kids and grandkids. We are all living the dream with the best kept secret in Polk County – Half Moon Lake. It's good to be me, and so nice to have lived full time on HML for over 45 years!

Calendar of Events

AMERY COMMUNITY CLUB

OCTOBER
HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST
 Saturday, October 29, 2016
 Business Trick or Treat 1-3 pm

NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS PUNCH
 Kick-off: November 1st
 Get a punch for every \$10 spent locally - weekly drawings

LIGHT UP THE TOWN
 Tuesday, November 22, 2016
 6 pm Lighted Parade
 6:30 Lighting/Soo Line Park

ANNUAL CHILI FEED
 Tuesday, November 22, 2016
 5 pm - Goodwill Offering
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EARLY BIRD SHOPPING
 Friday, November 25, 2016
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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
 Saturday, November 26, 2016

DECEMBER
PICTURES WITH SANTA
 Friday, Dec. 2, 4pm-6pm
 Saturday, Dec. 3, 9am-12pm
 Bremer Bank, photos by Cahill

HOLIDAY STROLL
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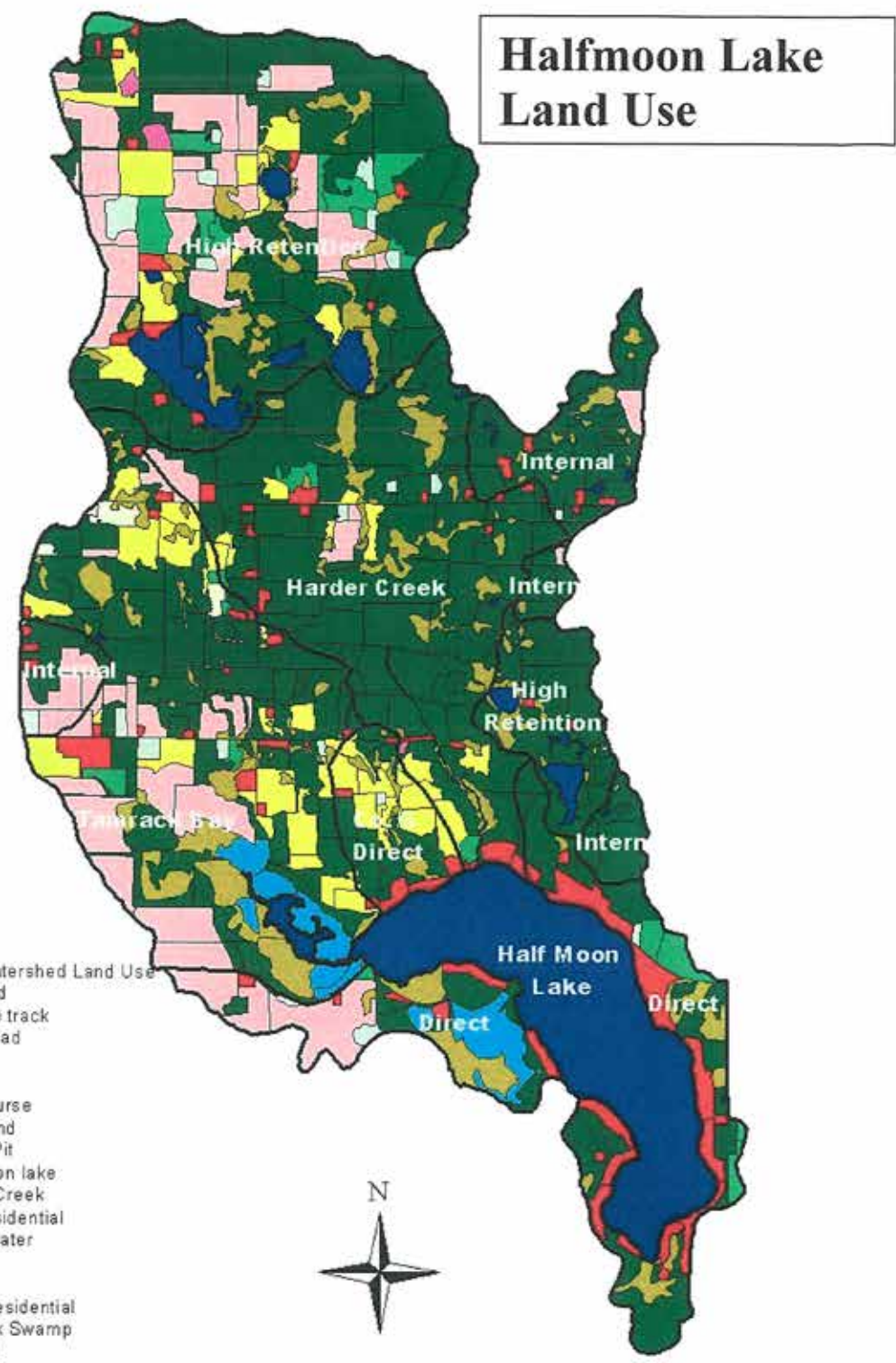
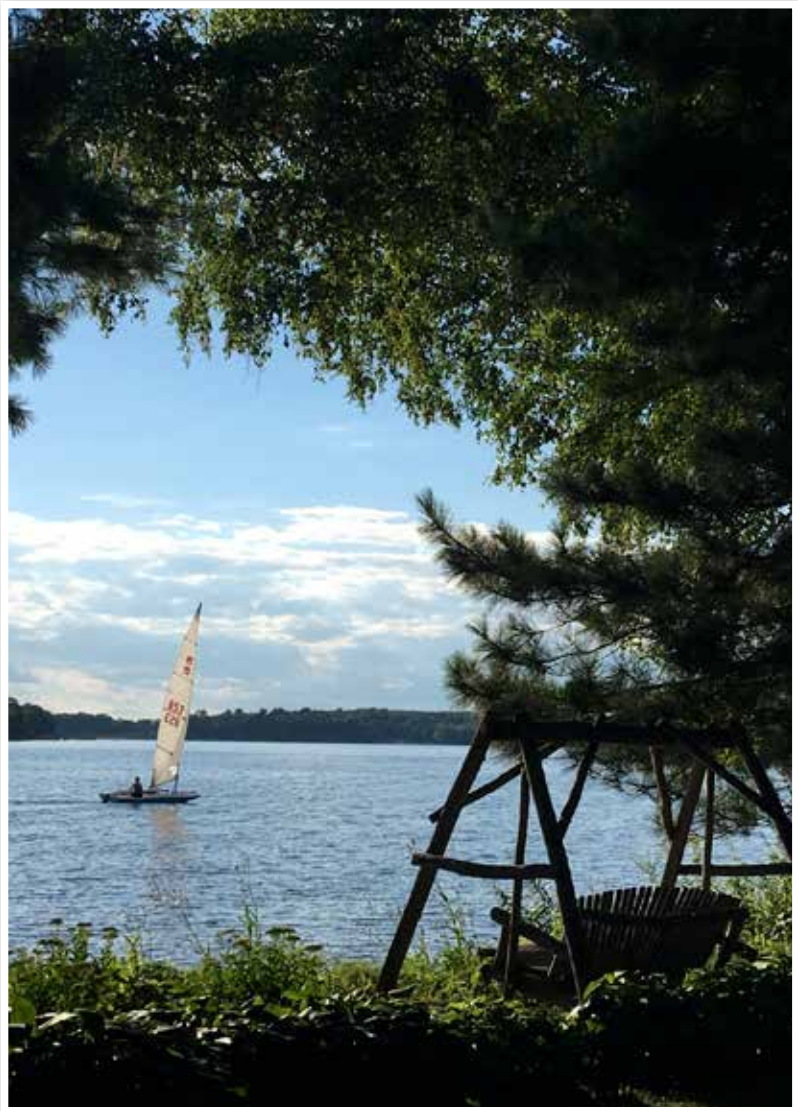


Figure 3: Halfmoon Lake watershed land uses.²

² Map prepared by Dave Peterson, Polk County Land and Water Conservation Dept.



Charlie assisting the DNR by giving away towels educating the public how to protect our lake from invasive species.



