



The Loon Crier

Our Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#125

November 2017



A New Look

We want to hear from you!

As a supplement to the MRLA website, "The Loon Crier" is your new handy newsletter that will provide not only the official lake news to keep you informed as a property owner, but also regional information such as day trip ideas, fun activities, business profiles, etc. We will also want your favorite recipes, pictures, and interesting lake and Up North stories to share—whether they be fact, legend, or folklore!

We're just getting started, so please let us know what questions or ideas you have to include in future issues.

From full-time residents to weekend retreaters, we want to provide all Moon Lake families with information they can use and appreciate.

Your Loon Crier Editors,

Steve and Carleen Sunderland

Contact us at sssloon13@gmail.com

Fun Fact: Moon Lake is 93 acres with a shoreline distance of 2.44 miles

A Word from the President

By Bob Turnquist

A few years ago, I agreed to be MLRA Vice President with the stipulation that I would *not* have to serve as President. It is not that I mind being active in the association, but rather that I don't particularly enjoy speaking in front of crowds and I certainly am not a dynamic speaker. None the less, under the circumstances it seems to be the right thing to do and I will do my best in the President's role.

We thank Tom Chase for his work and dedication as MLRA president these last four years, and as newsletter editor for the last seven. Other changes to the board include two new board members: Eric Zorr, who is also our new Vice President, and Steve Sunderland. Steve and his wife Carleen will be the new editors of the MRLA newsletter, replacing Tom.

Weather wise this was kind of the summer that wasn't; however, until today (October 24) our fall weather has been great. Today the high is about 35 degrees, with 25 mph winds and some snow. True late fall has arrived.

After a bit of a struggle we were able to get our lake webcam online late this summer. Our intent is to have the webcam view the lake except in Loon nesting season. To prepare for the nesting season Tom Wheeler and I brought

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the loon platform into shore, trimmed the vegetation, and installed the camera mount with materials provided by Tom and me. We were able to test the camera on the platform before moving it back to its normal location in the bay. Now we'll be ready to move the camera to the platform to view the loons nesting on the platform in the spring. Here are some photos of the webcam at the loon nest. A big thanks to Tom for his time, ideas, and materials!

Enjoy the Newsletter, Bob



Web camera mount at the loon nest platform



View of the loon nest from the web cam (with stuffed owl as a model!)

Did You Know?

The Moon Lake Web Cam is live on Moon Lake through the winter! Now even the snowbirds can keep an eye on the lake all winter long. Check it out through the website or click here: <https://moonlake.click2stream.com/>

A big thanks to Bob for spearheading this webcam effort and to those who donated money for the initial purchase of the equipment. What a treat it has been for those who may not get to Moon Lake as often as they would like, and we can't wait to see the loon pair nesting in the spring!

CALENDAR OF AREA EVENTS

Please contact the editor with any special event dates coming in 2018,
sssloon13@gmail.com

- **WEEKEND WITH SANTA/CRAFT SALE**
Land O' Lakes
Nov 24-25, 2017
Various locations around town
- **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SNOWMOBILE DERBY**
Eagle River
JAN 18-21, 2018
- **THREE BEAR SLED DOG RACES**
Land O' Lakes
Feb 3-4, 2018
- **POND HOCKEY NATIONALS**
Eagle River
Feb 9-11, 2018

Annual Meeting Recap:

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold rainy day on September 2, at the LOL Pavilion; the shared snacks and comradery made it very enjoyable.

Minutes are posted to the MLRA website at:
<http://www.moonlake.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Annual-Meeting-Minutes-2017.pdf>

Here are a few highlights not reported elsewhere in this newsletter:

- We remember the passing of Dick Gottmann and Jim Reiels this past year [and most recently Doug Mackett]
- DNR planted 2,325 Splake again this year

FUN FACT: A Splake is a hybrid fish resulting from the crossing of a male **brook trout** and a female **lake trout**. This species does not reproduce.

- Water level measured in August was 11 inches higher than the measurement taken at the same time last summer
- Water clarity is 18.25 feet, which is a bit less than the average from last summer. Natural shore debris and run-off from the frequent rain storms are the major contributors
- Donations of \$100 each were again made to the Watersmeet Fire/EMT, and LOL Fire/EMT
- A Moon Lake map with homeowner information (name/address/phone) is currently being updated thanks to Sheila McConaghy and John Reiels. The new map will be provided to all current (paid) association members. If you would like to have your information included and it has changed since 2009, please send your update to Sheila at chasmc1@alphacomm.net



MLRA 2018 DUES

\$20.00

Mail to
Sheila McConaghy
PO Box 893
Land O'Lakes, WI 54540

We have 40 households this year, that's up 8 from last year which is great news, welcome new and returning members!



Continue to use **911** for medical emergencies on Moon Lake!

2017 Loon Report

By Carol Youmans

So sad to see the last of our Moon Lake Loons leave our lake! Yes, the young juvenile left Moon Lake on or about Sept 25th, marking an end of summer for the North Woods. Is it possible it's been 5 months of Loon watching for all of us on our lake?

