

Fall
MLRA Newsletter #123
September 2015

Message from MLRA Board of Directors
MLRA Board of Directors

John Sick has notified the Board of Directors (Board) that he would not be able to continue with his position. John has been a significant contributor to the association and the well being our Moon Lake environment He will continue to be active within the association and will submit articles for the newsletter The MLRA Board of Directors, as well as the association would like to thank John for all he has provided and wish him the best in his and Judy's future endeavors.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dick Guttman as John's successor to the Board. We are sure he will be quite active in providing benefits to the MLRA.

We would also like to thank Mary Pat Kelly and Sheila McConagy for gathering update physical and email addresses to our directory. A lot of time and effort was invested in performing this task.

We would also like to announce that Tom Wheeler is back to assist Sheila McConagy with our Moon Lake loon surveys and reports and will help Bob Turnquist with the Loon Platform and Buoys Welcome back, Tom and many thanks to Bob and Sheila.

Letter from The President
Tom Chase

Your association provides a web site (www.moonlake.org) reporting lake health, nature articles, and DNR assessments from our reporting, and our own weather station! We also hope to have an analysis performed on the fish population (e.g. mercury content). The site also is home to current and archived newsletters for your review.

We are also in the process of promoting the social aspect of our association. We currently have an "Up North Ladies" group that generally meet once a month and check out our local food establishments to dine and share lots of laughter. Some of the men meet for libation and food on the same night the ladies gather. It is a nice evening to socialize and get to know your fellow association members. Notifications to both ladies and men will be sent via email.

In past years we would have a MLRA social at one of the member's home where all of the membership is invited to meet their neighbors and enjoy a bit of food and drink. In the spirit of these past events, Judy and I will be hosting MLRA get together on the 15th of August 2015 (Saturday afternoon). Please mark you calendar for this event.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
Land O'Lakes Library Aug 15, 2015

Present: Tom Chase, John Sick, Sheila McConaghy, Mary Pat and Dave Kelly, Dale Sharpe, Tom Wheeler, Bob Turnquist, Frank and Kathleen Kuchevar, Dick Guttman, Prudy Caudill, Jim Reels

Tom Chase called the meeting to order at 9:18. The meeting was at the community room of the LOL library. Mary Pat and Sheila provided the snacks and coffee. Tom gave the president's report regarding some of the activities that MLRA participated in during the past year, including fish planting, work with DNR and the MLRA website.

Minutes from the August 9, 2014 were approved with motion from John Sick/second Mary Pat. Jim gave the treasurer's report with assets totaling \$8,325.45, which was up about \$1100 more than last year. He indicated that 16 members had not yet paid dues for the 2015 year. Bob Turnquist moved/Dick Guttman seconded approval....passed

Dale then gave the water quality report, which indicated that while the lake level was up this year in the time from July 10 to Aug 14 there was a four-inch drop due to evaporation. Water clarity depths have stayed essentially the same for a number of years. SICK indicated that when trees fall into the lake it is good to let them stay as a good fish habitat.

Tom Wheeler gave a loon report, which indicated that the loons were first seen on April 14th. Nesting was observed from May 9 to May 15 when the birds left the nest due to black flies infestation. There was a second nesting from June 9-22 at which time the nest was abandoned. An egg was found a week later so it was concluded that the loons were probably frightened off the nest and the egg was fell into the water. Tom indicated that it might be time to redo the nesting platform so he and Bob Turnquist plan to do so this fall. Tom offered to cover the costs of materials in memory of his wife Linda. The board expressed its appreciation for all the work that Tom has done regarding the loons.

In the next newsletter members will be reminded of the 100' rule that applies to fast moving watercraft. Prudy inquired whether there could be some control of the lake usage by visitors who abuse the lake regulations and 100' rule. Bob Turnquist offered to talk with USFS regarding usage control of the boat landing. Tom Chase will talk with Northern Edge Marina about their heavy usage of the landing, power loading of boats and possible donation to the MLRA as a good will offering.

Tom indicated that the board has decided to publish three newsletters a year (May, Fall and Winter). Notices will be e-mailed to MLRA members when the newsletters are posted on the MLRA website.

