



Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#136

moonlake.org

Fall 2020

From the President

Bob Turnquist

Hello all. We had great summer weather this year but that is over as we are into fall. This newsletter is occurring during a beautiful display of fall colors that are occurring earlier than normal. I hope you got a chance to enjoy the display. With cooler temperatures and no bugs, it is a great time of year to take a walk or hike. With little traffic now rural roads are a good choice for a walk and the local bike and ski trails are great for hiking.

As everyone knows, the water level keeps increasing on our lake. This year we had more boat traffic than normal and with the increased water levels we are getting shore line damage and having decking lifted out of dock frames by big wakes. Please pay close attention to the discussion regarding boat wakes in this newsletter.

In the spring newsletter I spoke of a snapping turtle possibly burying eggs in a flower garden in front of our house on June 9th. On September 9th we saw a baby snapping turtle heading across our driveway and going toward the bay where the loon platform is located. Over two days we saw a half dozen baby turtles either crossing the driveway or emerging from holes ranging in size from that of nickels and quarters (see photos). While they look like adults you can see their size relative to my thumb.

I hope everyone has a great autumn,
Bob



We remember our Moon Lake resident
Judy Chase
passing June 23rd, 2020

and former resident
Stan Kallaak
passing September 14, 2020

(Treasurer), Carol Youmans (Loon Ranger), Steve Sunderland (Vice President), Peggy Zorr (Secretary), Bob Turnquist (President), outgoing member Frank Kuchevar (seated) and newly inducted member Mike Reiels (not present).

Dale Sharpee Recognized


The Michigan Clean Water Corps has recognized long-time volunteer Dale Sharpee for his many years of reporting Moon Lake water quality data. The MiCorps program would not be possible without the work of volunteers to collectively gather, report, and analyze data about the quality of Michigan's waterbodies to help inform future management decisions. Thank you, Dale, from all of us on Moon Lake!



Steve LaPalio, current Moon Lake water quality board member, (left) presenting volunteer certificate to Dale Sharpee. Thanks to Steve for spearheading this recognition effort!

MLRA Annual Meeting Held

Please click [HERE](#) to find the complete minutes of the annual meeting, held Saturday, August 22nd. No social was held this year due to Covid-19, however 5 additional lake members did join the board for the socially distanced meeting. Mark your calendars for 2021's Annual Meeting AND Social! August 14th. Remember you can access all meeting minutes as well as past newsletters and much more at our website Moonlake.org

 **THANK YOU** to Frank Kuchevar for all your years of dedication to Moon Lake! Although Frank has retired as a board member, he will continue as our "Ice on/Ice out" Reporter Emeritus.



MLRA Board: Standing from left to right: Steve LaPalio (Water Quality Monitor), Eric Zorr



It's not too late! Send your 2020 Moon Lake Riparian Association Dues, \$25.00 Payable to: MLRA c/o Eric Zorr, Treasurer PO Box 664 Land O'Lakes, WI 54540



Boat Wakes (Waves) and Shore Erosion



At the annual MLRA meeting, a discussion was held where multiple members communicated their concerns about shore erosion on their property. Moon Lake is in the “perfect storm” at this time as:

- a. we are a very small & narrow lake
- b. we have record high water levels, and
- c. we create large wakes/waves close to shore.

Everything from shampoo bottles to picnic tables have been removed from the lake this year. Anyone who has spent time on the lake has noticed either their own pier or a neighbor’s are just at or dip below the water line. We know from Moon Lake history that these water levels cycle (remember the beaches we all had 10 years ago?). So, as we wait for the cycle to turn, it’s important to realize the harmful impact our waves have on both the natural shoreline and our personal property.

While the board encourages everyone to enjoy the lake, we take this opportunity to re-state the Michigan boating law:

A no-wake speed is required within 100 feet of the shoreline, any pier, person, raft, swimming area and swimmers.

We get it, how does a boater really know what 100ft is? The board recognizes this dilemma and therefore is exploring the use of buoys to mark 100 ft. These will be placed strategically around the lake. We are asking that you please abide by this rule.