The departure started with one of the adults leaving in mid-August. To think it is not uncommon for both adults to abandon the baby. But this does not take place until the juvenile is around 11 – 12 weeks old and has most of his size. Many think it is cruel when parents leave. There is a good reason this is done however, which is to ensure there will be enough food remaining for their precious baby to grow strong and learn to fly.

The remaining parent stayed on the lake until about Sept 16th. The Juvenile was seen for approximately one more week on the lake.

I thought some of you might wonder to where the adults and youngsters migrate. Read on for some brief information regarding this long journey in which some travel upwards of 3,800 miles. In the air they have a rapid wing beat and can fly up to 75 miles per hour.

October and early November, before the lakes freeze, loons fly south to the Gulf and Atlantic coastal regions. Loons are one of the few birds found in both fresh water and salt water from our Northern lakes.

Juvenile loons migrate south their first autumn and do not return to their breeding area for two and a half to three years on an average. From mid-January to February, adults have a catastrophic molt, losing all feathers and becoming flightless for three to four weeks.

Here is a web site which tracked 8 youngsters (from this area in 2014) that had been tagged before their migration. It shows a route similar to what our loons may take as they go south.

<https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/blog/2014/11/20/tracking-devices-let-scientists-watch-as-16-young-loons-start-their-first-migrations/>

Here is also a map showing a visual of their journey.



Here is a photo of what a loon looks like after they molt. A really different look, not in their beautiful black and white breeding plumage as seen here on the lake.



Your Loon Ranger, Carol



How Moon Lake Found You

In each newsletter we'd like to include a story about what brought YOU to beautiful Moon Lake. Our first story is written by John Sick, resident and board member *emeritus* of Moon Lake. Send YOUR stories to Steve at sssloon13@gmail.com We can't wait to hear your story too!

How Moon Lake Found our Family

By John Sick

My love affair with Moon Lake began in 1948, almost 70 years ago. Our family had a history of enjoying the north woods and my folks always rented a cabin for a week or two in the summer, usually in the St. Germain area. I had an early introduction into the beauty of the north country.

However, in the summer of 1948, my Mom and Dad decided to do something a little different, and planned a road trip around Lake Superior. I don't remember a whole lot about the trip, but I do remember how it ended. We had just completed the circle around Lake Superior and had turned south on Rte.45 by Watersmeet to continue our trip back to our home in Waukegan, Illinois. We got about halfway between Watersmeet and Land O'Lakes when our car broke down - and I mean really broke down! There were no cell phones in those days, so we hoped someone would stop and help us out.

And someone did - a very kind Catholic priest who lived nearby on a small lake just west of

Rte. 45 stopped to help. He took my Mom, my two sisters and me to his nearby home and proceeded to take my Dad to the garage and service Station that was then located on the corner of Rte. 45 and Crystal Lake Road in Land O'Lakes. The car repair required several new parts which needed to be ordered and would take two to three days to arrive. We needed a place to stay and somehow found our way to a rental cabin at a resort on South Moon Lake Road. I believe it was called Shady Lane Resort. Needless to say, we all fell in love with Moon Lake in that short stay. As we all know, Moon Lake is a superb swimming lake, and we were all swimmers. We were hooked!

It turned out that the owner of the resort owned several thousand feet of lake frontage along the south shore of the lake and had several 100 foot lots for sale. My Dad walked the shoreline with him and picked out a lot on a point which was in between property that was later owned by the Tansor's and the Lloyd's. The cost seemed prohibitive, but my Mom and Dad decided to "bite the bullet" and buy the lot. The cost was \$5.50 per front foot - a grand total of \$550.00 - how amazing is that!

The following summer my Dad and a very handy friend of his, plus me, spent three weeks living in a tent and building the rudiments of a cabin on a cement slab that had been previously poured. The cabin was initially very



rustic, but livable, and included an outhouse and a 30 foot well that was manually dug with

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an auger and topped with a hand pump in the kitchen to be. As rustic as it was, it was a great source of fun, pleasure and good times for our family for many years. The cabin has been modernized over the years and is still in our family. It is now owned by my nephew and his wife, Stephen and Carleen Sunderland, who have recently retired and are spending the major part of their summers in the old homestead.

Original cabin, 1950's



I slowly drifted away from Moon Lake after my college years - getting married, starting a family and pursuing a career. There were occasional visits to the north woods, but very little time spent at Moon Lake. However, in 1973 my wife (Judy) and I purchased a lot at the west end of Moon Lake next door to where the Turnquist's now live. We built a chalet style cabin the following year and our family enjoyed the wonders of Moon Lake and the north woods until early last year, at which time the cabin was sold to David and Carol Youmans.

