

MOON LAKE NEWS

ISSUE 121 - JANUARY 2015

TREASURERS REPORT (From Jim Reiels, Secretary/treasurer)

Thus far only 23 residents have paid their dues for 2015. Last year at this time a total of 44 residents had paid their dues. We have a bit of catching up to do. Dues are still \$20 per household and may be sent to Jim Reiels, P.O. Box 683, Land O'Lakes, WI 54540. You are encouraged to include an extra amount to support our Invasive Species Fund. Should our lake ever be invaded by Eurasian Milfoil, or any other type of invasive species, the cost to fight the infestation is likely to far exceed the amount currently available in our invasive species fund. Remember, dues and any other contributions to MLRA , are tax deductible.

Current balances are as follows: Checking-\$364.18; Savings-\$3328.18; Invasive Weed Fund-\$3172.34.

Editors note: As you read through this newsletter, as well as previous newsletters, we hope you come to the conclusion that \$20 per year represents an outstanding bargain for the many programs and initiatives your association takes on behalf of the health, enjoyment, and protection of Moon Lake, and to the long term benefit of its residents. Please help to support your association.

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP INTERNET SURVEY (Submitted by Dale Sharpee - source, email from <zoars@copper.net>)

Watersmeet Township is circulating a survey to all residents and property owners to determine existing internet service as well as those who wish better service in the township. The survey will be mailed to all who get their mail through the Watersmeet Post Office. We haven't found a way to sort out MI residents who get their mail at LOL so surveys will be available at the LOL Library, Nordine's and the town office in Watersmeet, and for downloading from the town website www.watersmeet.us. Information from the responses will be used to recruit service providers to our area. Here's your chance to register your views so we can get better and more comprehensive coverage. Business owners report problems attracting new customers if they can't offer high speed internet. Residents can't communicate, participate in volunteer activities, or use online banking without fast, reliable internet. Please download or pick up a survey and

fill it out for every address you have in the township. Folks in WI who live near the stateline should fill one out also as they may benefit from towers in MI. Please forward this message to anyone you know who lives in North LOL and may not get mail through the Watersmeet Post Office.

Questions? Contact Sherry Zoars <zoars@copper.net> or call the town office @ 906-358-4501.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS (Bob Turnquist and Dale Sharpee)

Several improvements and additions have been made to both the Water Quality Page and the Weather Page on our website. When you open up the Moon Lake website (www.moonlake.org), the first thing you will see is the "Around the Lake" opening page. Bob Turnquist, our webmaster, has posted on this opening page two brief summaries of the improvements made to these two important pages, Water Quality and Weather.

Click first on the Water Quality tab. Then click on "Water Quality" - in red. This will bring up the new chart that Bob and Dale have worked out. Just study it for a few minutes (especially the first 3 columns) and you will see key information about water levels on the key dates of ice over, ice out, and the day of the annual meeting (usually in August). Across the bottom of each year's section, you will see the total number of days of ice cover for the winter season. Be sure to read Dale Sharpee's article below to learn about the water quality data that is included in these new charts in the last 4 colums. (Note: Water levels are determined by readings off a water measuring gauge that was installed by our association in the protected bay at the west end of the lake.)

The other major improvement is the addition of snowfall accumulaton on the weather page. Bob is starting to include this data as of January 1st, 2015. However, the snowfall summary for November and December, 2014 is available by clicking on the Weather Archive link. Here are Bob's directions to access snowfall data.

"Starting on January 1, 2015, the current month's snowfall summary will appear along with the current weather data on the Weather Page. You will now have to click on the "This Month's Weather" link near the top of the Weather Page to view the data. Starting with November, 2014, the month's snowfall summary will be included in the Weather Archive. You will find information regarding the source of the Snowfall data on the Weather Page. Also included is a link to a website where you can see daily snowfall data." THANKS TO BOB AND DALE FOR THESE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS!!

MOON LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM BEGINS ITS THIRD DECADE (By Dale Sharpee)

Since 1995 Moon Lake has participated in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Why does the MLRA participate in this program? The purpose of the CLMP is to help volunteers monitor indicators of water quality in their lake, document changes in water quality and monitor changes in lake productivity. Water quality is a general term covering many aspects of chemistry and biology. The health of a lake is determined by its water quality. Productivity refers to the amount of plant and animal life that can be produced within the lake. The CLMP is designed to specifically monitor changes in lake productivity.