Beaver *A Keystone species**

Next to humans, no other living animal appears to do more to change the landscape in which it lives.

The beaver is the largest rodent in North America. Adults range from 35 to 46 inches long, including a flattened 12- to 18-inch tail, and weigh 45 to 65 pounds. The hind feet are very large with five long, webbed toes for swimming; front feet are small and dextrous for carrying a variety of objects. Beaver have large, sharp front teeth, small ears, and nostrils that can close for swimming. They can remain active underwater for up to 15 minutes.

Beaver eat the twigs and bark of woody plants which grow near water. They also rely on sedges, water grasses, fleshy roots and water lilies as food. During the fall, beaver cache their food supply in the water under or near their lodge. In winter, they will continue to cut fresh trees on shore as long as they can break through the ice.

Learning to Live with Beaver

Some people enjoy and appreciate beaver while others consider them destructive pests.

Learning to live with wildlife and enjoying and understanding the creatures that share their habitat with us may be a good way of dealing with the damage beaver can do. Turn a problem into an opportunity! Watching beaver is a great family activity and a good way to interest children in the outdoors. Beaver rarely bite and are not aggressive. There are few known cases of beaver carrying rabies.

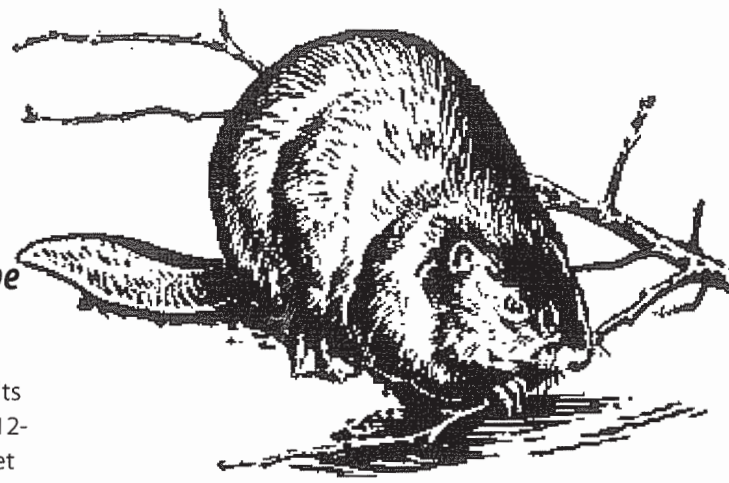
Property owners should be aware that human developments impact wildlife habitat and can result in the destruction or loss of wildlife.

Protecting Your Property

It's natural for beaver to chew tree trunks or to cut down trees. Beaver rarely cut down large pines or massive old trees; they prefer poplar, willow, birch and alders.

These methods can help prevent damage:

- Chemical repellents discourage deer and rodents from chewing and browsing on plants. Read all labels carefully and use in a manner consistent with the labeling.
- Physical barriers. Heavy wire mesh, heavy gauge hardware cloth or tar paper – effective and inexpensive solutions – will discourage cutting and gnawing along the shoreline. A low, attractive permanent fence with gates along the shore may be enough to discourage beaver.



Population Control

Beaver have litters averaging four young each spring. Their natural population limiting mechanism is habitat. When there is not enough available habitat the older kits do not leave home and subsequent litters are smaller.

Trapping can temporarily reduce a colony's population. Trapping usually takes place in winter with leg or body traps placed underwater through the ice. The trapped beaver drowns.

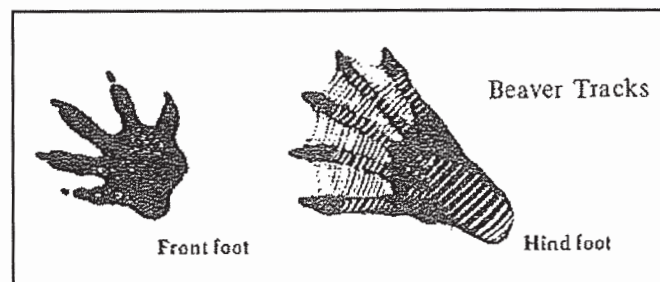
Trapping season lengths and number of permits issued are determined by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and are based on estimates of population and how many should be harvested. Visit the WDNR website for more information on trapping rules and methods. Specific laws govern removal of beaver by capture, shooting, trapping, destroying or otherwise disposing of the animal.

