



Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#142

moonlake.org

October 2022

From the President

Steve Sunderland



Hello to all,

As I'm writing this article I'm looking out on a steam-rising Moon Lake. It's a beautiful morning with blue skies, more colors appearing in the forest and a current temperature of 34 degrees. Fall has definitely arrived. It's my favorite time of year but of course it's always a little sad to see another summer in the rear-view mirror.

If you have not noticed, the lake level has lowered and small beaches around the lake have appeared. If it continues into next year, we may finally receive some relief on shore erosion and allow docks to stay above water throughout the summer. Let's hope it occurs.

In this newsletter you'll find interesting information about the loons, the annual meeting, Watersmeet news, activities on the lake and some fantastic photos.

Like every year, a lot has been going on and around our wonderful lake.

I hope for all a safe and enjoyable Fall season.

Steve Sunderland

Moon Lake Riparian Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Held Saturday, August 20, 2022
4:00-5:00 PM Land O Lakes VFW

Meeting was called to order by President Steve Sunderland at 4:10pm. Steve welcomed all to the meeting and introduced our guests, Yvonne Clark Watersmeet trustee and Michelle Kanipes our ISCCW educator.

Steve also reminded those in attendance that the mission of MLRA is three-fold: that we are an organization of charitable, educational and scientific activities.

In **attendance** at the beginning of the annual meeting were 15 members, 2 guests and 7 board members for a total of 24 persons.

Treasurer's Report combined with the Secretary's report of membership was given by Eric Zorr. Checking account balance in 2021 was \$2,234.29 and today it is \$2,400.96. Checks were written for the following: Web Hosting \$148, Water Testing Supplies, \$142; ISCCW Membership, \$125; Camera Cable, \$58.25; MI Lakes and Streams Membership, \$100. Savings account balances: Invasive Species Fund, \$4,646.84 last year, currently \$4,669.18 now, and general savings, last year \$ 2,517.15; currently \$2,594.00.

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Paid Membership for 2022: 32 households out of 49 current households. Annual dues are due at the beginning of the calendar year.

Steve LaPalio gave the **Water Quality Report** stating that our depth was 9.45 ft on May 6, 2022 and 9.67 ft on August 14, 2022. Water Clarity is an average of 18.3 ft with 22ft being the maximum and 17 ft the minimum. Phosphorus is 7-8 parts per billion up from a 20-year average of 6.7 and 6.2 parts per billion. Chlorophyll 1.1 to 4.1 with 2.4 is the median. Also, Steve spoke to George Madison, MI DNR Fisheries Biologist. Our 6 years of fish stocking is over. However, we may be able to get some fish stocked in the future. If the hatchery has an excess of lake trout, we may be able to get some of these. The lake trout will reproduce and grow quickly.

Carol Youmans will provide the **Loon Report** in the next newsletter. Our association agreed that we should not have the camera on the nest next spring (a 1-year experiment) to see if that may be a factor in our not having a hatching.

Website update was given by Bob Turnquist. We have one but it is mostly used for persons seeking historical data on the lake. We may be able to find a different format this winter.

Loon Cam report was also given by board member Bob Turnquist. Some varmint has damaged the camera's power cable. When it is dark out the camera turns on lighting and the damaged power cable causes problems with Bob's internet connection. To prevent problems the camera is turned off during non-daylight hours. Thank you, Bob, for maintaining the camera and website.

Newsletter update given by President Steve Sunderland. Loon Crier comes out 3 times a year: spring, winter and early fall. Thank you, Carleen Sunderland, for all of your efforts in getting the newsletter put together and out.

Remember, members may provide stories, recipes, and photos for the newsletter.

New Business: Proposed changes for 4 bylaws were sent out to members about 4 weeks before our annual meeting. These were voted on and approved by the membership. These were as follows:

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Section 1. Voting Membership shall be open to any owners who hold property within the boundary, heretofore defined, upon payment in advance of one year's dues. Each household shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 2. Non-Voting Membership shall be open to any household who do not live within the boundary, heretofore defined, upon payment in advance of one year's dues. Each household shall not be entitled to a vote.

Section 3. Membership will be solicited by board members throughout the year. Motion made by Steve LaPalio seconded by Bob Turnquist and approved.

ARTICLE V – Dues

Section 1. Dues shall be paid per household per calendar year. The number of dues shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. Change in the amount of dues shall be based on the planned activities of the Association.

