

# MLRA Newsletter #112

## April 2011

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I would like to comment first on the two major projects announced in our last newsletter – the development of an MLRA website and the purchase of a Moon Lake weather station.

Our Webmaster, Bob Turnquist, has continued to put in many hours of work on our new MLRA website ([www.moonlake.org](http://www.moonlake.org)). Although there is still work to be done, Bob has made great progress in making the website an excellent source of information for MLRA members. Bob has prepared a summary of website progress to date which is included in this newsletter. I encourage you to review this and to submit any suggestions you may have to Bob at his Moon Lake e-mail address – [bturnquist@moonlake.org](mailto:bturnquist@moonlake.org). We need suggestions and contributions from MLRA members to maintain the website as a vibrant, timely, and useful resource to our association.

I also encourage you to go to the website to review the weather info collected through our new weather station. Bob has done an excellent job of summarizing data by month – just click on the WEATHER tab and then click on WEATHER ARCHIVE. One thing is abundantly clear – we continue to need more than normal amounts of precipitation to get our lake back to a historical normal level. I would like to extend a big thank you to those members who made contributions to offset the cost of the weather station. I am pleased to report that we received enough contributions to totally offset the cost of the station, with a small surplus going into our ANS fund. Thanks so much for your generosity! Also, big thanks to Bob – without his efforts these projects would not be happening.

Dale Sharpee has posted a summary of the 2010 water quality data under the WATER QUALITY tab in our website. Please see Dale's summary article in this newsletter. Dale continues to do a great job with our water quality program, which also includes the tracking of lake water levels. The water quality testing begins in May and continues well into September, with different testing going on both weekly and monthly. Thanks, Dale, for taking on a job that requires such a continuous commitment.

On another matter, at our last board meeting, the board was in unanimous agreement that it would be a good idea to restart the perimeter road cleanup program around Moon Lake. It has been several years since there has been a formal coordinated effort to clean up litter on roads that surround our lake. We have a feeling that some of our residents are already doing this on their own, which is great. However, to make sure we are including all areas, we are asking for volunteers to commit to covering specified roads on a regular basis. We are suggesting the areas of responsibility should be divided up as follows:

North Moon Lake Road – From Route 45 to West Moon Lake Road.

West Moon Lake Road – From N. Moon Lake Road to East Duck Lake Rd.

South Moon Lake Road – From Rte. 45 to just past the end of Moon Lake.

(If volunteers are willing to include all of South Moon Lake Rd. to LOL that would be great)

Route 45 – From N. Moon Lake Rd. to S. Moon Lake Rd. is currently being Covered by a local church.

Boat Landing – Not our responsibility, but we should do it anyway.

Otherwise, it probably won't get done on a regular basis.

East Duck Lake Road Loop – This is a loop that many of us bike or walk around. It does not border Moon Lake, but if we have volunteers, why not include it.

Please let me know of your interest in helping with this program. You can contact me at [jsick@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jsick@cfl.rr.com), or let any board member know of your interest. Multiple volunteers for the same sections should not be a problem. The road can be divided up according to each side of the road or from one point to another on both sides. I will start this off by volunteering to take West Moon Lake Road. If someone else wants to help with this section, we can split up based on east side/west side. The best time to clean up is in late May or early June before all the underbrush blooms. I will publish a list of volunteers and assigned areas in our next newsletter. Thanks in advance for your support.

Spring is now here and if you are a snowbird like me, you are already anticipating your return to Moon Lake and our wonderful northwoods, and the great people that visit and live there. Even though my legal residence is Florida, my heart resides in the northwoods – and it always will. I look forward to seeing you this summer.

Take care and stay well – John Sick

### **MLRA TREASURER'S REPORT**

By Jim Reiels

The MLRA fiscal year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, so again the \$20.00 dues are payable now if you have not yet sent in your dues for 2011. The amount of dues is set each year at the MLRA annual meeting. Thus, if possible, let this reminder motivate payment. Make your checks payable to MLRA and mail to Jim Reiels, PO Box 683, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540. Thanks for taking care of this so multiple reminders will not be necessary. Remember your dues are tax-deductible. As of 2.16.11 only 23 members have paid; not even half of our members.

Our current balance is \$424.71 in checking, savings \$2361.99 and ANS Fund \$2621.22

### **Moon Lake Website**

[www.moonlake.org](http://www.moonlake.org)

By Bob Turnquist

The Moonlake Website is largely completed in terms of what the MLRA Board of Directors initially envisioned. There will be some tweaks done to make it friendlier and to add small amounts of information. You are all encouraged to go the web site and check it out. I think you will find quite a lot of useful information there.

There is one big remaining need for the website, and that is input from **YOU**. Please send suggestions for the web site and also send items of interest to share to [webmaster@moonlake.org](mailto:webmaster@moonlake.org)

There are two ways to send photos for the web site. You can simply email photos to [webmaster@moonlake.org](mailto:webmaster@moonlake.org), but please do not send files larger than 0.5 MB per photo. Photos sized to 800 x 600 pixels are ideal. If you have trouble meeting this requirement you can follow the directions for uploading photos under the "Photos" tab on the web site. This will automatically resize the photos. If you have trouble with either of these methods send an email to [webmaster@moonlake.org](mailto:webmaster@moonlake.org) to discuss.