Observing Beaver on Bone Lake

You can observe the active beaver on Bone Lake near their colonies. They swim out from their lodges at sunset. If you are still and quiet, they will come quite close.

For more information

More information about beaver behavior and limiting beaver damage is available from the Bone Lake Wildlife and Scenic Beauty Committee. Contact karen@kje.com.



*A keystone species is a species that plays a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community and whose impact on the community is greater than would be expected based on its relative abundance or total biomass. The concept of a keystone species was first introduced by University of Washington professor, Robert T. Paine in 1969.

Meet Your Neighbor



David W. Butler is the founder and President of GREATMATS.com, an e-commerce retailer, selling specialty flooring products.

David started in video production in Madison, Wisconsin and did that for 10 to 15 years. He moved on to do website development for five years.

In 1999 he started GREATMATS out of their basement, primarily selling 2' x 2' foam tiles for residential use, mostly for kids play rooms and the like. He still sells this product, selling approximately 5000 to 6000 per month.

The company has shown tremendous growth, adding one employee every year, and is now a multi-million dollar company. GREATMATS occupies a 20,000 square-foot facility in Milltown with 16 employees. They have approximately 1500 customers per month, with 10 to 15% repeat business. Half of his sales are residential, but 75% of the gross income is from business.

GREATMATS has a 9.3 (out of 10) satisfaction rating from over 1800 customers on Trust Pilot, speaking volumes of his continual drive to improve customer satisfaction. GREATMATS ships about 30% of the mats from the Milltown facility, where they receive 6 containers of mats per month. The rest of the orders are shipped directly from the manufacturers, coming mostly

from Taiwan. About five years ago, he developed a mold for injection molded tiles, which he contracts to be manufactured in Frederic, Wisconsin.

David considers GREATMATS to be a customer service company that sells flooring, not the other way around. He is always striving to improve customer satisfaction, continually improving the website. He has even added an online floor plan designer to help customers planning their purchases!

"Family first" for employees is David's motto, and he encourages a work/life balance to keep employees. He has even created an employee-directed donation program, where employees are able to donate to non-profit organizations.

David grew up coming to Half Moon Lake his whole life, following in the footsteps of his grandparents and parents. He is the son of David and Martha Butler, and brother to Ellen Butler, who also have cabins on Half Moon Lake. David and his wife Kim have two children, Sam and Margaret.

David and Kim moved to 190th Avenue in 2001, building their home on 25 acres between Half Moon Lake and Balsam Lake across from Breezy Bay, and also own a cabin on Breezy Bay Rd.



Board responsibility. Harlen Hegdal reported that the Township is not interested in being involved. Recently insurance has tripled, and the insurance requires fire staff and equipment to be present. After discussion volunteers were solicited to create a committee to collect money and get the proper insurance for the event. Steve Minn volunteered to head such a committee.

Water Ski Kids:

Established to be the first Saturday of August. Each child is requested to bring skis and a 75 foot ski rope.

2017 Budget:

Ellen Butler reported that the Budget for 2017 will remain the same as the past 4 years. Motion by John Briegal, second by Arne Kolbjornsen approved. See treasurer’s report for actual breakdown.

Election Results:

The results of the election was an unanimous reelection of John Weber and John Briegal to new three year terms.

New Business:

Richard Kiesner reported that Geese waste has become a problem causing Ecoli in the water, as well as swimmer’s itch. The DNR suggested finding their nests and placing vegetable oil on their eggs. In discussion others suggested maintaining the shoreline naturally to prevent Geese from getting to grass.

Sheila Waldock is looking for someone to continue Half Moon Merchandise.

Closing Remarks:

John Weber thanked all volunteers involved with the annual meeting; registration, PA system, setting up the tables etc.

Next year’s meeting is scheduled for July 15th at 10:00am.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am and the food was served.