Section 2. Contributions to the Association may be made at any time in any amount for general or specific purposes, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Motion made by Eric Zorr seconded by Marty LaPalio, approved

ARTICLE VI – Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall number seven members and shall include the

immediate past president and the current officers of the Association.

Section 2. The administration of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors who are authorized to act within the purposes, objectives and bylaws of the Association, subject to the following limitations:

The Board of Directors is authorized to committee the Association to expenditures of Association funds of no more than \$1000.00 for any one purpose except as approved by the majority of Voting Member households.

Motioned made by Carol Youmans, seconded by Mike Reiels and approved.

ARTICLE X – Voting

Section 1. A majority of Voting Member households, whose dues are paid, shall rule as otherwise provided in these bylaws.

Section 2. Each Voting Member household will have one vote on any matter under consideration by the Association.

Section 3. Voting Member households are entitled to pay dues prior to the call to order of any Association meeting in order to be eligible to vote at such meeting.

Motion made by Eric Zorr, seconded by Bob Turnquist and approved.

Other new business... Steve Sunderland gave a brief synopsis of the **Shoreline Tour** given with the ISCCW and two MSU extension Lake Conservation experts. (See article in Newsletter).

Election of Board Members: Mike Reiels (Vice President), Carol Youmans (Loon Ranger), and Peg Zorr (Secretary) are at the end of their terms. All have agreed to continue with their assignments if MLRA approves them. Motioned made by Brian Reiels, seconded by Carleen Sunderland and approved for all three to continue.

Motion made by Marty LaPalio, seconded by Carol Youmans to **vote for this year's officers:** Steve Sunderland (President), Mile Reels (Vice President), Eric Zorr (Treasurer), and Peggy Zorr (Secretary).

Approval for dues to continue to be \$25 annually. Motion made by Marty LaPalio seconded by Eric Zorr, approved.

Next year's meeting date will be Saturday, August 19, 2023 at the VFW.

Members comments: Prudy Caudill stated how blessed we all are to live on such a beautiful clear lake. Carleen Sunderland will send out form for fire numbers on email. Fire number order had to match the township road sign. Motion was made by Steve Sunderland, seconded by Steve LaPalio and approved to order road signs giving the range of numbers on south north and west Moon Lake Roads.

Yvonne Clark a Watersmeet township trustee gave some updates on the Highland internet services talked about last year. No news there. The company overpromised and underserved their promises. They have been asked for refunds for the upfront monies given to them but no response. As for our ambulance service, paying more for less service. The fire department responds to more medical calls than fire calls. Township has currently opted out of manufacturing and retail of marijuana products. However, that may be one vote away from changing. Yvonne encouraged persons to attend the town meetings and for us to let our voices be heard. Plus, we can write letters and call Watersmeet Township Supervisor Mike Rogers and Paul Kempainen, Town Treasurer. Some zoning changes that have a been made: trailers can be on property for one year while building and lot dimensions. 911 is still the best bet to get 1st responders on the scene. One can request Land O Lakes but you may not get your request. There is a push to get legislation for Gogebic and Vilas County to work together.

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Michelle Kanipes, our **ISCCW educator** had a display on invasive species and encourages anyone interested to take the Intro to Lakes course offered by MSU extension. Great tool for teaching grandkids, friends, relatives to respect the lake to help preserve what we have.

Adjournment was motioned by Eric Zorr, seconded by Marty LaPalio and approved.

Minutes respectively submitted by Peggy Zorr, Secretary MLRA

Welcome New MLRA Members!

What exciting news – we welcome the new owners of the **Pinaire Resort Motel** - Cori and Jeff Zavada. Being long-time lovers of the Northwoods, Cori and Jeff had the dream of one day bringing the Pinaire back to its original glory. And that’s just what they are doing now, remodeling cabin by cabin. Be sure to check out their progress and remember the Pinaire for all your overflow guests! Thanks to Cori and Jeff for becoming MLRA members and supporting Moon Lake.



The Classic old sign – new again!



One of the newly remodeled cabins, complete with landscaping and a new name (National Park theme replaces the Chicago suburbs)

Loon Report

Carol Youmans



Hello Everyone,

This year has been so up and down with our loon pair. So much to think about with that ol' question why is this happening? I thought there might be a pattern with others. I reached out to our loon group to see how they were doing with their loons and explained a bit about our pair and some of the things going on.

