

MLRA Newsletter

Issue 108

June 2010

Moon Lake Loons are Nesting – 2010 Season

Tom & Linda Wheeler

The unusually warm, late winter resulted in ice-out on March 31 this year; about 2 weeks earlier than usual. In most years when the ice goes out in mid-April the loons arrive immediately, often before the lake is ice free. This year we did not see the first loon until April 9, and it was April 12 when we finally saw a pair.

Their early behavior was typical of what we have observed in past years, with the pair exploring the entire lake and defending their territory from other loons scouting for a place to nest. On May 11 we received a report of much activity on, and near, the platform; and on May 15, Linda was able to see an exchange and saw at least 1 egg. They have been sitting constantly since then; and if all goes well, we could have a chick or chicks around June 11 to 15.

If the hatch is successful, there will be small chicks on the lake over the 4th of July weekend. Please remind visitors to be aware of the loons and to keep their distance from them. Thank you for helping to keep the Moon Lake loons safe. They are a treasure for all to enjoy!

Water Sampling and Monitoring

Dale Sharpee

The spring phosphorus and the first of five samples for chlorophyll-a have been taken. The transparency readings using the seechi disk commenced on May 15th.

A comparison of the readings from the seechi disk for the last week of May / first week of June period from 2008 thru 2100 shows a wide variance in the results.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date Read</u>	<u>Depth (ft.)</u>
2008	May 29	21.0
2009	June 3	28.0
2010	June 3	18.5

The depth reading in 2008 continued to decline after May 29th until the readings reached the mid-teens and then stayed at that range until September 27th (end of sampling period). In 2009 the depth reading increased from June 3rd until it reached 31.5 feet on June 15th. The readings then declined but stayed in the mid to low 20s through August 13th. The surface water temperature was already 72 on May 29th so it is probable that the water transparency readings will follow the pattern of 2008.

I have temporarily stopped trying to record the lake water level at the water gauge. If we continue to experience below average precipitation this summer, consideration should be given to locating a new gauge farther out in the southeast bay.

Ladies of the Lake

Judy Chase

April found a small group of ladies gathering at the Forrest Lake County store sharing a light supper complete with laughter and great conversation. The evening was made even nicer by the complimentary cheese and crackers that Kris and Mark Gostisha provided us. We'd like to send a big "Thank You" to them for providing the different yummy kinds of both treats. A little side note....Taco Tuesday has returned to the store and the tacos are delicious!

In May, Debbie Piel once again hosted the Ladies of the Lake to her wonderful home. We celebrated some of the Ladies birthdays (including cake) along with friendship and sharing time. We all enjoyed the salad dinner and treats that others brought along. Debbie's screened porch and wonderful landscaping were just 2 of the wonderful areas of her house. Thank you, Debbie, for your wonderful hospitality.

Good News Update: Winnie Baeten is out of the hospital and returned to Moon Lake on Sat. June 5th. Welcome back!

Low Water Level Exposing Boating Hazards

Tom & Linda Wheeler

We have canoed around the lake many times this spring, and it is amazing how many hazards are appearing near the water surface all over the lake. Please be aware that you may encounter exposed logs and parts of fish cribs all around the lake (including the middle of the lake west of the boat landing). Some of these logs are large enough to do serious damage to a boat and/or motor. Please remind your friends and relatives to be especially careful on the lake this year.

Observations

Tom Chase

Fire Danger:

I noticed on the weather reports from the past weeks that our area has been changed from "sever drought conditions" to "extreme drought conditions". Please use caution when deciding on any type of fire use.

Lake Level:

Tom Wheeler would like to remind us that we should not clear any wood debris from our exposed shoreline. When the water level returns to normal, the fish and other aquatic animals would need these areas once again. I must confess, I am guilty of cleaning out my grandkids swimming area.

Tom has also mentioned that if we discover any Chinese Mystery Snails in the lake, they should be destroyed! A web site http://www.state.in.us/dnr/files/chinese_mystery_snail.pdf provides photos and information on these species.

Wild Bear in the Woods?

Judy and I had the opportunity to observe a black bear sow and cub in the woods walking up from Little Moon Lake. I also saw a good size bear cut across Hwy B just past the VFW. They are more “cautious” of you, that you than you are of them (so they say). Use caution when on your stroll or bike ride around the lake.

With this in mind, Tom Wheeler also provide a web site, www.bear.org, from the “North American Bear Center” in Ely, MN. I checked the site out and it provides plenty of information on the black bear.

Lake Place Mats:

If you have ordered (or would like to purchase) Moon Lake place mats, Roy Porterfield has them available. Please give him a call (544.2288) to make arrangements.

July Fourth:

More information will come from the board on our annual flotilla parade around the lake. Also, remember that the conditions are dry, and firecrackers and sparklers should be used with caution.

As Always:

Remember, this is your newsletter! If you would like to contribute any articles or lake news, please forward to Tom or Judy Chase and we will make sure they are printed in the following newsletter.