Board of Directors Meeting:

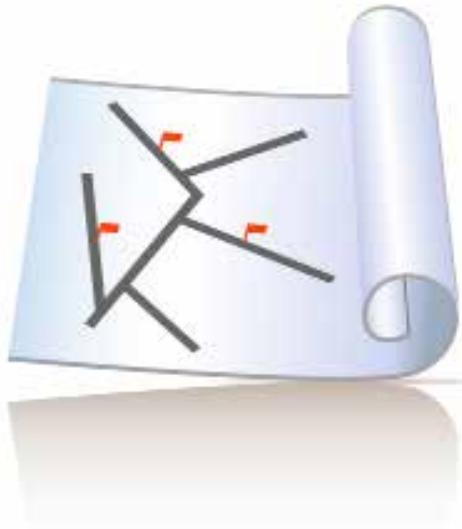
A Board of directors meeting was called immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers for 2017. John Weber suggested that all positions remain the same as in 2016. Motion made and vote taken.

Positions for 2017

Chair	John Weber
Vice Chair	Bud Ericksen
Treasurer	Ellen Butler
Secretary	Dave Balestri
Fisheries	John Briegal Milltown Township
Chair	Harlen Hegdal

Meeting was Adjourned

Respectively Submitted by Bud Ericksen for Dave Balestri



Meet the New Loon Ladies

The Loon Ladies are back! Beth Dunning and Sherry Lamers are the new Loon Ladies selling Half Moon Lake merchandise. We are very excited to create some new logo items for our cabin owners, family, and friends to proudly wear.

Beth and Sherry both have cabins on the south end of the lake, on 190th Avenue. Beth has been on the lake her whole life, beginning at her grandparent’s cabin. She is married to Eric and they have 2 young boys. Sherry and her husband Sam are newer to the lake. They have been on Half Moon for 2 years and have 2 young daughters.

We are just getting Loon Ladies started up again so look forward to some new logo merchandise available in the spring. We will have a website, sales on the lake, and we are available on the weekends. If you would like to be on our email distribution list, please email us at HalfMoonLakeLoonLadies@gmail.com to keep updated on our newest information.

If you have any special ideas of new merchandise you would like to see, please feel free to email us and we would be happy to look into your ideas.

Looking forward to sharing our love of the lake with all of you!





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Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Minutes of Annual Meeting – July 16, 2016 Half Moon Lake Public Beach – Voss Landing

The Meeting was called to order at 10:15am by Chair John Weber. Board members present and introduced: John Weber, Chair; Ellen Butler, Treasurer; John Briegal, Fisheries; Bud Ericksen, Vice – Chair; Harlen Hegdal, Milltown Township Chair. Dave Balestri, Secretary; was not present due to a health matter.

John Weber verified that the meeting postings and publication were legal.

Motion to Approve the Agenda made by Diane Erickson and Seconded by Suzy Bank was approved.

Opening Remarks by John Weber:

- Welcomed new homeowners to introduce themselves.
- There were a few Half Moon Lake Merchandise items available for sale. John remarked that there is an opportunity for someone to take over the business of marketing and selling the items.
- David Butler’s Half Moon Lake history books were available for sale.
- John announced there would be no outside speaker but John asked Harlen Hegdal to speak as Milltown Town Chair. Harlen identified the following issues for our notification.
 1. In discussions with the Wisconsin DNR, Harlen found that one of the biggest pollution factors of our area is the fallout of the electrical powerplant smokestack in Bayport Minnesota. The plant is undergoing a conversion from coal to natural gas, which will greatly reduce the pollutants.
 2. We should all check for the presence of Arsenic in our water wells. Testing of both deep and shallow wells has found Arsenic present although not at a poisoning level. There are test kits available from Polk County.
 3. Light pollution of backyard security lights has become a problem for residents, especially in the winter months when trees have no leaves. Polk Burnett is switching all outdoor lights to LED bulbs. They have also placed a cone shade at the public beach to see if this will help eliminate this light pollution.

July 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve by Marv Christopherson, seconded by Chris Schneider was approved.

