



Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#139

moonlake.org

October 2021

From the President

Steve Sunderland



Hello to all,

As I begin this message as the new MLRA president, my first thought is to thank Bob Turnquist for all his work and dedication to Moon Lake as president over the last four years. He has done much during that time to better our lake community and it is very much appreciated. I'm also quite happy he agreed to continue being a board member.

I'd like to also show appreciation to the other hard working board members as well. Mike Reiels is now Vice President, Steve LaPalio continues as head of Water Quality Control, Carol Youmans is our Loon Ranger, Peg Zorr records all board activities as Secretary and Eric Zorr handles all financial affairs as Treasurer.

If you ever have any questions/concerns please feel free to contact myself or any of the other board members. We're always happy to hear from MLRA members.

In this edition of the *Loon Crier*, you will find the annual MLRA Board Meeting Minutes as well as a recap of summer happenings and so much more pertinent and interesting information.

As the colors change here in the Northwoods it's definitely feeling like the inevitable transition from summer to winter will soon be

upon us. But before that occurs, I hope you have a chance to get in a few more rides on the lake or walks in the woods. It's a special time of year. Enjoy!!

Take Care,
Steve Sunderland

We remember our Moon Lake neighbor Dick Walter who passed away in August, 2021.



OOPS! Have you forgotten to pay your 2021 MLRA Dues?

It's not too late! Read on to find out all the ways the board puts your dues to good use

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

Moon Lake Riparian Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 21, 2021

4:00-5:00 PM Land O Lakes VFW

Meeting was called to order by President Bob Turnquist at 4:00 pm. Bob welcomed all to the meeting and introduced our two guest speakers, Denise Fontleroy from ISCCW and Yvonne Clark from Watersmeet Township.

Board members present: Bob Turnquist, Steve Sunderland, Steve LaPalio, Mike Riles, Carol Youmans, Eric and Peggy Zorr.

There were 38 persons in **attendance** which includes the board members and our 2 guests.

Bob noted that the association had lost yet another member to death, **Ron Miller**. A donation was made to the Land O' Lakes Library in his name from the MLRA.

Approval of 2020 minutes was motioned by David Youmans and seconded by Marty Lapalio.

Treasurer's report was given by Eric Zorr. Checking account balance as of last year's meeting was \$2,044.29. Our current balance is \$2,234.29. Savings account balance was \$2,413.06, and now is \$2,517.15. Our invasive species fund account in 2020 had \$4,462.92 and currently has \$4,646.84. Checks were written for the following: Lake Coop Training \$285.00, MI Lakes and Streams Membership, \$100.00, ISCCW membership and a donation, \$250.00 and 2020-2021 memorials to date \$100.00

Secretary's Report on **membership** (covered during the treasurer's report and approved by secretary Peggy Zorr): Current membership 31 households out of 52 households. Two more members paid dues at the annual meeting.

Steve LaPalio gave the **water quality report**. Ice Out this year was April 9, 2021 with a water level of 9.14 feet. On August 4, 2021 the water level was 9.6 feet. Sochi disk reading was 23ft maximum and 15ft minimum. Phosphorus (which is naturally occurring) 8 parts per billion was in normal range.

Carol Youmans gave us an **update on our loons**. A Thank you to Bob Turnquist, et all, for setting up the Loon Cam. April 13, 2021 was the first sighting of loons on the lake this season. On May 27, 2021 they made a nest north of the platform, then abandoned that nest. On June 10 they went to the platform in Loon Bay. June 14 an egg was laid then abandoned. A second egg was laid. June 22 the second egg and nest were abandoned. The egg was still on the nest in early August as we cannot disturb it since it is protected.

A summary on the **stocking of fish** in Moon Lake was given by Bob Turnquist. George Madison reported that 2,345 splake (7-inch average) were planted. This was the last year of a 7-year program for planting. A new plan will be drawn up. No rainbow trout because they are not native. Brown trout can't make the trip from lower Michigan. Bass and Pan fish are increasing in our area. No walleyes are planted in Moon Lake.

Camera on the loon's nest worked well now that it is in conduit. We need conduit and cable to get the lake camera back in action. That will be taken care of as soon as possible.

Steve and Carleen Sunderland have faithfully been sending out the **Loon Crier**. Articles, photos, recipes, etc. being submitted are greatly appreciated and should be sent to Steve and Carleen by October 1.

In addition to the newsletter, MLRA is considering what to do with **the website** which had been a source for lake news and the archives from the lake.

Continued on page 3

John Riels is looking into a more cost-effective alternative for this which normally runs the association \$100-200 per year.