Tom suggested that next year we should again attempt to have a social meeting on the lake. He may be willing to host the gathering with members bringing various dishes to pass. The date suggested for the gathering is August 15, 2016 (Saturday).

Mary Pat and Sheila have been busy working on the updating of the membership directory. They are contacting old and new members regarding current phones, cells, addresses and a-mails. When completed the listing will be published for insertion into the 2009 directories.

MLRA TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Reiels

As of September 2015:

Beginning balance as of 8/1/15		\$ 812.54
Income		
Dues	945.00	
Subtotal		\$ 1,757.54
Expenses		
USPO	\$ 29.40	
LOL Fire	\$ 100.00	
LOL Emergency	\$ 100.00	
Conover EMT	\$ 100.00	
Watersmeet Fire	\$ 100.00	
Website	\$ 323.96	
MLSA-Water	\$ 170.00	
MLSA-dues	\$ 90.00	
ISCCW-dues	\$ 125.00	
Ending Balance		\$1,018.36
Savings		\$ 3,333.13
ANS Fund		\$ 4,253.14
Total Assets		<u>\$ 8,125.45</u>

Note: the MLRA received a very nice thank you note from the Watersmeet First Responders, thanking the members for their generous donation of \$100.00 as approved by the annual meeting.

Water Sampling and Monitoring Program in 2015

Dale Sharpee

Five samples were taken during the summer for the purpose of measuring the level of chlorophyll-a as well as two samples for measuring phosphorus. These samples are now at the lab for analysis. The Data Report which is provided as part of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program will be posted on the website when it is available this winter. The 1st measurement of water clarity using the Secchi disk will

be taken during the week of September 13th. The reading on September 9th was 19.0 feet. Sixteen readings will also be included in the Data Report.

The level of the lake has returned to those last experienced in 2006. The water level as of September 14, 2015 was 4.07 feet. This is .45 feet (5 inches) below the 2015 peak level of 4.52 feet on June 5th. The 1.98 inches of rain of September 2nd helped to offset some of the drop in the lake level that took place this summer from evaporation.

A link to an article that should be of interest to all who own riparian land has been posted on the **Protect Our Lakes** tab on the website. This article stresses the importance of woody material in the lakes and the management of riparian areas to help develop complex littoral zone habits.

Lake Survey

John Sick

Please refer to our website located under the Fish Management tab for a very interesting .pdf article **"Moon Lake 2015-2020 Management Plan"**

Received by John Sick

Dear Member,

Please consider forwarding a web survey for lakeshore property owners to the members of your Association on behalf of a Ph.D. student at Michigan State University. In order to participate, please email (jnohner@msu.edu) or call (402-660-0282) Joe Nohner. Joe will provide you with a link for the survey and an email invitation that you can send to your members.

The Michigan Lake and Stream Association support this research. Joe is a Ph.D. student in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at Michigan State University and a Board Member on the Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society. He is conducting a survey of lakeshore property owners to assess shoreline property owners' attitudes and behaviors toward lakeshore conservation programs. The information he gains will assist efforts to support diverse uses of lakeshore properties and promote healthy lakes for all to enjoy.

Please consider Joe's request, and contact him directly by email (jnohner@msu.edu) or phone (402-660-0282) before July 27, 2015 to participate. All that you will be asked to do is forward an email to your Association members; no other information is required. Survey responses and participant identities will remain completely anonymous and confidential.

Joe is happy to share a summary of the results with you if you would like. You can find out more information by visiting Joe's website:

fishingforhabitat.wordpress.com/2015/05/08/michigan-lakefront-property-owner-survey

Thank you for your support of this important research.

Sincerely,

Scott Brown

Executive Director

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association

Alisha Davidson

Research and Development Coordinator

Michigan Lakes and

Up North Ladies

Judy Chase

Hello Ladies, I'm back! It's been quite awhile since I wrote about our Northwoods Ladies. I just blinked my eyes and fall is upon us. I personally am not looking forward to the frozen tundra.

