

**Winter
MLRA Newsletter #117
December 2012**

The holidays are over, as is December, and we are overdue on the quarterly Moon Lake Newsletter. The MLRA Board hopes you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to face 2013! Don't forget those wonderful Watersmeet taxes.

MLRA TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2012

Beginning balance:

Checking \$212.02

Receipts:

Dues 210.00

422.02

Expenses:

Battery for weather station 7.80

State of MI License Renew 20.00

Web Host Permit 191.76

ISCCW Membership 125.00

Total Expenses 344.56

Ending Balance: \$ 77.46

Savings: \$ 3,315.49

INS Fund: \$ 2,851.65

Total Assets: 6,244.60

DUES FOR 2013

Annual MLRA dues are payable as of January 1, 2013. Many of you have already paid; thank you! Your prompt payment eliminates the need to send repeat reminders. It is also a good time to make a donation to the Invasive Weed Fund; that amount can be included in the dues check. The check should be made payable to MLRA and mailed to Jim Reiels, PO Box 683, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540.

Remember your dues and donations are tax deductible. Thanks for your continuing membership. Don't forget to check out the Moon Lake website for MLRA newsletters, weather reports, finances and more.

<http://www.moonlake.org/>

Lake Notes and Water Quality Report

By Dale Sharpee

Out-of-pattern temperatures in 2012 have affected both the ice-out and ice-over dates for Moon Lake. A period of sustained above-average temperatures produced an early ice-out last spring: March 22. The first ice-over this fall occurred on November 27. However, elevated temperatures subsequent to November 27 resulted in Moon Lake partially reopening on December 2. (*The maximum temperature on December 3 was 52 degrees.*) The second ice-over did not occur until December 9.

The lake level declined during 2012. At ice-out on March 22, the water level was 2.52 feet. At the time of the final ice-over, the level was 1.60 feet. The lake level on Moon Lake has been below 3.0 feet since mid-August 2008! It will take snow with high moisture content and above-average rainfall in 2013 and beyond to bring the water levels on Moon Lake back to those levels: 4+ feet that we experienced during 2004-2006.

2012 marks the 18th year that testing for water quality has been conducted on Moon Lake. The results of the measurement for water clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll-a will be made available in early 2013. These results will be posted on the "Water Quality" tab on the Moon Lake web site. I am recommending that we enroll in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program for 2013.

Dog Rescued From Moon Lake

By Mary Pat Kelly

Five people combined their efforts on Saturday, December 8, to rescue a black Lab in the bay near the boat landing.

Shortly after breakfast on Saturday morning, Dave and Mary Pat Kelly became suspicious hearing a persistent barking dog. Upon investigating, Dave spotted the dog trapped in a pool of open water surrounded by ice. A 911 call was initiated and within minutes a rescue officer was on the scene, along with neighbors Frank Kuchevar, and Chuck and Kevin Konnow. Officer Troy with the assistance of the "local crew" proceeded with rescue maneuvers. Jersey, the Lab, was reunited with his owners and returned home via a warm car.

This time of the year people, as well as people with pets, need to be aware of thin ice.

Also, it is satisfying for everyone to know that the 911 system worked very well.

Turtle Hibernation

(printed in the fall/winter 2012 Lake Tides, UW-Stevens Point)

As was told in the story of the Tortoise and the Hare from our youth, the moral of the story was "go slow and steady." This statement becomes even clearer when research studies proved turtles live past 100 years of age! The slow moving, yet cunning turtle that is depicted in the story reflects the true life of the turtle today. Turtles have fascinating abilities, especially during hibernation, that keep them safe and functioning until the first ray of sunshine on a 50-degree spring day.

Turtles are known to be the longest living creatures on the planet. With their existence reaching back to 200 million years ago, fossil records indicate their extended time on earth has not prompted much change to the individual makeup. With most turtles reaching 100 years of age studies have proven some live for around 200 years with harvestings of musket balls and arrowheads found in their shells.

While 11 varieties of species live in Wisconsin, the turtle most likely discovered in or around the water is the painted turtle. Ten out of the 11 varieties are known to hibernate in the winter underwater—either on top or beneath the dirt bottom. Recent studies indicate that some turtles don't actually "hibernate," but remain semi-active by moving about the water in winter. Hibernation for other turtles involves more preparations and biological aspects that are unique to those turtles.

The process of hibernation for turtles is comparable to other animals and includes storing fall fat reserves, lowering their metabolic pressure, and sleeping through the weather when it is intolerable. Turtles hibernate at the bottom of water sources rather than on land due to water's ability to absorb tremendous amounts of heat with only a minor increase in temperature. At 39 degrees Fahrenheit, water also sinks to the bottom of ponds or lakes at its greatest density which enables the turtle to keep a stable temperature if they are deeper than the frost line. When the water goes below 39 degrees, the cooler water rises and the turtle is still safe, comfortable and never reaching the point of freezing.

The temperature stability for hibernating turtles gives them a comfortable environment but breathing is also affected through the 39 degree temperature. The turtle faces slow oxygen starvation and a possible fatal accumulation of carbon dioxide while submerged. Turtles have two sources of oxygen to fulfill their needs during the winter: their throat cavity and two thin-walled sacs near the anus. These sources are lined with minuscule blood vessels that permit oxygen to be extracted from the water.