## Moon Lake Weather Data

By Bob Turnquist

Weather data is posted to the web site every few days. The "Weather" tab opens a chart that displays the most current weather data contains information for the current and previous month. You will also find a "Weather Archive" which contains data from earlier months. I would encourage you all to take a look at the weather data including the archives.

Find below a chart with some weather data highlights from this winter.

Date	Low Temperature	High Temperature	Snow Amount
December 12			5"
December 15	-21		
December 22			6"
December 30		32	
January 1		42	
January 23	-22		
January 27			7"
February 10	-24		
February 17		61	
March 8			3.5"
March 18	54		
March 26	-12		

## Water Quality Report

By Dale Sharpee

If you check the website, Moonlake.org, water quality data for 2010 has been furnished on the Water Quality page (tab). If you click on [Using Chart Features on the Moon Lake Website](#) link in either the Water Quality tab or the Weather tab, you will find an explanation of how you can manipulate the data reported on Water Quality or Weather.

The water clarity (sechi disk) data lends itself to ranking the results over the 16 years that Moon Lake has participated in the lake monitoring program. The average water clarity reading of 18.2 feet was the second lowest in the 16 years that water clarity has been measured. The lowest average reading, 16.5 feet occurred in 2008. The highest average reading, 24.5 feet, occurred in 1995.

Measuring and sampling will commence in the first week of May with the spring phosphorus sample and measuring water clarity with the sechi disk. This year surface water temperature will be recorded each time the water clarity is measured. John Sick, Tom Wheeler and Bob Turnquist have volunteered to assist in the 2011 Moon Lake monitoring program.

At ice over on November 20, 2010 the water level measured at the water gauge was 2.08 feet so the water level did increase by approximately 11 inches from the level at ice out on March 31, 2010. The low amount of snow and, in particular, high moisture snow that fell this winter season means that we will have to rely on late season high moisture snowfall and abundant rainfall this spring to maintain the water level that existed at ice over.

## **LADIES OF THE LAKE NEWS**

*Judy Chase*

Wow, I sure can tell it has been a long winter by all the months we weren't able to meet. In February/March, we didn't have enough ladies to meet. Of course I was one of those as we traveled to CA (where Tom left his gall bladder), AZ and FL. Whoever told Tom and I, we would get bored being retired was way off base. After several changes in a meeting place, January 20<sup>th</sup> found the Ladies at Redman's. (Thank you Sally for filling me in on the evening, as I was once again gone). The service and company were excellent. Favorite menu items were the Chicken Piccata and Shrimp.

**Good news.... We are planning to meet this Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Forrest Lake Country Store at 5 p.m. Let's all get together to share our winter adventures and signs that spring is really here.**

Just received the news today that Prudy Caudill's son-in-law, Vada Murray, passed away from cancer. All the family was able to be there. If you would like to drop her daughter Sarah a note, here is the address: Sarah Murray, 1780 Riverwood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Prudy can be reached at this address also.

### **Important Telephone Numbers**

WE Power outage: 800-662-4797  
Fire: 715-547-6170 – Land O'Lakes  
906-358-4613 – Watersmeet  
Police: 906-358-4313 – Watersmeet  
906-358-4575 – Gogebic County  
715-479-8969 – Vilas County  
Ambulance: 715-547-6170 – Land O'Lakes

### **Observations**

*Tom Chase*

Is it actually Spring? We have had a few warm days and a bit of rain resulting in the snow finally down to a couple patches in the woods. Moon Lake is getting some dark spots, but no water showing as of this publication. There is, however, some open water on the north end of Little Moon! It seems like I just finished the fall lawn work and now some of the winter dog deposits are starting to raise their ugly qualities!

Here are a couple reminders that you should keep in mind:

1. Worth repeating from the last newsletter ... [www.moonlake.org](http://www.moonlake.org) In reference to Bob Turnquist and his efforts in setting up the Lake Association's WEB site, we thank him. Please take time to look over the site and place it on your favorite bookmarks. Board members will have their name and WEB email addresses posted on the site, should you want to contact them, either individually or as a group, for any MLRA suggestions/topics.
2. As of 04/11/2011, the gas price in Land O'Lakes and Watersmeet is still below the \$4.00/gal mark. It was \$3.999/gal this morning!
3. Please remember to send your annual dues to Jim.

4. If you are in town on April 11, 2011, St. Alberts Church is sponsoring a fish fry in support of the LOL Fire Department towards a purchase of a new/semi-new fire vehicle. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 6 to 12 (under 12 is free). Headwaters State Bank is providing matching funds up to \$1000! Come and enjoy a delicious meal for a worthy cause.
5. Happy Spring! If you are making your way back to Moon Lake from south of Conover, please have a safe trip.

Remember, this is your newsletter. Any article contributions you would like to share, please forward to any board member, or myself and we will get them published.