In June (?), Debbie Piel was very gracious and hosted a gathering of fun ladies. If you have ever visited her home you know how beautiful it is especially sitting in her screened in porch. **On a side note:** Debbie and Alan welcome visitors to their Bed n Breakfast. I keep teasing that I want to move in there.

In July, Debbie organized a luncheon at Forest Lake Country store. We welcomed some summer visitors to come along. Laughter is good for the Soul and this group of ladies knows how to laugh and enjoy a relaxing time.

This month we met at the Black Old Inn. (Thanks Debbie) There was quite a breeze sitting on the back porch but it helped to keep the flies from us. The food was outstanding and lots and lots of fun conversation. We were happy to have Cassandra join us again. We welcomed a new Northwoods lady, Sharon Youngren. She will be a summer resident and will continue to winter in PA.

Please note that all ladies are welcome. We say, "The More the Merrier". Feel free to bring along a friend from up here or a visitor.

A path to a friend's house is never long.....Judy Chase

Moon Lake Loon Activity Summary 2015

Tom Wheeler & Bob Turnquist

As was posted on the MLRA web site, the Moon Lake loons were unsuccessful at producing chicks this summer despite 2 nesting attempts. The first attempt in early May ended after 5 days in the nest because of black flies. The pair tried again in early June and lasted 2 weeks. This time there was no obvious cause of the nest abandonment, however, a loon egg was found floating in the lake a while later. It is likely that an adult somehow dragged the egg into the water as it left the nest.

Bob Turnquist and I are rebuilding the nesting platform this fall. We removed the PVC frame and will reuse it. The original platform was provided by the Forest Service and constructed many years ago. The flotation foam has been breaking down and the weight of the accumulating nesting materials and vegetation has been slowly sinking the platform.

New foam flotation material and plastic mesh will be installed. It will then be covered with soil and vegetation. Tag alders will be used again to provide protection from eagles.

Michigan DNR Fish Stocking

John Sick

John reported that the DNR had planted 3500 splake this spring as part of the six-year program. The cost of the fish planting is about \$60,000 for the six-year period. Bob indicated that he had frozen two bass as part of our commitment to submit 10 bass to the DNR for studying mercury content in the fish.

John also stated that as far as I know there have not been any splake caught up to this point. However, it is entirely possible that splake have been caught and it has not been communicated to me or anyone else on our Board. Several lake residents have reported greater than normal surface activity, which very well may be related to the splake.

Interesting News Articles

Shared by MLRA Member

INVASIVE CRAYFISH SHOULD NOT BE USED AS BAIT

Crayfish sold alive in pet shops, grocery stores, and live food markets are not intended for use as bait or release into lakes. Many are red swamp crayfish—an aggressive invasive species that is nearly impossible to eradicate.

It is illegal to import any crayfish into Michigan for use as bait; however, red swamp crayfish remain available for sale. While it remains legal to buy live red swamp crayfish to eat, to study or to display in an aquarium, this species could be a real threat to the environment if released into the wild. It could also cost taxpayers a small fortune to control.

We are still in the dark as to the mystery snails that got into Moon Lake (perhaps an aquarium dumped) and we surely don't need red crayfish to add to the mix.

Pharmaceuticals in our waters

Medicines are produced and prescribed in increasing volumes every year. Thousands of tons of pharmaceuticals are used across the globe, and Americans alone fill more than three billion prescriptions a year. Considering that four out of five people leave a doctor's office with a prescription, one can imagine how much of that medication potentially is being thrown away improperly; especially when twenty to sixty percent of prescription medications go unused and are eventually disposed.

We have more than 1400 wastewater treatment plants in the US and Canada that discharge 4.8 billion gallons of treated effluent into the Great Lakes basin every day. Only about half of the prescription drugs and treatment plants remove other newly emerging contaminants in sewage—the rest ends up in the lakes.

Although these contaminants are being found at very low levels—in parts per trillion—we don't know their long-term effects. Many animals get a daily dose of drugs at their watering holes and ever worse, fish and other aquatic animals live in a pharmaceutical brew. Some of these chemicals interfere with or mimic natural hormones and disrupt reproduction, development, and behavior of fish and other organisms.