Though this still may cause some oxygen deprivation, turtles can last for longer periods of time without oxygen compared to other mammals, due to their metabolism. Compared to warm-blooded animals of analogous size, their metabolic rates are generally ten times lower. During hibernation, it drops by another 10-20 percent. Turtle hearts that beat 40 times a minute on a warm day in July drop to one beat every ten minutes in winter.

So the turtle is fully functioning and safe until spring, right? Almost. There is one other role the turtle's body plays allowing it to survive the winter. Since the turtle is under the ice for months at a time, lactic acid begins to build up because of the motionless state of hibernation. Calcium salts from the shell of the turtle are gradually dissolved into the blood stream to neutralize the lactic acid as well as keep the heart pumping and active.

Turtles have remarkable adaptations that help them survive during the long and cold winters. Though they may be slow, their steadiness and determination toward an end goal aide them towards a victory of lying out on their favorite log on a fresh, spring day.

By Dale Sharpee

In 2009 the Ottawa National Forest and Todd Renk proposed to exchange lands. The exchange would transfer 31 acres of National Forest Service lands located between U.S. 45 and South Moon Lake Road to private ownership and transfer 87 acres of land containing wetlands and segments of Wild and Scenic Rivers into the ownership of the National Forest Service System.

As of November 2012 this exchange of lands has not been consummated. We will continue with updates.

LADIES OF THE LAKE NEWS

By Judy Chase

Wow, I can hardly believe we have started a new year ... it must be true that the older we are, the faster time flies. I've been sitting here checking my notes, and it's a good thing I took notes, as my elevator is currently stuck in the basement.

Our September outing was held on the 11th at the Black Oak Inn. Sally and Elaine announced they were resigning from the MLL Social Committee after a two-year commitment. This became official after our October gathering. We really appreciate all your joint efforts to keep bringing our ladies together for chatting and laughing. Judy Chase volunteered to take over, and Rhoda volunteered to fill in when Judy is travelling. Thank you ladies!

"Ghost Tour of the Gateway Lodge" hosted by Sandy G really "spooked" things up for our October gathering on the 23rd. We all loved hearing some of the history, peaking in attics, basement crawl spaces, stairs to nowhere, (hey I have those in my house) freezer/wine/liquor storage, laundry room and even the kitchen. Unfortunately the "Lumberjacks," "Guy in Black" and the "Lady in White" weren't spotted but not from our lack of trying. We received a "Gateway History" guide from Sandy and she joined us for dinner. We all agreed this was an A+ night to remember.

"Talking Turkey over Chili" was held on November 13 at Judy Chase's house. There were two kinds of chili (meat/meatless), French bread, deserts and hot apple cider. We shared some funny cooking stories of past Thanksgiving dinner preparations. Getting into the Christmas spirit, we had a few gift drawings. Congrats to those ladies that won.

On December 18, we gathered at the Gateway "Holiday Inn" for a magical night of sharing a favorite Christmas memory/childhood picture. Mary Pat/Judy C also brought pictures from their childhood. Judy shared a picture of Tom on Santa's lap and his very special Santa mug his mom made him as a little boy. The Gateway was beautifully decorated, and the food was delicious! Each lady received a hand-made Christmas ornament and a door prize.

Plans for our January get together is tentatively set for Tuesday, January 22. After brain storming at our Christmas gathering, we are going to chase the "January Blahs" away by playing the "White Elephant" game. Judy will email details about this game, including location and time, soon.

We only have one upcoming birthday until April. This month's birthday is Mary Pat Kelly at P O Box 352, Watersmeet 49969 on the 24th. Wishing you, Mary Pat, a day filled with doing something just for you. Until next time ladies, keep smiling ... it does a body good!

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Elections

This past November local Watersmeet voters chose a new slate of officials to represent our Township. I will be making a strong effort to set up a link between the Town Hall and our lake association to better keep us informed as to Township politics and how they may affect our humble domain. Sometimes it seems as though some of the lake associations have not been as well informed as we would like. We have been fortunate to have Frank Kuchevar as the previous town supervisor and keeping us in mind.

Here is a list of the township's new Administrative Officers:

Supervisor	Mike Rogers
Clerk	Sandy Mansfield
Treasurer	Paul Kemppainen
Assessor	Mark Erhart

Please check out the Watersmeet homepage for additional information: <http://www.watersmeet.us/> or call the Township office: 906-358-4501.

Break-ins

As many of you know, there was a problem prior to the holiday season with break-ins, both attempted and successful, at residences around the lake. The Board sends out alerts when we become aware of situations that require notification of our membership. However, if you believe a situation requires immediate attention, please call the local authorities. If a neighbor is gone for any length of time, please take it upon yourself to walk their property for possible intrusions.

Observations

By Tom Chase

The winter temperatures are making their presence known. Some of our residents have already made their way to their southern retreats! There are also MLRA members waiting/planning to go to a warmer climate for a couple of weeks in months to come. Let's all hope we get some additional snow to help with our local economy and (as Dale reported) get the lake up to decent levels.

1. Please utilize our website! Next newsletter, the first part of July. Contributions are always welcome!
2. If you know of any MLRA member that would like to be remembered (for any reason), please contact Judy Chase; and she will send a card on behalf of the Lake Association.
3. Remember, this is your newsletter. Any article contributions you would like to share, please forward to me or any board member; and we will get them published.
4. Website contributions can be emailed to: webmaster@moonlake.org

The MLRA board always appreciates responses from our members. Please feel free to make suggestions and send them to your MLRA board members.

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