On Moon Lake we measure water clarity and sample for algae plant pigment chlorophyll-a five times during the summer and total phosphorus during spring and late summer. These parameters are indicators of primary productivity and, if monitored over many years, may document changes in Moon Lake.

In addition to measuring and recording these three parameters, we have also recorded lake levels and recently ice out and ice over dates and days of ice cover.

This past fall the lake level at ice over on November 21st was 4.18 feet. In 2014 the level of the lake increased 1.12 feet since ice out on May 10th. The last time that the lake level exceeded 4.0 feet at ice over was 2006. During the 3 year period of 2004-2006 the level of the lake exceeded 4.0 feet during the entire period of open water. Then from 2007 through 2013 the level of the lake was 3.0 feet or less during the open water period. Many variables will determine if the lake level can be sustained above 4.0 feet in 2015.

Thanks to the efforts of our webmaster, Bob Turnquist, a format has been created on the website to present an annual summary of the data that has been recorded. To access this information go to the Water Quality page and click on the Water Quality link.

Note: A portion of the material in this article was taken from the CLMP 2013 Annual Summary Report.

BOAT TESTING ON MOON LAKE BY NORTHERN EDGE MARINA

At last year's annual meeting, the concern was raised about the possibility of invasive species being introduced into our lake by boats being tested by the Northern Edge Marina. Tom Chase volunteered to contact Leonard (the owner) and talk to him about our concern. Tom reports that he talked with Leonard who

assured him they visually check the boats and if there is any chance of contamination they power wash the boat before testing. Thanks, Tom, for checking this out.

REPORT ON FISH PLANTING PROGRAM FOR MOON LAKE (By John Sick)

In our last newsletter we reported that the DNR was preparing a proposed program for planting Splake in our lake. (Splake is hybrid trout - a cross between a lake trout and a brook trout.) We were advised that the decision would probably be made by the end of January. At the time of preparing this newsletter we were advised by our DNR representative that the decision has not yet been made. Here is what he reported:

"The management prescription is in the final stage of review and I should hear final comments hopefully this week. At this point, it looks like the stocking plan will be approved; however the formal designation has not been finalized yet."

I guess they call it a prescription because if the plan is approved, we will be entitled to some "refills". Approved programs usually involve plantings each year for a 5 year period. It is looking good, but no decision yet.

ARTICLE FROM LAKE TIDES MAGAZINE

Occasionally we will include articles of interest from the LAKE TIDES magazine, which is published by the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. We thought you might find the following article interesting. This article appeared in the fall/winter issue, 2014 edition.

WOOD TURTLES: The wood turtles inhabit clear streams with moderate to fast flowing water and sand or gravel bottoms in forested areas. Wood turtles spend the winter hibernating under water in these streams and rivers, where they lodge themselves under a rock, log or overhanging bank. They emerge from hibernation in May, at which time they mate and begin moving on land, returning to water at night. Female turtles nest from mid to late June, sometimes moving long distances (up to three miles) to reach their nesting sites. Following nesting, the females and some males spend the rest of the summer on land, roaming the forests and alder swamps until cool night temperatures cause them to move back to the rivers in late August. They usually hibernate in October or November.

Wood turtles are omnivores and feed opportunistically on just about anything they can find, including berries, leaves, mushrooms, earthworms, insects, mollusks, mice, amphibians, and carrion. Mushrooms are reported to be a particular favorite. Wood turtles have been observed performing a unique activity,

called worm stomping, to hunt earthworms. They lift their plastron (lower shell) off the ground and repeatedly thump it onto the soil. This sound and vibration cause earthworms to emerge from below the surface, and they are then consumed by the stomper. Wood turtles have been observed stomping both in the wild and in captivity, which suggest that this is an innate, rather than a learned behavior. THE END!

Just out of curiosity, has anyone ever seen one?

UPDATE OF MLRA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Sheila McConaghy has volunteered to assist with an update of our membership directory. It has been quite a while since this has been done and we need a directory that reflects current information. We certainly hope everyone will cooperate and get any new or changed information to Sheila. Sheila is working on a form that when complete will be forwarded by email to all those with email addresses. Those without email service will be mailed a copy of the form. Once the directory is complete, a copy will be provided to all members.

AS always, any ideas you have to improve our newsletter are always welcome. Send your suggestions to jsick@cfl.rr.com. TAKE CARE, STAY WELL, AND HAVE FUN! John Sick

Food for thought: Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

If that doesn't cause a smile, try this one: There are two excellent theories on how to argue with women. Neither one works.