Nominations of New Board Members:

John Weber stated that we had two members whom terms were complete, John weber, and John Briegal. Both were willing to run for another three years and John opened the meeting to additional nominations. There were no other nominations and John instructed the qualified voters to mark their ballots and turn them in.

Audit Report:

Terry Radke and Mike McMahon completed the Audit. Terry Radke reported that the books are True and Correct.

Treasurer’s Report:

Ellen Butler reported as following:

Checking Account	\$ 14,888.40
Money Market	\$ 12,871.33
1 Year CD (1.06%) matures 3/25/17	\$ 75,200.83
Fireworks account	\$ 1,259.78
Savings account	\$ 5.14
Total Current Assets	\$104,225.48
Tax Revenue	\$ 29,089.61
Polk County Lottery Credit	\$ 298.89
Interest Income	\$ 27.10
Total Income	\$29,415.60



Main Expenses:	
CBCW Monitors	\$12,522.00
Newsletter, postcards	\$ 3,141.00
Annual meeting and lunch	\$ 2,023.00
Reserve Fund	\$10,000.00
Total Expenses	\$27,686.00
The reserve fund exists in the event we need to treat/remove invasive weeds etc.	

Motion to accept treasurer’s report by Arne Kolbjornsen seconded by Phil Siegle was approved.

CWCB:

John Briegal reporting for Dan Leh who is out of town. The Ilid camera monitor is up and running for 2016. The only realistic method to keep Half Moon Lake clean is to pay for landing monitors, to date Charlie and Jack Hatten have done an excellent job on our behalf. The Hatten’s review approximately 1,500 boats as they enter Half Moon, as many as 50% of the boats carry weeds to the landing. The Hatten’s focus on cleaning weeds off the trailers, and how to empty ballasts in boats and jet skis.

John reported that there is currently no weed volunteers to monitor the lakes weed types. After the meeting Bud Ericksen and his son Brent volunteered to be weed monitors.

Loon Report:

Arnie Kolbjornsen reported for Pat Maleche that there are two pair of nesting loons on Half Moon. The pair on the south end of the lake had two loons born in early July. Arne requested that we maintain at least a 200’ clearance from the loons and especially the young ones.

Lake Map:

Arne Klobjornsen reported that the map will always be a work in process. He requested that we identify corrections so that he can get it as accurate as possible.

Water Clarity:

Bud Ericksen reported for Dave Balestri that the water clarity for 2016 based on Secchi Disc measurements for June 10th was 18 feet, and for the July 4th was 16 feet. These two measurements compare favorably with the historical averages on these dates. Dave will continue to measure the clarity every month throughout the summer. The months of July and August are sent to the DNR for compiling statewide readings.

Fishing Report:

John Briegal reported that fishing reports have been good. The DNR stocks walleyes into the lake every other fall on the odd years. In 2015 the DNR stocked 5,500 fingerlings and reported finding 17” to 17 ½” walleyes in the lake. John reminded everyone that walleye keepers must be 18” to be legal.

News Letter:

Diane Erickson reported the mailing addresses for the Loon Lines is based on Polk County tax records. If you are not receiving Loon Lines please check out the county mailing addresses. Loon Lines will be published twice per year.

Web Page:

Rick Miller reported that the Half Moon Lake web page is under the domain of <Half Moon.net>, it lists various item about the lake including ice out dates. In addition to the web page there is <HalfMoonweeds.net> to help with the monitoring of various weeds in our lake.

Rick requested someone to monitor the web page and Joe Lonsky volunteered.

Conservancy:

Ellen Butler reported that the Conservancy was established to protect Half Moon watershed and the lake clarity. The Conservancy now is impacted by 5,100 acres of land. The committee of David Butler, Harlen Hegdal, Herb Baldwin, Gordy Mommsen and Ellen Butler in addition to managing the Conservancy has spent considerable time creating a walking path and planting wild flowers in the Conservancy.

The importance of the Conservancy is shown by the fact that 5% of the Phosphorous in the lake is attributed to the cabins, and 65% attributed to the watershed.

Long Range Planning:

There was no report.

Fireworks:

Ellen Butler reported that the fireworks has become a liability issue and needs to be separated from