



Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#141

moonlake.org

June 2022

From the President

Steve Sunderland

It's the beginning of another fantastic summer here on Moon Lake. The temperatures of the air and water are finally starting to feel like summer.

Many activities are planned around the area so I hope you'll have a chance to enjoy as much as you can. Don't let the summer slip on by.

In this newsletter you'll have a chance to read about the water quality of our lake, fish stocking program over the years, area events this summer and much more.

Our loons don't look like they will cooperate on the nest this year so we've even attached a link to a nesting pair that is. Enjoy.

I wish for you all a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer on the best lake in the North.

Steve

-Mark Your Calendars-

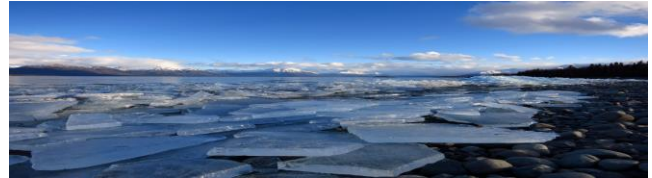
The MLRA Annual Meeting and Social

Saturday, August 20, 2022

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

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

2022 Moon Lake Ice-Out



May 6th, nearly a full month later than last year! Thanks to Steve Lapalio for compiling this data:

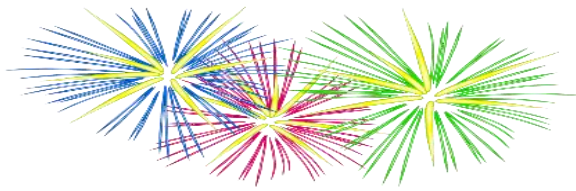
Year	Water Level*	Ice Out Date	Ice Over Date
2019	7.2/7.7	5/2	11/13
2020	- /9.1	5/1	12/2
2021	9.4/9.8	4/9	11/30
2022	9.5	5/6	

*Water level as measured at the gauge set up in the West bay, taken May/Aug



Reminder: 2022 Moon Lake Riparian Association Dues

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



4th of July Events:

- ✓ **Annual Moon Lake Boat Parade! Sunday July 3rd beginning at 7:00pm.**

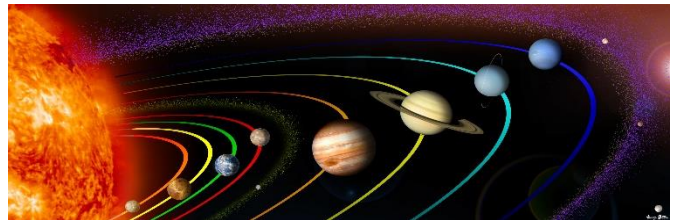
Everyone is welcome to join in the Moon Lake Independence Day celebration by decorating your boat and/or dock/pier, or just join in as you are! Still plenty of time to get to the fireworks

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

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



Spring Glory on Moon Lake, by Peg Zorr



FUN FACT:

June 24th Rare Sky Event! 5 planets and the moon together!

Catch a glimpse of a rare sky event on this midsummer morning. All five naked eye planets – along with the Moon – will be visible in the sky at once! Step outside at approx. 4:20am (40 min before sunrise) and look towards the southern and eastern sky. The most interesting part? They will be lined up in their true order out from the sun. Mercury, Venus, the Moon, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn! It's been about 100 years since a similar compact parade of planets graced our skies, and you'll have to wait until 2041 to see such an arrangement gain.

Taken from the Farmer's Almanac

Moon Lake Water Quality Report Steve Lapalio

See complete report as a secondary attachment in the newsletter email. Summary:

“With an average TSI score of 35 based on 2021 Secchi transparency, chlorophyll-a, and summer total phosphorus data, this lake is rated as an oligotrophic lake. While the trends for individual parameters are mixed, the overall nutrient levels in the lake are largely unchanged since monitoring began.”

That's Good News!! Thanks, Steve, for collecting and reporting our lake data.

Moon Lake Memories...

The Summer of George Steve Sunderland

When I was a kid in the 1960's, I would spend the 2nd half of each school year dreaming of being back up north at Moon Lake for the summer. I knew it would be a memorable time but the summer of 1968 turned out to be more memorable than most.

As was our weekly custom, our family piled into the car for a scenic drive. First stop was the Dari Maid for an ice cream cone and then we'd begin the loop drive from Forest Rd 6320 to Thousand Island Lake Rd to Highway B to Moon Lake. We loved that drive (and still do) as you never knew what wildlife you might see.

On one particular June evening our ritual played out again but this time it all went sideways. While heading down Thousand Island Lake Rd, my dad saw a small animal on the side of the road. It was a baby raccoon, with no mom in sight. We got out and the raccoon came over to us. We waited quite a while until it was obvious no mom was going to appear. That's when my dad made a quick decision to the delight of all of us. We were bringing it home! My dad took off his flannel shirt and picked up the raccoon and put it in the trunk.

