

MOON LAKE NEWS
ISSUE 120 - OCTOBER, 2014

ANNUAL MEETING OF MLRA

The annual meeting of MLRA was held on Saturday, August 9, 2014, at the Land O'Lakes Public Library. The following actions were taken at this meeting:

-- Jim Reiels, Dale Sharpee, and Shiela McConaghy were elected to the Board for a two year term.

-- Current Officers and board members are as follows: Tom Chase (President), Bob Turnquist (Vice President), Jim Reiels (Treasurer and Secretary), Marypat Kelly, Dale Sharpee, Sheila McConaghy, and John Sick (Board members).

-- A motion was passed to make a \$200 donation to the Watersmeet Fire and First Responder Service, and \$100 to the Land O'Lakes Fire Department.

-- A motion was passed to maintain the annual dues at \$20 for 2015.

-- Jim Reiels reported that total assets of MLRA amounted to \$7266.76.

-- It was announced that John Sick had volunteered to take on the role of editor of the MLRA Newsletter, and Jim Reiels the role of publisher.

--Loon Ranger Program: As previously announced, Tom Wheeler has resigned as coordinator of the Loon Ranger Program after doing a great job for a number of years. Bob Turnquist volunteered to take over the physical aspects of this program, including maintaining and setting up the nest platform and setting out the warning buoys. Sheila McConaghy volunteered to take on the administrative responsibilities of the program, which includes an annual report and communications with the DNR on Loon activity. Any unusual loon activity should be reported to Bob or Sheila.

MEMORIALS (By Jim Reiels)

We are very saddened to report that two of our long term residents on Moon Lake have passed away since our last newsletter:

Linda Wheeler passed away on September 28 at the Iron County Medical Facility in Crystal Falls after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was 69 years of age. Linda was a long time member of the Board of MLRA and was always willing to contribute her time and efforts in support of our association. She is

survived by her husband, Tom, who has also served our association for years as coordinator of the Loon Ranger program. Our sympathies are extended to Tom.

Mary Peterson, "Issie" (Nee Grimm), passed away on September 30. She was 88 years of age. Mary and her husband have maintained a summer cabin on Moon Lake since the early 1970's. Beloved wife for 66 years to husband Robert, dear mother of Judith (Clare) Zempel, David Peterson, Christopher (Kelly) Peterson, and Patricia (David). Mary sang with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus for many years.

UPDATE ON FISH PLANTING PROGRAM (By John Sick)

Dale Sharpee and John Sick, at the request of the Michigan DNR, completed a six week water temperature study of Moon Lake for the month of July and the first two weeks of August. Temperatures were taken once each week at 3 foot intervals from 3 feet to 36 feet. This study was required by the DNR to demonstrate that water temperatures would support the planting of trout, a cold water fish. We received notice from the DNR on August 21 that a review of submitted data "clearly shows a nice thermocline in the 18-24 foot depth range, which will be acceptable for Splake." (The DNR has ruled out the planting of Brown Trout as too expensive and that Rainbow Trout would not compete well with other fish in our lake. Therefore they are recommending Splake, which is a hybrid cross between a brook trout and a lake trout.)

Mr Madison, the Fisheries Manager, is developing a proposal that initially involves the planting of 2500 fingerling Splake (approximately 8 inches in length) and will submit this proposal to Lansing for approval. He states that it looks encouraging, but we will not know for certain until late January. If it is approved in Lansing, the planting program is 100% guaranteed. If approved, the number of Splake planted can be adjusted year to year. Hopefully we can let our members know in our January newsletter that the program has been approved (stay tuned). If approved, the planting program will begin next spring.

In another matter concerning the DNR, they have recommended that we submit fish samples for mercury testing to make sure that the fish in Moon Lake are safe to consume. This was discussed at the annual meeting and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to do this, but the decision was made to defer this until the opening of the bass season in 2015. The DNR requires a sample of 10 smallmouth bass of legal size (14 inches). The bass must be frozen and delivered to the Crystal Falls DNR office. There is no charge to our association for doing this. We will put our fisherman on high alert next spring when we approach the opening of bass season.

OVERVIEW OF MOON LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM (by Dale Sharpee)

Water level: As of September 12th the water level at the gauge was 4.20 feet. This level represents an increase of 1.14 feet in the lake level since ice out. During the 15 years that the level of the lake has been recorded, the only year that the lake level has increased by more than 1.0 feet during the open water season was 2002. That year the lake level increased by 1.37 feet (2.10 feet at ice out to 3.47 feet at ice over). Water level readings through this summer have consistently exceeded 4.0 feet. **THE LAST TIME WE HAD ANY READINGS OVER 4 FEET WAS 2006.** Bob Turnquist just took a reading on October 13 and it was 4.06 feet. The lake level has dropped about 1.7 inches in the last month, but the reading is still over 4 feet.

Chlorophyll-a and Phosphorus Sampling: As in the past, 5 samples were taken during the summer for measuring the level of chlorophyll-a. These samples and the fall sample for phosphorus have been sent to the lab for analysis. The results will be provided to us this winter.

Water clarity: The average of the 14 readings using the secchi disk from June 5th until September 13th was 20.54 feet. This is 1.83 feet deeper than the average for the comparable time period in 2013. The cooler mid-summer temperatures may have resulted in improved clarity during the period of mid-July to mid-August. In 2013 there were 5 readings of 16.0 feet or less between July 16th and August 17th. This year there were 4 readings between July 17th and August 19th that ranged from 18.0 feet to 19.0 feet. The shallowest reading for 2014 was 14.0 feet and that did not take place until September 13th.

WEATHER STATION INFORMATION (By Bob Turnquist)

We continue to collect weather data from our Moon Lake weather station located on the roof of the Turnquist home. You can easily access this data by going to our Moon Lake web site and clicking on the Weather tab on the home page. We are accumulating data that is specific to Moon Lake - not some weather station that is miles away. Here are some interesting statistics for the months of July, August, and September, 2014 (since our last newsletter).

Precipitation (inches): July-3.39 (avg. 4.62); August-3.14 (avg. 2.09); September-4.20 (avg. 2.53). Total rainfall for the 3 months - 10.73 vs. the average of 9.24.

Temperatures (degrees): July - only 3 days in the 80's. The highest temp was 87 on July 21. The lowest temp was 41 on ?? (you guessed right - July 4th.) August - 6 days in the 80's. The warmest day was 83 on August 25 and the

lowest temp was 40 on August 15. September - no days in the 80's. The highest temp was 79 on September 28 and the lowest temp was 31 on September 13.

NOT ONE DAY IN THE 90'S DURING THESE 3 MONTHS!! - at least at Moon Lake

Our next issue will be in January, 2015. Your ideas and suggestions for our newsletter are always welcome. Please e-mail me at jsick@cfl.rr.com. Stay well and enjoy the upcoming holidays