



Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#138

moonlake.org

June 2021

From the President

Bob Turnquist

We have had a diversity of weather this spring. We had some warmer weather than normal early and then followed up with a cool stretch. This past week has been crazy hot. There was little rain this spring although as I am writing today it is raining cats and dogs.

As if confused by the weather, the loon behavior is different this year. They decided to nest further back in the bay on a nice natural site:



They did not sit long before abandoning the site. A naturalist friend said this was a bad year again for Loon Black Flies so that may have been the reason. The last few days the loons have been spending time near our loon platform and were on and off their nest on the platform. Today we have seen an egg on the nest and one of the loons sitting on the egg most of the time.

This year the lake level is up again. The second extension to the water gage was

broken off by the ice this spring so we don't have a reading but observations suggest the level is up 4 to 5 inches. The MLRA Board hopes to install a new gage this summer. With the high-water levels, we are even more at risk for shoreline damage. Please pay attention to the discussion in other parts of this newsletter.

The MLRA Board and I hope you have a great summer while respecting our precious lake.

Bob

We remember our Moon Lake neighbor and MLRA member, Ron Miller, who passed away April 6, 2021

-Mark Your Calendars-

The MLRA Annual Meeting and Social (yes!) is set for

Saturday, August 21, 2021

At the Land O' Lakes VFW
4pm Meeting
5pm Social

Bring a dish to pass. Cash Bar.
We hope to see you all there.



Reminder: 2021 Moon Lake Riparian Association DUES

4th of July Events:

✓ **In Watersmeet July 4th:**
Parade – 3pm
Fireworks ~ 10pm

✓ **In Land O' Lakes July 3rd:**
Fireworks: At Dusk

✓ **In Land O' Lakes July 4th:**
Parade: Noon

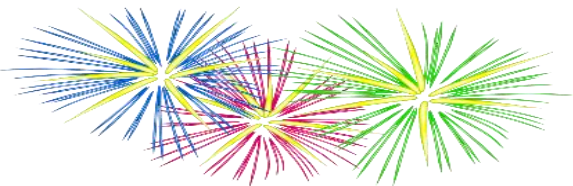
2021 Dues \$25.00 Payable to:
MLRA
c/o Eric Zorr, Treasurer
PO Box 664
Land O'Lakes, WI 54540

Thank you for continuing to support all efforts to keep Moon Lake healthy. Additional donations are always welcome for the Moon Lake Invasive Species Mitigation fund.

AND... THE BEST EVENT OF ALL – Plan on the 2nd Annual (revitalized) Moon Lake Boat Parade!

Last year's parade was such a great success we're definitely having it again this year. Everyone is welcome to join in the Independence Day celebration by decorating your boat and/or dock/pier.

The parade will be Sunday July 4th beginning at 7:30pm. Mike and Julie Reiels will start the parade so just jump in line wherever you'd like. Enjoy!!



2021 Moon Lake Ice-Out date was April 9, that's 3 weeks earlier than last year! Thanks to Frank Kuchever for providing this data every year.



FUN FACT:
Upper Michigan has over 400 different species of birds!

Moon Lake Health Report

MLRA board member Steve LaPalio recently attended a 6-week online training class called "Introduction to Lakes". This award-winning program sponsored by Michigan State University is designed to educate lake communities on effective processes for keeping their lakes healthy, including watershed management, shoreline protection, aquatic plants and much more. Please take some time to read the following summary compiled by Steve so we can all continue to be good stewards of our beautiful lake.

Thank you, Steve, for attending this important class and so thoroughly summarizing for us!

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2021 Introduction to Lakes:

By Steve LaPalio

- 1. Lake Ecology: Aquatic ecology and various factors that influence the water quality of inland lakes-** Lake ecology is the scientific study of the interrelationships between living organisms and the chemical and physical components of the environment, in a non-flowing body of freshwater. Many factors influence lake ecology, including lake type, lake zones, water chemistry, light penetration, trophic status, food web structure, thermal stratification, basin morphometry, and human activities.

Notes: What you can do to protect Moon Lake:

- do not use phosphorus containing fertilizers (there is a restriction in effect in MI)
- keep your septic system maintained
- keep leaf and grass clippings from entering the lake (as much as possible)

- 2. Watersheds:** Inland lakes are dynamic ecosystems, connected with and influenced by their watersheds. The landscape which drains into a lake is its watershed, including the people that live, work, and play within it. A lake's watershed greatly impacts its health and vitality. Through collaboration and partnerships, good watershed management is possible.

Notes: Our lake water is supplied by runoff and streams so the health of the groundwater is important. Any chemicals like pesticides or herbicides poured on the soil will end up in our lake. When using fertilizers select a slow-release Nitrogen type.