As you enjoy the fall on Moon Lake, please take the time to survey your shoreline for anything that is close to water’s edge, and ensure these items are secure, as the water level may even be higher next year.

Thank you for being good lake stewards 😊

Loon Report

Carol Youmans



The Loon Dance Social

How many of us have heard of loons gatherings on lakes in the summer and fall times? How many have actually seen this dancing on the lake? I have not witnessed such a show myself but maybe someday I will be fortunate enough to. I wanted to find out what the excitement is all about by people that have watched and written about such dancing on their lakes and I found their stories are similar except the number of loons. Here is what my findings were, put together from descriptions of The Loon Square Dance, Loon Social, and Loons Dancing from a few Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota’s nature and wildlife articles:

In summer, many loons begin each morning by flying to a lake at the same time to participate in some social bonding & dance ceremony. They arrive by flying past for a quick look and then they glide in silently. Fellow sharp-eyed birds on the water greet them with an excited “hoot,” this salutation is given nearly an octave higher than the usual contact call. With their feet dangling and body held upright, each loon comes in on a high-speed landing that starts with the tips of their feet dragging in the water and ends in a chest-first splashdown.

Coming to rest, each loon begins to seek out others, and they all begin to congregate into a loose raft of loons or even a circle and still in the skies above, other loons call in a hurried call of the tremolo, to signal their intent to land and join in, then settling into a routine that looks much like a dance. The whole raft or circle swims about in a sort of turning “square dance,” bills turned downward, their red eyes looking toward the middle of the circle. One loon dives, the rest swim nervously, plunging faces underwater to track the diver’s progress. With poetry, grace and even a dose of mistrust, the swimming circle erupts suddenly with loons splashing, chasing, dipping, diving and calling wildly. The rogue loon suddenly erupts on the waves, pursuing the tail of another, and the two

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chase each other. Sometimes they pursue one another tirelessly over the water, wings churning forth in a competitive breaststroke until one bird is driven away from the group. Other times, the loons diffuse tension with an assortment of intense behaviors on splayed wings, rising powerfully from the water and calling.

Scientists have suggested a number of hypotheses for these social gatherings, including the possibility that the loons are preparing for fall migration. But these reasons for loon grouping are often inconsistent, and maybe the “square dance” behavior represents a sort of aquatic tussle for pecking order. Perhaps it involves a bit of play and learning, important skill-building behavior in the animal kingdom. Would it even be possible that the birds are already working on settling next year’s mating-season issues? Makes you wonder.

Have a beautiful fall and keep your eyes on the Lake for the Dance!



Carol Youmans, Loon Ranger

Edible Wild Food

Provided by Steve LaPalio



It's Chanterelle Mushroom Season! Get all the info you need for a successful find at: <https://www.ediblewildfood.com/chanterelles.aspx>

Reading Material Available



If anyone is interested in reading the **Michigan Riparian** magazine, the Zorr's have extra copies and would be happy to deliver them to Moon Lake residents. Reach out to Peg via email at pzorr@me.com. There have been some interesting articles about all the high lake levels this year and eroding shorelines, plus many other topics of interest to lake people.



Fall colors are enjoyed by people and pets alike!

Did YOU Notice?



Good eye for those of you who may have noticed that the Moon Lake banner is missing from downtown Land O'Lakes! Do not fret, for the MLRA board is on top of it. We learned that the banners do have a limited life span and when they are no longer able to be repaired, a new banner is made. This summer's banner-making process was delayed due to Covid-19, so hopefully we will see a new sparkling Moon Lake banner hanging proudly next summer.

FUN FACT:

The cranberry got its name from Dutch and German settlers who called it "crane berry," thinking the blooming vine resembled a crane's head and bill.