Terms are expiring for Bob Turnquist (Pres.), Steve Sunderland (VP), Eric Zorr (Treas.), and Steve LaPalio. Motion was made by Brian Riels to unanimously keep all four on the board. Seconded by David Youmans. Voted, approved.

Bob expressed a desire to give up the presidency but would remain on the board. A standing ovation was given (pretty sure it was for his years of service 😊). Steve Sunderland announced he would accept the presidency. Mike Riels graciously accepted the nomination for VP. Motion made by Brian Riels and again seconded by David Youmans to have Steve Sunderland become the board president, Mike Riels would become the VP, and Bob Turnquist as a board member extraordinaire. Voted, Approved.

Carol Youmans, Mike Riels and Peg Zorr have one year remaining on their terms.

Dues for 2022 will remain at \$25 due at the beginning the year (Jan. 1) as well as meeting date to remain the Saturday two weeks before Labor Day which will be **August 20, 2022** with the location at the VFW. Steve LaPalio motioned and David Youmans seconded, voted, approved.

High water and boat wakes are causing problems to the lake shore and docks. This also increases the amount of debris that is found in the lake and along the lake shores. Reminders will be put in the newsletter and we ask owners to remind your guests about the rules for lake usage. As an association we want everyone to enjoy the lake while protecting our shore lines, the wildlife in it and our docks/ boats.

Some of the **comments from MLRA membership** is that we should send a copy of our newsletter to Northern Edge Marine. Members close to the boat landing could post

signs reminding boaters of the 100-foot rule which can be acquired from Denise Fontleroy (ISCCW), and a request that the board stand during the annual meeting so members in the back of the room can hear what is being said. (We apologize that hearing us was an issue. Thank you for bringing it to our attention.)

Yvonne Clark appointee to the Watersmeet Township had 6 items to share with the MLRA. They are as follows:

1) a new website was launched this week check it out at: www.watersmeet.us

2) Highline Fast internet company is getting fiberoptic to Watersmeet Township, however, Moon, Duck, and Dinner Lake areas are excluded. You may contact HighLine at their website highlinefast.com and make your voice heard telling them you would like to be included. If the website does not take all your information call them at the number provided on the site. This would not commit you to anything but would let the company know you would be interested in having faster internet.

3) Roads are going to be improved and a commission is being established. If you would like to serve on that commission, you may volunteer by going to the Watersmeet website

4) The LVD Tribe is looking to settle on a location to grow, process and sell marijuana and by-products in a small corridor. Again, for more information go to the website and/or attend a Watersmeet town meeting

5) Some loosening of restrictions on lake properties, lot dimensions and RVs, and lastly

6) All town meetings will have Zoom capabilities, so if you cannot attend you may watch and participate in the meeting from home.

Thank you, Yvonne for joining us, sharing your information and for bringing zucchini bread for our social!

Continued on Page 4

Denise Fontleroy from ISCCW expressed gratefulness to MLRA's support of the ISCCW. The ISCCW will continue its Zoom meetings as well. She shared information about helping our shorelines with the high water and wake issues. Plant kits for beautifying the shoreline are available at

www.UPNativePlants.com. If you go into the water then a permitting process must be followed. Boat inspections continuing but they do need inspectors at the landings. Contact Denise or the ISCCW if interested in helping. Also, she mentioned that our lakes are getting an increase of usage due to the Canadian Border being closed. The on-water lake tours will be continuing and ISCCW would potentially like to come to Moon Lake next year. Thank you to Denise for joining us, your information and brownies for our social!

Adjournment. Motioned made by Marty LaPalio, all seconded, voted, approved. Minutes respectively submitted by Peggy Zorr, MLRA secretary.



Your 2021 MLRA Board, clockwise around the table: Mike Reiels- Vice President, Steve LaPalio – Water Quality, Peggy Zorr – Secretary, Carol Youmans – Loon Ranger, Eric Zorr – Treasurer, Bob Turnquist – outgoing President, and Steve Sunderland – incoming President

Loon Report

Carol Youmans



Every year I get so excited when ice is almost out on our Moon Lake! Anticipating the first sound and sighting of our loons this year was no different. As the seasons come and go, sadly, our Loons do also. Looking outside watching the leaves dropping from trees brings me back to that reality. Although our loons were not successful in having hatched a chick this year, I hope that next year Moon Lake will be one to join the New Born Chick Club!

Here is some Loon Trivia...

Do immature loons return to the North after their first migration south?

Young and immature loons are believed to spend two or three years in the coastal waters before making their trip back to the North Country.

Why are loons called loons? Where did the name come from and who named them?