Here are the responses from a handful of lake rangers:

- Big Portage Lake - Has one chick this year. They have had 5 adults and it seems one couple is checking out territory there for next year
- Dinner Lake - Has two chicks
- Duck Lake - Had three abandoned eggs but did have one chick
- Little Duck Lake - Loons abandoned nest
- Poor Lake - One chick
- Moon Lake - Abandoned :(

Black flies always seem to be a big issue with this year being no different. Some lakes were swarms ... after first attempt there were second tries for nesting with success for some. Our loons just did not want to settle in. A couple attempts to sit but they were off and on. Never laying any eggs.

Peggy Zorr's sister-in-law, Cathy Spiegel, came across an article and forwarded it to me, see below. I really believe this could be the case for our Moon Lake Loons!!

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From: Loons Senesce!
on November 8, 2014

There are three main reasons why I do field research. First, I love the outdoors. While it is unpleasant and inconvenient to many, the field is my briar patch. Second, I love observing and being with animals and gain new insights by watching loons up close and not just looking at data in my office. And third — well, I enjoy looking at data in my office. Complex puzzles and contradictions concerning loon behavioral ecology often become comprehensible when I look hard the numbers and run statistical tests. Yesterday I had one of those Eureka! moments during data analysis. For the past several months, I have been looking at factors that cause loons to: 1) be evicted from their territories and 2) disappear from their territories (that is, die). Some months ago, I shared with folks that having your mate get evicted puts you at risk for eviction yourself. That is an interesting pattern and one that I continue to explore. But yesterday, I conducted the most sensitive and powerful analysis to date on the potential impact of age on rate of eviction and death in territorial residents. The results were clear: age has a substantial impact on both eviction and death rates. Specifically, old loons are at risk for being booted off of their territories and they are even more strongly at risk for dying. The pattern was a bit tricky to detect, because very young adults are also at risk for eviction and death. So, loons — like humans — have a “prime of life”. Loons of 4 to 6 years of age are still developing and improving in condition; at this age, they have a rather high rate of eviction and death. They reach prime condition about age 7 or 8 and remain in good condition until about 20, then condition falls off again, exposing them anew to a high rate of eviction and death.

On July 24th I received a call from Corey Short. She and her husband have a cabin on the lake approximately 50 feet from the lake. Corey's neighbor, Pam and Scott Jeidy called with an

odd siting of a loon nesting to the right of Corey's front door (and thank you Pam for the photos) I called a couple people to try to observe this strange happening but neither one of them could see the loon. Mind you, Corey's cabin is up a pretty steep incline from the lake and to have any loon trying to nest from this distance seemed impossible. Not to mention she went around to the front of the house. As you see the pictures below tell the story. Pam observed the loon slide downhill on her underside to get back to the lake. This took place for approximately 3 days or so.



Happy Fall Ya All! I can bet the colors will be a spectacular display!!! 🍁🍁🍁 Carol Y.

...And That's not All Our Loons Have Been Up To!

Joel Anders found this loon lounging on their backyard deck on June 14, 2022. Not injured or anything - just hanging out!



Thanks so much to Corey, Pam, and Joel for contacting us and forwarding photos – this is exactly what makes our newsletter special when we can share what's happening on Moon Lake!



We commend those hardy and patriotic Moon Lakers who went ahead with the 4th of July Boat Parade in the pouring rain! Although the weather didn't cooperate this year, we hope it was a nice holiday for everyone. We'll start looking forward to next year's boat parade.

Lake Michigan State Univ. Tour of Moon Lake August 5, 2022

Denise Fontleroy from ISCCW made it possible for Moon Lake to be assessed by a team from Michigan State University Lake Conservation extension. A group of 9 Moon Lake residents joined the pontoon boat tour. Thanks to Mike Reiels for driving, and Peg Zorr for taking notes.

Overall, we were commended on Moon Lake as keeping as much of a natural shoreline as possible. The state EPA is concerned with the loss of lakeshore habit throughout Michigan. We were also thanked for the long term (30+ years) of water quality data supplied to the extension office. This data over time is valuable to determine how/if a lake is changing.



Jo and Eric from MSU

These next few items were mentioned by our guides as we toured along the shoreline:

- 1) We have Chinese mystery snails – they are an invasive, but nothing more than a nuisance so

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be sure to remove them from the lake if you see them (bury or burn).