- 3. Shoreline Management:** Lakes and Their Shorelines addresses the ecological importance and water quality benefits of a natural shoreline, as well as the fundamental concepts of a natural shoreline design. Storm water management and proper septic system maintenance are also discussed.

Notes: Create a natural buffer zone from the shoreline back 35 feet (utilizing native plants) to minimize runoff, sediments, nitrogen and phosphorus from entering the lake. This can be as simple as creating a no mow zone at the shoreline.

- 4. Lakes and the Law:** Lakes and the Law defines private lake access, explains how the state of Michigan determines a navigable waterbody, and important laws impacting inland lakes. Keyhole development and water use regulations.

Notes: Moon Lake land owners (Riparians) have certain rights regarding land and water usage, "reasonable use" applies to public and riparian lake usage, local sheriff and DNR may enforce local and state regulations, Michigan's Marine Law and Boater safety provides guidance regarding watercraft including the 100 ft rule.

- 5. Introduction to Aquatic Plants:** Lakes and Aquatic Plants highlights aquatic plants and algae commonly found in Michigan inland lakes. One can differentiate various forms of algae and common multi-cellular plants based on where they reside in the water and learn about their ecological importance. Invasive aquatic plants and various management techniques is also be addressed. Information was also provided on permit requirements that may be necessary when controlling aquatic plants.

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Notes: The best long-term solution to controlling aquatic plants, including invasive ones, in Moon Lake is the control of Nitrogen and Phosphorous levels. Identification of invasive species is difficult, but important. It's not IF an invasive species will enter our lake, but WHEN. It is our responsibility to be observant and if in doubt ask, or review one of the resources available. Eurasian milfoil is currently the largest threat, it is already in many of the surrounding lakes.

Side note: Just a reminder we already have an invasive species in our lake, although it is not a plant, it is a snail, when you see them, take them out of the lake and burn them (or eat them, here is a recipe: <https://www.instructables.com/Eat-Invasive-Species-Mysterysnail-Fettuccine/>) .
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_mystery_snail)

- 6. Promoting Citizen Involvement:** Lakes are a shared resource, and each user brings to the lake his or her own ideas and desires. Individual ideas and desires often conflict with those of others. Instead of a community working together to manage and protect their shared resource, Riparians, other lake users, and decision makers often battle to determine who gets to play on the water and how the lake will be used. To overcome these differences, communities should work together in collaborative partnerships. Community involvement in water resource management is imperative to the success of long-term protection of inland lakes.

Notes: Moon Lake citizens have been actively involved in lake stewardship since 1993 when the MLRA was formed. To protect the valuable resource of Moon Lake we have joined other organizations like the ISCCW (Invasive Species Control Consortium of Watersmeet) and the MLSA (Michigan Lakes and Streams Association). Additionally, we have been involved with the CLMP (Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program) since 1995 collecting water quality data to track the health of Moon Lake.

Summary:

Moon Lake is a healthy oligotrophic, seepage lake, with public access. In 2019 there was a spike in the phosphorus level, but was consistent with yearly variations and less than previous elevated levels. Please review the Water Quality data from the Moon Lake website. Water management and monitoring are important. 47% of all lakes 100 acres or larger that reside in the 48 contiguous United States are located in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. Michigan has over 11,000 lakes over 5 acres. Lake monitoring has been an important attribute of the MLRA. This document is provided to inform and educate Moon Lake users. Most longtime residents are already aware of much of the information provided, I hope the newer stakeholders find this information useful.

Definitions:

Trophic Status: is a useful means of classifying lakes and describing lake processes in terms of the productivity of the system. Basins with infertile soils release relatively little nitrogen and phosphorus leading to less productive lakes, classified as oligotrophic or mesotrophic.

Oligotrophic: Lakes with low nutrient concentrations and low plant growth.

Mesotrophic: Lakes with medium nutrient concentrations and medium plant growth.

Eutrophic: Lakes with high nutrient concentrations and high plant growth.

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Morphometry: The shape and volume of a lake related to a lakes age, origins, chemical makeup, and the organisms that live within it. Lake shape is influenced by the surrounding landscape and controls much of what goes on physically and biologically underwater.

Buffer zone: An area of shoreline with planted grasses, shrubs, or trees that serves to separate the lake water from a lakefront property. This area is also known as the riparian zone.

Seepage lake: A lake formed by rain, runoff and groundwater and does not have an inlet or an outlet.

Riparian: Relating to or living or located on the bank of a natural water source like a lake.