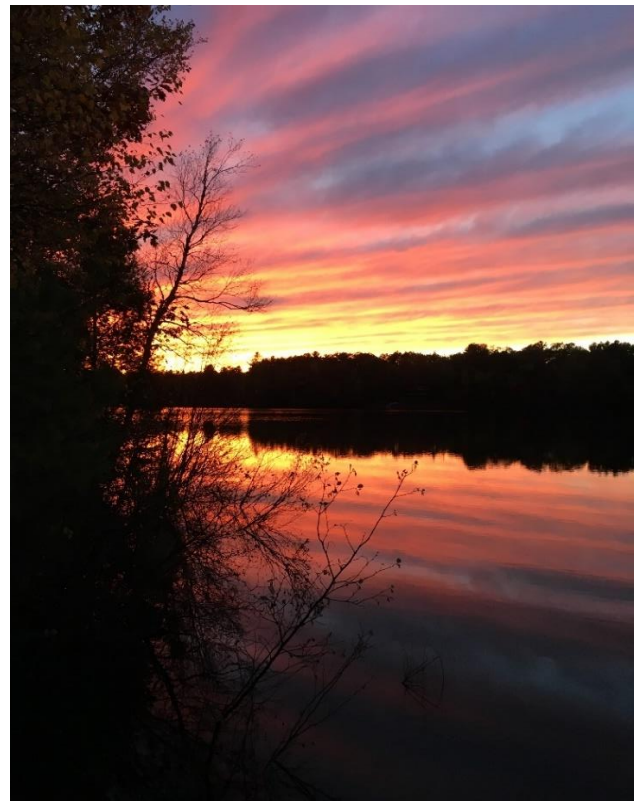
I would like to share just a couple final thoughts with you. To me, there is something mystical and even spiritual about Moon Lake and the north woods, it touches your soul, and it leaves you in awe of the wonders of the natural world. It brings peace and contentment. Someone once said "the greatest recreational use of a lake is just looking at it". That could very well be true. I have pictures of Moon Lake mounted on the wall of my little home office that I look at every day. And now, due to the hard work of Bob Turnquist and the MLRA, I can look at live

pictures of Moon Lake on the new lake cam. I check it out almost every day, and it feels good! Please treat Moon Lake with great care and respect - it will reward you many times over.

Stay well and take care,
John Sick and family



Reflections on Moon Lake, Oct 2017



Your MLRA Board:

- President: Bob Turnquist
turnquist.bob@gmail.com
- Vice President: Eric Zorr
ezorr0@mac.com
- Sec/Treasurer: Sheila McConaghy
chasmc1@alphacomm.net
- Board Members:

Dale Sharpee
rhodale@alphacomm.net

Carol Youmans
pawsandme@yahoo.com

Frank Kuchevar
kathfrank@alphacomm.net

Steve Sunderland
sssloon13@gmail.com

Family Folklore...or Fact?

By Steve Sunderland

After a fun day on the lake your friends and family may have headed off to see the Paulding light. The Mysterious Light, as my family calls it, is located just north of Watersmeet, on Robbins Pond Road. If you've never gone, don't be surprised to see many parked cars as you approach the end of the road. Over the years many scientists have tried to explain the phenomenon and perhaps recently they found an answer but I continue to believe the story I heard over 40 years ago...

Sometime in the 1800's, a mail carrier was delivering the mail by dog sled and lantern during a cold January afternoon. A surprise blizzard hit and the mailman was separated from his dogs. Stranded into the night, he perished in the cold. So now every night, the lost mailman is searching by lantern for his beloved dogs.

O.K.- maybe that's a slight stretch for why there is a light on the horizon, but I'm sticking with it. If you have never gone, or if it's been awhile, go see for yourself some dark night. Enjoy!

For Interested Members: The board has purchased a small book from Michigan Lakes & Streams Assn. titled "Michigan Lake Associations- The Nuts & Bolts", by Clifford H. Bloom. If anyone is interested in reading this, you may borrow it from Bob Turnquist.



Fun Fact: Watersmeet was first platted/named in 1884 by the Milwaukee, North Shore and Western Railroad. It was so named because it is located on the highlands from which the waters flow into Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River Valley, respectively.



Moon Lake Family Recipe Corner:

Send us your “tried and true” recipes that you rely on to please your Moon Lake visitors!

This first recipe comes from my Aunt Judy. This is sure to please a cabin of hungry guests. It’s a great “I know this one by heart” recipe (who needs a cookbook!), and best of all, Nordine’s always has the ingredients!

Enjoy, Carleen Sunderland

Aunt Judy’s Brunch Bake:

- 1 can crescent rolls
- 1 lb. regular pork sausage
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar

Brown sausage (can do the night before and refrigerate). Pat crescent rolls into 9x13 pan, bringing up on sides a bit. Sprinkle sausage over dough. Sprinkle cheeses on top. Beat eggs with milk and pour over cheese.

Bake at 425 for 20-25 min (my electric oven at the cabin takes a bit longer!). Stick knife in and if it comes out clean it is done.

Serves 6-8

A Joyous and Peaceful Holiday Season to All!

Respectfully submitted,
Steve and Carleen Sunderland