Well, my pondering led me to some interesting information... The word loony is NOT related to the word loon! Loony comes from Lunatic, a word that comes from lunar, because long ago some people believed that a full moon made people go crazy. Despite calls that make it sound maniacal the word loon actually comes from a Shetland Island word called loom, which comes from Icelandic word lomr and the Swedish word iom, which both refer to someone who is lame or clumsy. Loons were called this because of how awkward and clumsy they are on land.

Ever wonder what and how much our Loons eat? A LOT of fish! LOL.

Continued on Page 5

It was calculated that the total amount of food eaten by a pair of loons and their growing chicks is about 360 kg, (792 pounds, or less than half a ton) during the 120-day breeding season. That's still a lot of food for a family of four whose total weight is only about 32 pounds at the time the young leave the nest. And that means a family of loons DOES eat well over a ton of fish during a full year.

Loons eat fairly small fish, about 10 to 70 grams each, though sometimes loons take fish up to 300 grams. How big is that? A ten-gram largemouth bass is about 4 inches long; a ten-gram bluegill is about 3 inches; a 70-gram largemouth bass is about 7 inches long; and a 70-gram bluegill is about 6 inches long. A 300-gram largemouth bass is about 11 inches, and a 300-gram bluegill is about 9 inches. Fish this large are hard for loons to deal with. Sometimes loons end up dropping larger food items, and once in a while a loon may even choke, yikes!! Loons also eat crayfish, shrimp, frogs, large aquatic insects, and other critters, especially when fish numbers are low or the water is murky.

Resources:

All About Loons (Sigurd F Olson, Environmental Institute Northland College)

Journey North (University of Wisconsin / Madison newsletter)

May you all have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving / Fall Season!

Carol

Follow-up items from the MLRA Annual Meeting:

Steve Sunderland



1. Lake Cam:

As stated in the MLRA meeting minutes, the lake camera needed some repair, (the cable had been attacked by various woodland critters), so similar to the work done with the cable going to the loon nest, the guys also trenched in conduit and new cable to the lake

view camera spot. The conduit was donated by the board, and we thank Bob Turnquist for continuing to run the camera from his home for both the loon nest and lake.

Remember you can always access a view of Moon Lake even when you are not here by going to the Website - Moonlake.org/webcam or click here:

<https://moonlake.click2stream.com/>

2. Update on HighLine Internet Service:



First of all, thank you to everyone who called in to express interest in bringing fiber optic internet to Moon Lake. I recently contacted our Watersmeet Trustee, Yvonne Clark, for an update and she is still waiting to hear back from the CEO of Highline. She is hoping to have some news to share by the end of the month.

So do be sure to contact Highline if you have not done so already (and perhaps call again!) if you are interested in getting high speed internet. Again, the number for Highline is

888-212-0054

3. New Lake Association Member

As suggested at the meeting, I stopped by Northern Edge Marine and spoke with the owner, Leonard Cirese, who confirms they are still using the boat washer to clean all boats before testing them in Moon Lake. Leonard very much wants to be a contributing steward of Moon Lake and to also be made aware of any questions or concerns lake owners may have over the use of the lake by the marina. We welcome Northern Edge Marine as our newest MLRA member and look forward to a long and healthy partnership. Thank you, Leonard, and your entire staff!



It Takes a Village...

Bob Turnquist

As many of you know, the water level on the lake rose above the lake water level gauge that was installed many years ago. I added 2 extensions the last few years but over winter this year the ice broke off the last extension. The MLRA board decided to install a new gauge this year. First the old gauge was removed, thanks to Peg Zorr for getting into the water! Steve Lapalio ordered new gauges and the Zorrs donated a pipe and auger anchor that was part of their old dock. Steve LaPalio and I fabricated a means of attaching the new gauges to the pipe and we created the necessary mechanism to allow the gauge assembly to be screwed into the lake bottom. Jim Tonyan picked up Steve and I with his pontoon boat and we installed the new gauge adjacent to the old gauge in the back bay. Even though the pipe was screwed down 4 feet it seems the new gauge could be a bit more rigid than it is. We will see how it survives winter and if necessary, we can add more pipe and screw it deeper into the lake bottom. Thanks to the entire crew to make this happen!

Our professional diver Peg



Retired Gauge



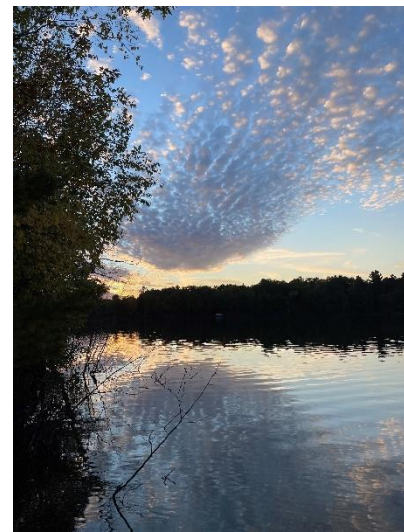
New Gauge



New Gauge Installed in Loon Bay



Just another Magical Sunrise on Moon Lake! 😊



...and Sunsets are just as jaw-dropping!