YouTube videos:

Sebastian the goose:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Oef1C_kPNI

Larry the all-American bullfrog

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fABglKV6MLc>

Shoreline restoration:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDPCPu-OcE0&feature=emb_imp_woyt

Shoreline Stewards:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DqZJCGuyEU&list=PLXCrWyRfRQVX4Og4cpc1fB_oW98MCgWE&index=1

Additional resources:

Michigan State University Extension: www.msue.anr.msu.edu

Michigan Clean Water Corps: <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/>

Phosphorus Free Fertilizer: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/phosphorus_flyer_2-9-11_376295_7.pdf

MSU Extension Smart Gardening for Shorelands factsheets: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/be-a-smart-gardener-and-protect-lakes-streams-and-wetlands>

Michigan DNR Wildlife Division: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79608_83455-32867--,00.html

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: <https://www.watershedcouncil.org/>

MSU research on: <https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2015/septic-tanks-arent-keeping-poo-out-of-rivers-and-lakes/>

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Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership: <https://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/plants-for-inland-lakes.html>

Michigan Recreational Boating Information System (MRBIS):
<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mrbis/mcgi.aspx>

Michigan lakes and streams association: <https://mymlsa.org/government-and-legal-issues/michigan-marine-law-boater-safety/>

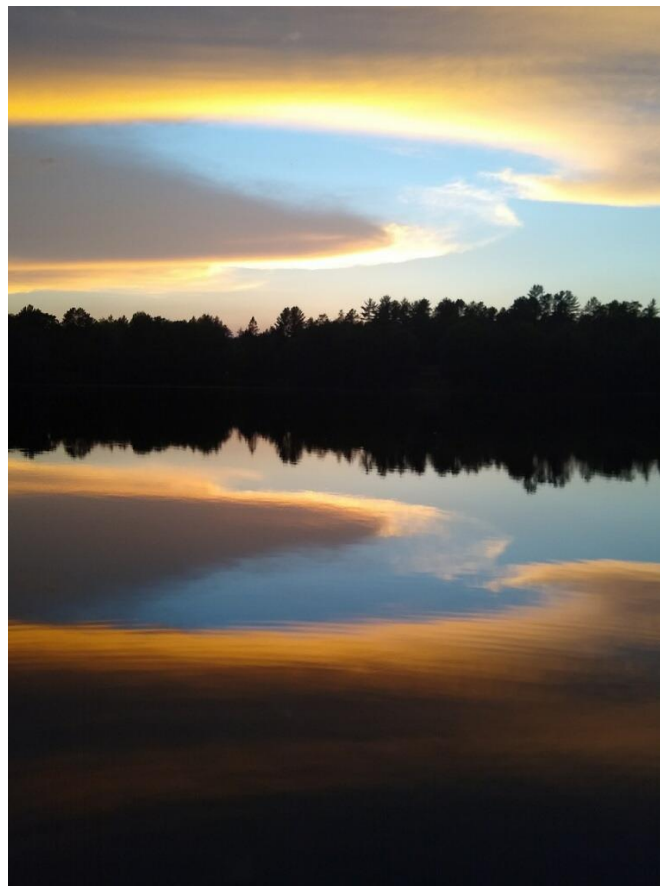
Midwest Invasive Species Information Network: <https://www.misin.msu.edu/>

Developing a watershed plan: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-nps-watershed-planning_559733_7.pdf

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/handbook-developing-watershed-plans-restore-and-protect-our-waters>

References:

- Michigan State University Extension
- MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife



Moon Lake at Dusk
taken by Marty LaPalio

New Land O' Lakes Business



Please welcome Doug and Jeanette Tansor and their new business, **Up North Wellness Center** to downtown Land O' Lakes. Dr. Doug specializes in human and animal chiropractic services. The Tansor family has had a home on Moon Lake since the 1950's so it's a perfect fit to have Dr. Doug and Jeanette in town. We wish them great success. You can learn more about their business at www.UpNorthWC.com

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High Lake Levels

As everyone is aware we are continuing to experience very high lake levels. It's particularly difficult for folks with permanent docks and little shoreline. The MLRA would like to remind everyone of the following:

1. If you have a submerged dock, please attempt to either attach a buoy or raise it to decrease hazards for those who float close to shore (canoe/kayak/SUP).
 2. Please do your best to prevent significant wake with your watercraft within 100ft from shore. This is Michigan law but more importantly it protects all members who enjoy the lake and protects against shore erosion and property damage.
 3. The board communicated last September that it was evaluating the use of buoys around the lake to mark 100ft from shore or dock. This evaluation will continue this summer and discussion on any future implementation to occur at the annual meeting in August.
 4. Be on the watch for large debris in the lake. There have been significant pieces of wood fished out of the lake this year already. Be careful out there.
- Thank you from your MLRA Board

Watersmeet Lakeguards- ISCCW

(Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet). This organization does fantastic work in helping to keep our lakes clean and free of harmful invasive species. Their educational and prevention programs are invaluable to all who love our lakes.

