

SPRING
MLRA Newsletter #115
April 2012

MLRA TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 22, 2012

Beginning Balance	236.02	
Receipts	<u>400.00</u>	
		\$ 636.02
Expenses		
Kids Fishing Contest	\$50.00	
Moon Lake Website	42.00	
MLSA Dues & Water Quality	<u>147.00</u>	
		\$ 239.00
CHECK	\$397.02	
SAVINGS	\$2920.90	
ANS FUND	<u>\$2841.18</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6159.10	

** There are still over 20 members that have not paid their 2012 dues! Please take time and submit the \$20 to Jim Reiels.

LADIES OF THE LAKE NEWS

Judy Chase

Welcome Spring to Moon Lake! I am so looking forward to all the ladies returning to Land O' from their winter quarters. I've managed to be out of town or busy with another commitment for the last 2 gatherings.

On Feb. 8th 7 ladies met at the Gateway for dinner and conversation. March 21st, 4 ladies met at the Country Store for lunch. These gatherings may have been small in numbers but not in sharing good conversation and laughter. Hopefully when we have our next gathering more of us will be able to attend.

If you have chance ladies, please email me your birthday. I know Elaine started a list at one of our past gatherings but I wanted to make note of them in my LOL file. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Michigan Lake & Stream Association

Tom Chase

Jim Reiels has registration data for the annual Mich. Lake and Stream Assoc meeting, April 27-28. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jim. Jim and I attended last year's meeting and found it very interesting, especially meeting members from surrounding lake associations.

Moon Lake Loons

Linda & Tom Wheeler

March 24 was a beautiful, early spring day on Moon Lake. With the lake smooth as glass and warm temperatures, conditions were perfect to begin preparations for the arrival of our loons.

After putting in the dock and boat, we headed out to check the loon-nesting platform and move it to its normal location in the bay. The platform survived another winter in good condition and floated easily into position and was secured in place. Our next tasks will be to add fresh nesting material (root cuttings from Toumey Nursery) and trim the bushes. Then we wait for the loons! Hopefully, they will like what they see and nest successfully once again.

We also have completed the first lake survey of the year. Periodic surveys are performed as part of the Northwoods Loon Protection Program in Wisconsin and the Michigan Loon Preservation Association & Loonwatch. We participate in these organizations for Moon Lake. In addition to checking for loon activity, the surveys provide us the opportunity to be on the lookout for invasive plants.

Approximately 25 percent of the lakes that are part of the study area for the above-mentioned organizations are reporting that loons have arrived. Most of these will be males. Typically the males arrive first, followed approximately a week later by the females. If you are interested in following the loon migration, check out the following web site:

http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html

Please continue to let us know if you see any interesting loon activity or behavior. Your observations assist with the log that we keep and from which we prepare our reports.

Watch for loon updates on the MLRA web site: www.moonlake.org

Update 3/31/12 ... toured the lake at 9:30 AM. No loons.

Water Sampling and Monitoring

Dale Sharpee

Historic Ice Out?

Moon Lake was ice free as of **March 22nd**. This may be the earliest date that ice out has occurred in recent history. The unseasonably warm weather that was experienced in mid-March produced the conditions that led to this early ice out date. If you check the **Weather Tab** at Moonlake.org, you will see that daily high temperatures exceeded 50 degrees and that the daily lows did not fall below 29 degrees for the 11 days preceding the 23rd.

The broad geographic scope of the March heat wave that has taken place in the Mississippi Valley region of the U. S., along with the margins by which records have been broken, the time of year that this is occurring, and the duration of the heat wave are all indications that this may be an unprecedented event since modern United States meteorological records began to be recorded in the late 19th century.

The lake level at the gauge was 2.52 feet on March 21st. This is essentially the same reading as at the time of ice over on November 30th - 2.54 feet. The Leap Day snowstorm helped to maintain the water level over the winter. Now April showers are needed not only to bring May flowers but also to stabilize the water level of Moon Lake.

Here is a historical summary since 2005 of the water level recorded at the time that Moon Lake was declared to be ice-free:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Level (ft)</u>
2005	4.28
2006	4.24
2007	3.75
2008	2.56
2009	1.94
2010	1.16
2011	2.75
2012	2.54

The Moon Lake Riparian Association has enrolled in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program for 2012. This will be the 18th year that the Association has participated in this Program. John Sick, Bob Turnquist, and I will be involved in taking samples of lake water for the measurement of phosphorus and chlorophyll-a as well as recording water clarity and surface water temperature. The spring phosphorus sampling will be done between April 26th and April 30th. We strive to record the water clarity and surface water temperatures on a weekly basis. Usually we do not begin to do this until early May. This year we may try to begin this in April.

Items of Interest

Various

Jim Reiels has suggested the following:

REMEMBER: Cell Phone Numbers Go Public this month.

All cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls.

... YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS

To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222.

It is the National DO NOT CALL list it will only take a minute of your time.

It blocks your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked.

You cannot call from a different phone number.

HELP OTHERS BY PASSING THIS ON. It takes about 20 seconds.

<https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx>

Do you know the following facts that Cigarette Butts have on our environment?

*Butts contain hazardous chemicals such as **Cadmium, Arsenic** and **Lead**. When butts are carelessly discarded, these chemicals leach into our environment contaminating our lands and waterways.

*It can take 1.5 years to break down one cigarette butt.

*Cigarette filters are made of a form of plastic called **CELLULOSE ACETATE**. The fibers are thinner than thread. Toxins known as **TAR** leach into the ground/water ways damaging living organisms.

*Depending on the environment, it can take 18 months to 10 years for the filter to decompose.

*Cigarette butts are a real threat to our wildlife. They ingest these toxic butts mistaking them for food.

*A discarded cigarette butt can smolder for us to 3 hours causing a grass or brush fire.

Why do I write about these facts you wonder? It's **SPRING CLEAN UP TIME** around **MOON LAKE**. Please do your part to keep our roads and shore line clean of trash. Tom and I have already found some pretty disgusting items including a bottle full of urine tossed on the side of the road. Smokers can do their part by putting out their butts and taking them and disposing of them in their trash.

If everyone could take a few minutes of their day to check their part of our roads and/or shore lines, nature will be alive and well in the great Northern Woods.

A notice from Peter Olk:

We received a note from Peter Olk on the status of his Land O'Lakes store. We wish both Peter and Jane success.

Jane plans on opening the store beginning the Friday before Memorial Day and going through the summer. Jane has a couple of dedicated employees who'll run the store. The store will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00AM until 4:00PM. Closed Sunday and Monday. We will be up on weekends!

Passing:

Moon Lake bids farewell to one of our original lake homeowners. Stan Gorski passed on December 26, 2011 only to have his beloved wife Alice Gorski follow him a few days later. Both Stan and Alice will be dearly missed.

We would also like to express our condolences to Dave & Mary Pat Kelly in the passing of Mary Pat's mother earlier this winter.

Observations

Tom Chase

Yes, our beloved Moon Lake is free from ice!!! We can now see how much work there is to clean up the previous fall and winter debris that still remains on our property (possible hidden doggie mines).

1. Please utilize our website!
2. Happy Easter ... may the bunny bring you lots of treats. Hope your Lenten commitments were successful.
3. Next newsletter the first part of July. Contributions are always welcome!
4. If you know of any MLRA member that you believe would like to be remembered (for any reason), please contact Judy Chase, and she will send out a card on behalf of the Lake Association.
5. 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.
6. Any website contributions can be addressed to Bob Turnquist via : www.moonlake.org