- 2) Dead standing trees along the shoreline should be left alone until it falls naturally unless it looks like it may damage docks, boats, or other structures. This is part of the natural ebb and flow of the lake's eco system
- 3) Permits are required and may be obtained easily from EAGLE if dead wood needs to be cut. The wood is then considered a fish stick and/or a turtle log. It must be anchored in place for a period of one year until. It is water logged. After a year the anchors may be removed.
- 4) It is important for us as a lake community to work with the forest service to prevent run off on the boat landing. The time is now before it becomes a bigger issue. The board will take this as an item to investigate.
- 5) Tour participants received a crash course on identifying water plants. Lilies that have football shaped leaves are called Water Shield. They have no slits in the leaves. White Water Lilies are the "Pac man" shaped leaves with sharp edges near the slit. Starry stone wart is an invasive species that can crowd out other water plants and cause disease. This is a good one to catch early.
- 6) The two biggest items in lake conservation...Landscaping and Invasive Species control. Early detection of invasive species can be found by monitoring the chlorophyll, phosphate, and dissolved oxygen content (DOC) of our lake (which we do).
- 7) Wake boats and large amounts of heavy boat traffic causes the majority of the shoreline damage.

Shoreline Tips

- 1) Ideally it would be great if all lake front properties would have a 35-foot buffer of natural vegetation. A steeper shoreline needs more vegetation.
- 2) Small to medium rocks with a gradual rise are best to help waves dissipate before crashing into the shore. One does not need to have the great big landscaping rocks or sea walls as these send the waves back out.

3) If you are planning to have some landscaping done have your landscapers contact ISCCW and they will help teach them best practices for shorelines. (Many southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois lakes are unhealthy because of the large amounts of "citified" landscaping.)

Additional suggestions:

- 1) Petition to have a no wake lake. This was shut down as soon as it was said since we all want to enjoy our beautiful lake with our families.
- 2) We could have certain areas designated as no wake areas mainly in the narrower channels near the east and west ends.
- 3) We could pen a document giving the Culture of our lake. Something that would go out to homeowners and realtors.
- 4) Sign up for classes being offered through the MSU Extension. Beginning in mid-January for 6 weeks is the Introduction to Lakes. It's all online and no set time to be in class.

Final words from Eric and Jo:

Eric and Jo felt our lake was quite healthy and our shoreline beautiful. To keep it that way we all must respect it by doing our part to keep our shoreline erosion down, invasive species out, and our landscaping natural, but not to the detriment of our homes.

Michigan DNR Visit

This past August, members of the MLRA board met with MI DNR Biologist George Madison. He reported that in 2019, the Michigan DNR conducted a Limnological Survey (scientific study of an inland lake) of Moon Lake. The survey found a maximum depth of 45 feet. Also found were excellent conditions suitable for trout. Water profile readings showed dissolved oxygen levels at >6mg/l (at 28ft) and water temperatures (68 degree (at 18ft). The survey noted our lake has a higher level of dissolved oxygen than is normally seen with lakes having

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our temperature levels, which is again a very good condition for trout.
Bottom line- Moon Lake remains an excellent lake for a trout stocking program.

Fun Fact: The DNR has indicated Moon Lake might be stocked with Lake Trout next year. Did you know that Lake Trout have a normal life span of 10-20 years but up to 60 years in rare cases. They commonly grow to 12-15 pounds.

Power Lines Down in Storms

In May, fire broke out from a downed power line along a stretch of North Moon Lake Road (jumping the road), but thanks to quick action, the fire was contained and did not cause harm to any buildings.



On August 3rd, South Moon Lake Rd was temporarily closed as a downed a power line across the road was repaired.



A Visitor of Another Kind....

Just when we think we've seen everything the Northwoods has to offer, Mother Nature sends us a surprise. The Luna Moth presented itself one early June morning:



The Luna moth, also known as the American Moon moth, is in the family of giant silk moths. Typically, it has a wingspan of roughly 4.5 in, but can exceed 7.0 in, making it one of the larger moths in North America.



A Unique Sign of Fall...

The snapping turtles are hatching and making their way to the lake. Bob and Karen Turnquist have had this wonderful miracle of life occurring now the past few years right from their front porch!



 *Enjoy the Autumn Season!*

Respectfully submitted,
Steve and Carleen Sunderland