They are always happy to accept new members and/or donations.

Learn more through www.ISCCW.org or www.Lakeguards.org

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Please send donations to:
ISCCW-Watersmeet Lakeguards
PO Box 725
Watersmeet, MI 49969

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Michigan Broadband Service

Many folks on the lake who utilize Michigan Broadband for internet service have indicated the strength of signal is not always consistent or strong enough for regular use. The MLRA Board will be drafting and sending a letter to Michigan Broadband asking if the signal can be improved in any way. If you are opposed to this effort or if you have any comments to share, please contact one of the board members.

We will update you on any response we receive. Thank you.

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New Lake Neighbors

We have a few new neighbors who have joined our lake in last couple years.

Please reach out to any of them you may have met and ask if they'd like to be a MLRA member, if they're not already. We always welcome new members 😊



Sylvania Outfitters Turns 50

By Steve Sunderland

Chances are if you've rented a canoe or kayak to paddle on one of the many beautiful Sylvania Lakes or Watersmeet area rivers then you rented it from Bob Zelinski at Sylvania Outfitters. I say that because Bob is celebrating his 50th year owning his very successful business in Watersmeet.

It all began in 1971 when Bob's grandfather, owner of Stark's Cabins, asked Bob if he could help the business by managing canoe rentals. Bob was attending Northern Michigan University as a History Major at the time but agreed and thus began a 50-year run. The initial name was Stark's Outfitters but soon Bob changed the name to Stark's Sylvania Outfitters. Then in 1974 the big break occurred when the current building he is in now became available and he decided, due in part to his years of being a Boy Scout counselor and his love of the outdoors, that he'd make being an outfitter a lifelong endeavor. He bought the building and renamed the business Sylvania Outfitters and also began renting cross country skis to make it a year-round business.

Bob has always cared deeply about his customers. An example is, years ago, a family was canoeing down the Ontonagon River when they lost their watertight container holding their car keys and wallet in the water. Ten years later Bob's wife, Sandra, found the box and they proceeded to comb through years of canoe rental records and found the family and was able to return the items.

As a lifelong Watersmeet resident, Bob has always loved his community. He has been a school bus driver for the last 20 years and if you spend any time with Bob, you quickly know how passionate he is about local and Upper Michigan history.

From copper to logging to railroads and many other subjects, his knowledge of the area is amazing. He hopes to someday put that knowledge down in a series of books (I sure hope he does).

From three canoes in 1971 to now over 100 watercrafts, Bob has had a truly legendary

career providing enjoyment to thousands of people visiting or living in the area. At this time, he has no plans to slow down so hopefully many more years are to come. If you get a chance, stop by and congratulate Bob on his 50th anniversary. It's certainly well deserved. And from someone whose family has been renting from Bob since those early years I say "thank you Bob for a job very well done"!



Bob Zelinski celebrating 50 years running Sylvania Outfitter

Good Luck to the Loon Egg and it's family! Hopefully we will have a baby this year. Be sure to follow along on the webcam. This photo taken at 12pm on June 11th, egg is 2 days old.



Live video from MoonLake camera

[Webcam \(moonlake.org\)](http://moonlake.org)

Moon Lake Family Recipe Corner:



Here is a very nice Italian starter or side dish for the summer. A real taste of Italy.

Enjoy, from Sheila McConaghy

Anti-Pasta Salad

- 1 jar mild guardienne, undrained (Yes this is at Charles Market!)
- 1 red onion, sliced thin
- 1 green olives
- 1 can black olives
- 1 can mini corn, drained
- 1/2 to 3/4 lb. genoa salami, diced
- 1/2 lb. diced Provolone
- 4 ribs celery, sliced
- 1 c. carrots, blanched or 1 can cooked
- 1 jar roasted red peppers, drained
- 1 jar or can artichoke heart, quartered
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning or basil, oregano, & thyme

Mix all together and refrigerate. Serve as a starter or on buffet on a platter.

Makes enough for 12 - 18 people.

*Be Sure to Attend this year's
LOL Library Fundraiser!*

*Silent Auction and Book Sale
Saturday, July 24th
9am-3pm
Land O'Lakes Library
Tell all your friends and family*



*Raffle tickets also available at
the library.*

Mama deer came by for a visit...



...and then a couple weeks later we meet baby!



Gotta Love the Northwoods. Have a great summer,
Respectfully Submitted,
Steve and Carleen Sunderland