Fantastic Loon close-up submitted by Dave Peterson



Moon Lake Ties to Iconic Summer Pastime

It's a safe bet to say that 99% of us own a Weber grill. It's a name synonymous with summertime fun and good eating. This article was spotted in *The Wallstreet Journal* a few weeks ago – thanks to Mike Reiels for spotting it, and to George and Sue Stephen for allowing us to post it – yes, we have George's father to thank. 😊

BACKSTORY

The One True BBQ

How the Weber kettle grill, signifier of summer, revolutionized backyard cuisine

WHEN George Stephen, a welder at Weber Brothers Metal Works in Chicago, wanted a juicy steak, as he often did, he threw one on his backyard brazier—state-of-the-art midcentury grilling technology that consisted of an open-air charcoal pit fitted with a cooking grate.

But sparks flew, smoke spewed, results varied wildly. If it rained, *pfft*. Craving a lidded alternative, Stephen cut one of Weber's spherical sheet-metal marine buoys in half and mounted it on legs to create a domed contraption. Skeptical neighbors called it "the spaceship" (it was 1952), though all agreed the steaks were divine.

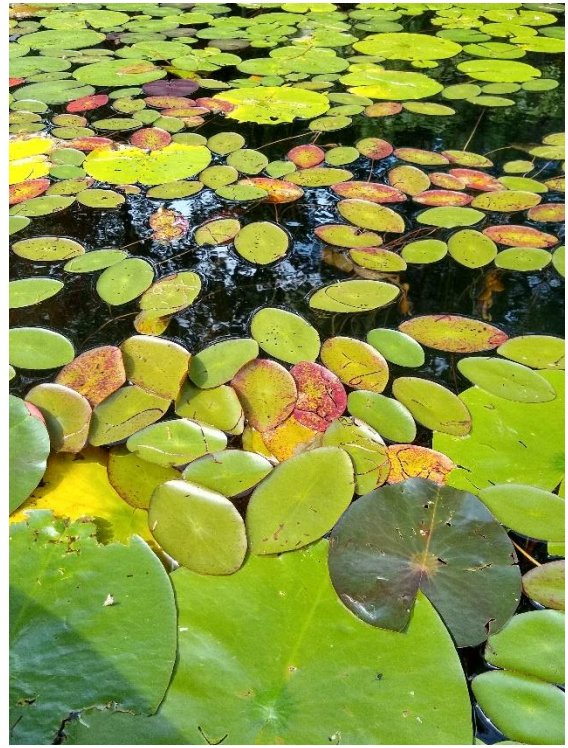
Grilling can feel like an arms race, with ever bigger and costlier infrared rotisserie-equipped models complicating the primal pastime. But cooking over a flame should always be simple, said Jordan Frosolone, executive chef at the Leopard at des Artistes in Manhattan: "Put a lid on it and you're in business." Indeed, Weber's straightforward kettle grill, largely unchanged since Stephen's innovation, remains beloved, especially now, when backyard cooking constitutes dining out. Chris Scherzinger, Weber's CEO, reports that since April, the company has seen "record-setting demand, greater than any year in our history." —Lexi Mainland



Original Kettle Charcoal Grill, from \$89, weber.com

WEBER

Summer Scenes on Moon Lake...



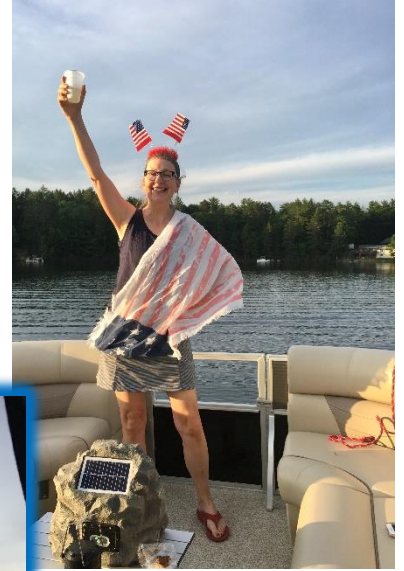
Morning Fog and Lilypads submitted by Marty LaPalio



Full Moon, Baby Visitor, Sunset submitted by Steve Sunderland



...And of course, we cannot forget our Epic 4th of July Boat Parade! A record 21 boats (and 2 paddleboarders) joined in. Next year let's have a Boat Decorating Contest!



Enjoy the beautiful fall! Respectfully submitted, *Carleen and Steve Sunderland*