We arrived home and then it hit us...what do we do now? We weren't prepared to have a baby raccoon. So, we slightly opened the trunk, threw in some food and left it there overnight. The next morning my dad quickly built a raccoon pen (he was a carpenter so it was easy) and we were ready to open the trunk. My dad opened the trunk... and to our surprise... no raccoon. We knew it had to be there and after some searching found that it had somehow crawled behind the back seat. It seemed to me like my dad had to take half the car apart to retrieve him but eventually he did and that raccoon went straight into the pen.

So, we had a new unexpected pet.

My parents put us boys in charge of a name. It was a simple task. Our favorite cartoon was George of the Jungle so "George" it would be. Next question was how would George take to our full-grown Collie Dog, Christopher. That was also easy as they instantly became great pals. George was much, much smaller so he would ride on Christopher's back as we all set out on adventures into the forest or swims in Moon Lake and since George loved dog food it was a perfect match.

The next few weeks were a joy for three young boys and their pets. It seemed like nothing could be better. It would never end.

But my dad knew it would end soon as he'd been around many raccoons in his day. The summer had moved into August now and little George was getting much bigger, and sadly, a little meaner. Those wild instincts were kicking in. My parents knew it was about time for George to find a new home.

After a few tears, the decision was made that we needed to let George go. But where? We wanted to give him the best chance in the wild. That's when my dad said let's take him back to Thousand Island Lake. We all happily agreed.

On a beautiful afternoon in August, we all climbed into our boat on Thousand Island Lake and found just the perfect little uninhabited island. My dad grabbed George and put him on shore with a nice supply of dog food. We quickly shoved off and drifted away as George stood on a rock and looked at us. A few more tears returned for three young boys.

It took a while before we got used to George not being around and we had many thoughts about how he fared but we knew he was in the right place. That was the least we could do for him after giving us a pretty memorable summer.

Cont. on page 4

This one is Steve!



1968 The Sunderland boys with George the racoon and dog Christopher on Moon Lake.

I know raccoons can be a nuisance but I enjoy seeing them to this day as it always takes me back to the summer of George.

- Steve

Moon Lake Historical Fish Stocking Report

Steve LaPalio

If you are interested in knowing what type of fish have been stocked in Moon Lake over the years (since 1979), you can view at:

<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/fishstock/>

Enter Gogebic for county and Moon Lake for water body. Enter dates you want to view.

Loon Viewing

Hard to say if we'll have a loon family this year as the pair does not seem too interested in nesting. You can keep watch yourself via the Moon Lake web cam:

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

Thanks to Bob Turnquist and crew for keeping it functional

If you want to view an active loon nest, check out this webcam in New Hampshire, found by Steve LaPalio:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8rawIA_edU

Friends of Land O' Lakes Library is hosting their annual fundraiser:

Used Book Sale and Silent Auction

Saturday, July 23rd

9am-2pm

(Auction closes at 1pm)

Land O'Lakes Library

Tell all your friends and family!



Raffle tickets also available at the library.

On and around Moon Lake



Sent by Bob Turnquist



Sent by Terri Lemmens



Sent by Steve Sunderland

**Thanks to our MLRA Members for sharing photos throughout the year!
We are always happy to receive photos and stories...please keep them coming**



Moon Lake Family Recipe Corner:

This Newsletter brings a favorite from the Mike Reiels family! Thanks Mike.

Grilled Veggies with Mustard Vinaigrette

Ingredients:

¼ c. red wine vinegar
1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp honey
½ tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper
¼ c. canola oil
¼ c. olive oil
Vegetables:
2 large sweet onions
2 medium zucchinis
2 yellow summer squash
2 large sweet red peppers, halved and seeded
1 bunch green onions, trimmed
Cooking spray

Directions:

1. In small bowl, whisk the first 5 ingredients. Gradually whisk in oils until blended.
2. Peel and quarter each sweet onion, leaving root ends intact. Cut zucchini and yellow squash lengthwise into ½ in thick slices. Lightly spritz onions, zucchini, yellow squash and remaining vegetables with cooking spray. Turning to coat all sides.
3. Grill sweet onions, covered, over medium heat 15-20 minutes until tender, turning occasionally. Grill zucchini, squash and peppers, covered over medium heat 10-15 minutes or until crispy tender and lightly charred, turning once. Grill green onions, covered, 2-4 minutes or until lightly charred, turning once.
4. Cut vegetables into bite sized pieces; place in large bowl, add ½ cup vinaigrette and toss to coat. Serve with remaining vinaigrette.

10 Servings, ¾ c. each

Have a wonderful summer! See you around Moon Lake

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve and Carleen Sunderland