Moon Lake History

By Peter and Jane Olk

When we bought our property at the west end of the lake in 1993, we weren't aware of the logging history this property held in the late 1890's and early 1900's. There was an unusual topo feature that we found out that used to be a ¾ narrow gauge rail bed that terminated on our property and went west through the swamp to connect up with the Chicago Northwestern line which is now the snowmobile trail heading to Watersmeet, Michigan. We continue to find rail nails and pieces of steel items that were once used at the mill. We have a piece of the center section of a steel wheel "truck" from one of the train flat beds.

One of the long-time residents on Moon Lake, Stan and Alice Gorski, told us that this narrow-gauge system was used to transport harvested pine logs from points north and west to a sawmill located on our property just west of our current home. The sawmill would then process these logs into rough sawn timber and loaded on horse drawn wagons and delivered to a staging area in Land O' Lakes behind what is now where the library is located. The lumber would then be loaded on flatbeds and shipped to the markets in Chicago. Mr. Gorski also said that bulk logs were delivered to an area next to what is now the old Marquette Diocese church/camp at the east end of the lake location on US State Hwy 45 and floated west to the saw mill location on our property.

Mr. Gorski spent many years as a logger in the area and was well aware of the history of the logging operations in the local area and the UP of Michigan. He told us that the surveyors at the time would leave a large white pine tree at a corner location to mark sections. One of those section markers was a very large white pine tree just to the south of our home and stood there for many years until a straight-line wind storm took it down in 2006. The base stump is still there and can be seen at the marker site. When we purchased the property, we used to take the kids back into the woods to see how

many of us it took holding hands to cover the circumference of the tree. We finally took some rope and then compared the length to a tape measure indicating a circumference of over 14'!

Mr. Gorski also said that there was a "bean pot" buried somewhere close to the sawmill site. He said that the loggers would dig a large hole in the ground, build a fire and then put the pot over the coals and bake beans for days of meals. We did find an indentation in the soil by the garden and after digging to a depth of about 3' we uncovered charred wood remains and pieces of rusted metal which appeared to be a cooking utensil.

In addition to the history and the number of resorts that used to dot the Moon Lake shoreline this area has a rich history of the logging operations during the last years of the 19th Century and into the early years of the 20th. Many of the homes built in Chicago during this period, and after the Chicago fire in 1871, have lumber that came from the UP of Michigan.

Peter and Jane

From the Editors...A Big THANK YOU to Peter and Jane Olk for taking the time to write and send this article for the newsletter! What a rich history we have here on Moon Lake. Thank you for sharing and helping to keep our newsletter fresh and one that people want to read!

A Special Shout-Out goes to Mike Reiels and Bob Turnquist for their persistence in getting the improvement to the boat landing made this summer. We all benefit from your initiative, THANK YOU!

2021 Moon Lake Memories:

Ladies of the Lake – Its always so great to reconnect with everyone; thanks to Debbie Piel and Prudy Caudill for hosting the ladies this summer! If you are not on the email distribution and would like to be – please let us know.



Brunch at Debbie's in June



Hot Dog Grilling at Prudy's in August

4th of July Boat Parade

The 2nd annual (revived) Boat Parade was a big hit with 14 boats! Thanks to Julie Reiels and Marty LaPalio for taking photos:



Lightning Strike



Did you see Nature's fury? At the end of July, we had that big crack of lightning which split a tall pine in two! Glad no major damage was done at our neighbors on South Moon Lake.



Moon Lake Family Recipe Corner:

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

This edition’s recipe comes from Carleen’s sister-in-law, Joan, who made these beans for our family reunion. She quadrupled the recipe for a crowd of 30!

Joan’s Calico “Cowboy” Beans

- 1 lb. hamburger - browned
- ½ lb. bacon - diced
- 1 small onion (or more to liking) diced
- 1 can Bush’s baked beans (any variety you like)
- 1 can lima beans – rinsed
- 1 can Kidney beans – rinsed (light or dark)
- 1 can Butter beans
- ½ c. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 1 c. ketchup (or a little less)
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. mustard

Combine all together and either bake for 45 minutes at 350, or put in crockpot on low for 2-3 hours



Enjoy the Autumn Season!



Respectfully submitted,
Steve and Carleen Sunderland