Pouring the drugs down the drain is basically the same as flushing them away. Throwing them in the trash also has high risks for children and pets. Eventually, if not properly disposed, these drugs end up in the groundwater or rivers and lakes.

If you have any drugs that you want to get rid of, please take them to the **Lac Vieux Desert Police Department in Watersmeet** during office hours. We are fortunate to have this service available every day. So please, take the time to deposit them at the police station and help save our clean waters.

Starry Stonewort

A species of invasive, aquatic algae known as starry stonewort was discovered in Sept. 2014 in Little Muskego Lake, Waukesha County Wisconsin. Intense monitoring efforts by the Wis. DNR and others have resulted in three additional populations of starry stonewort being identified.

The starry stonewort does not produce viable “seed” in the USA and therefore, it can only spread by fragments of the plant or its bulbils. You can prevent spreading by using the same method for other invasive species, i.e., clean boats and proper identification.

Woodpecker and their long, barbed tongues

As the name implies, woodpeckers are known for their ability to rapidly hammer wood—at least 1,000 times the force of gravity—all without experiencing a headache. But something interesting hides beneath the beak of steel. After drilling a hole in a tree, a woodpecker needs something to get its meal out and that is when a long tongue comes in handy. Woodpeckers have a long, thin tongue with a barbed tip, which is used to extend into a tree and essentially rake out the insect appetizers inside. A sticky coating around the tongue also helps the bird withdraw their food. A woodpecker's tongue can be several inches long, and a tongue that long needs to be stored somewhere for safekeeping. The cartilage and bone of the tongue, known as the hyoid apparatus, starts out as two bands, which merge together to form the bird's tongue. The split hyoid actually wraps all the way around the back of the skull, just under the skin, before coming together to form the tongue! Keep this quirky fact, just like the woodpecker's tongue, stored in the back of your mind next time you come across one of these interesting birds.

Zebra Mussel Control

Zebra mussels have been present in North America since 1988 when they were first discovered in the Great Lakes. Since then, they have moved across North America from coast to coast with the greatest populations in the Great Lakes states. Zebra mussels can be very destructive to aquatic ecosystems by disrupting the base of the food web, and also to industry by clogging water intake pipes.

Over the last few years research has been conducted on methods to kill zebra mussels. The EPA to curtail zebra mussel growth has approved a product known as Zequanox, which is comprised of the dead cells of naturally occurring soil bacteria. To date, success is largely limited to closed water systems, such as intake pipes. There has been limited impact on open water lakes. Thus research continues; vigilance is the best prevention for the present.

Items of Interest

Tom Chase

We are happy to welcome Roger and Sharon Youngren to Moon Lake and MLRA membership. The Youngrens are from Pennsylvania presently but originally Roger was from Kingsford MI. They sold their cottage on Golden Lake and wanted to again relocate a vacation home in the UP. Thus after a search of real estate options they settled on buying Dave and Marla's cottage on Moon Lake. Roger is Vice President in charge of safety for Ports America. They will spend their summers on Moon Lake and the remainder of the year in Jim Thorpe, PA. His work takes him to shipping ports on the east and west coasts as well as the Gulf of Mexico.

A welcome also goes out to Bob Ogrenc, new owner of the Pineaire Resort Motel, has joined our lake association. Bob is an extremely accommodating manager that welcomes any overflow guests we may have, including pets! The up-dated cabins include satellite T.V., wireless Internet, fridge, microwave, and can accommodate from one to six guests. If needed contact Bob at pineaire@alphacomm.net or phone (906) 544-2313.

Observations

Tom Chase

As the cannon is fired down Land O's COHWY B, our summer is now unofficially over. It looks as though our winter may be just around the corner, as the hardwood trees have started to show their fall colors.

1. Please utilize our website! Next newsletter the first part of September Contributions are always welcome!
2. If you know of any MLRA member that you believe would like to be remembered (for any reason), please contact Judy Chase (tnjchase@alphacomm.net), and she will send out 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. Any website contributions can be addressed to Bob Turnquist via: www.moonlake.org

We appreciate the response from our members. Please feel free to make suggestions whenever you like and send them to your MLRA board members.

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