



Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#144

moonlake.org

Fall 2023

From the President

Steve Sunderland



Happy 30th Anniversary MLRA!

Yes, this year marks our Moon Lake Riparian Association's 30th year of continuous operation. It was in 1993 when a small group of lake owners, led by Jim Reiels and John Sick, initiated our association with its purpose to conserve, protect and improve the quality of our lake environment life. Since its inception, many worthwhile activities have occurred to fulfill that purpose, such as construction of a loon nest and several fish cribs, invasive species education, annual lake water quality testing, lake cam, newsletters, annual meeting & socials and much, much more. I would like to personally thank all those members who have contributed their time and/or treasure over the years to helping our association stay strong. Your dedication to our lake and association is greatly appreciated.

Steve Sunderland



**In Memory of Moon Lake friend
and neighbor**

**Trisha Hoffman who passed
away May 20, 2023**

MLRA Annual Meeting Minutes Saturday, August 6, 2023

4:00-5:30 PM Land O Lakes VFW

Board Members Present: Steve Sunderland, Steve LaPalio, Mike Reiels, Eric Zorr, and Peggy Zorr. Unable to attend were Carol Youmans and Bob Turnquist.

Attendance: 20 lake owners plus two guests.

Meeting was called to order by President Steve Sunderland at roughly 4:00 pm. Steve welcomed all to the meeting and introduced our guests, Yvonne Clark Watersmeet trustee and Michelle Kanipes our ISCCW educator.

Steve mentioned that this year marked the 30th anniversary of the Moon Lake Riparian Association. In addition, our first MLRA President, Sheila McConaghy, was in attendance.

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Treasurer's Report was given by Eric Zorr. The balances in our MLRA accounts are as follows: Checking, \$2,710.12; Regular Savings \$2,611.93; and Invasive Species Savings \$4,898.26.

Out going expenses so far for 2023: MI Lakes & Stream Annual Dues \$100; Web Domain Name \$79.96; Web Hosting \$215.88; Water Testing \$170.00; and Memorials \$100.

Items to be considered for payment yet this year: ISCCW \$100; Watersmeet & Land O Lakes EMTs \$100 each; and Watersmeet & Land O Lakes Volunteer Fire Dept's \$100.00.

Secretary's Report and a directory update was given by Peggy Zorr. Paid Membership to date for 2023 is 29 of the 46 members who paid last year have paid this year. Plus, one new member. For a grand total of 30 of 46 regular members.

Two copies of the first draft of the directory are on the tables at the back. Peggy asked members present to check for accuracy. Directory will be sent out Monday, August 7, 2023.

Those requesting hard copies will have theirs delivered to them.

Steve LaPalio gave the Water Quality report. These were his findings: 2023; water depth on 5/10 = 9.61' (ice out) on 8/3 = 9.48', water clarity (secchi disk) best 22.5', worst 17.0', ave 19.9' 2022; disk ave 19.3', chlorophyll 3.3 ppb, phosphorus 8.5 ppb. water depth on 12/7 = 9.1' (iceover).

Finding snails? Bury or burn them. Fish stocking...we may get some lake trout (which could reproduce) if there is an excess this year.

Our loon ranger, Carol Youmans, had this Loon Report to share via Steve Sunderland:

"We have a baby loon aptly named Pistol Pete. On May 5 we had two loons arrive, first set of eggs were abandoned June 3. July 10th was more activity on the nest being more vocal, etc. July 11th was when we first saw the loon baby. A couple members noted that they had seen Pete dive for the first time. Flying should begin around 11-12 weeks after birth. Parents will

leave Pistol Pete and he will need to make the trip southeast without them."

Bob Turnquist is looking into our Website. He is looking for a viable place to house the information/ lake data. The website is most often used by persons wishing to get to the web cam. We have the website for another year and will use this time to figure out how best to replace it and what exactly our needs are.

The Lake Camera is broken says Steve LaPalio. A comparable camera was found but it needs to have a converter box which is back ordered. We do not want to have the camera before we know for sure we can get the converter box. This puts everything on hold until they can be purchased together.

The Loon Crier (Moon Lake's Newsletter) will come out approximately 3 times a year. If there is not enough material for the newsletter it may not come out as often. Please share your stories, recipes, upcoming community activities and pictures. Thank you again to Steve and Carleen for putting the newsletter together. Wonderful job.

New Business:

Mike Reiels shared the following information about the start of the MLRA 30 years ago: Our association was begun by Jim Reiels and John Sick to make sure the lake was being taken care of properly. The first president was Sheila McConaghy at the insistence from her husband, Charlie.

MLRA Directory is set to come out Monday, August 7, 2023 according to Peggy Zorr. Two copies available at the back to check for accuracy. All copies will be digital unless you have specified a hard copy. These will be delivered personally, if possible. If changes need to be made and there will be mistakes, corrections and updates will be sent out monthly.

The following board members were reelected after a motion was made, seconded and carried: Bob Turnquist (Lake Cam), Eric Zorr (Treasurer), Steve Sunderland (President) and Steve LaPalio (Water Quality).

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Board members who have 1 year to go on their terms are approved after a motion was made seconded and carried: Mike Reiels (Vice President), Carol Youmans (Loon Ranger) and Peg Zorr (Secretary).

And a separate vote was made to continue with the current officers: Steve Sunderland, President; Mike Reiels, Vice President; Eric Zorr, Treasurer and Peggy Zorr, Secretary.

Approval for MLRA dues to remain at \$25/year was motioned, seconded and carried. This by the way is only a \$5 increase in 30 years.

Open comments from the membership were then made. New member Cindy Kick-Harris has some ideas for making the website more interactive, therefore potentially getting more traffic on it. Cindy is willing to share more of her ideas. Welcome Cindy to Moon Lake!

News from Yvonne Clark of the Watersmeet Township...she is still working to bring high speed internet to the township. There are two other avenues being pursued. First there are some Federal Grants for underserved and unserved communities and second, Sonic Net out of Wisconsin is interested in bringing internet access across the Wisconsin border to Michigan.

We have a new member on the board of trustees...John Oliver.

South Moon Lake Road is to be left alone for the time being. The township opted out of having a dispensary.

And Yvonne suggested writing to our legislators to keep them aware of what is important to their constituents and to help affect change.

Thank you, Yvonne, for sharing and working so diligently for our community!

Yvonne Clark along with ISCCW educator Michelle Lukas-Kanipes shared some information about the Wake boats not to be confused with larger power boats. Wake boats put out a powerful wake that goes down 30 ft and the wake can travel 250-900 ft before flattening out. Plus, these wake boats have water in the ballast at all times which mean they could carry invasive species to ours and other

lakes. Current Michigan guideline says no wake boating within 500 ft of shore.

Michelle also added these dates for the ISCCW: Annual Meeting, August 12 at 2pm at the Watersmeet Pavilion; August 15 is the regular meeting 10 am at the Watersmeet Township Hall; August 29 Water samples should be to Land O Lakes Lando center by 10am to be picked up and August 31 is the Car Park 5-6:30 pm sponsored by the ISCCW.

After thanking our guests and members for attending Steve Sunderland adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:26 pm with the pot luck to begin immediately.

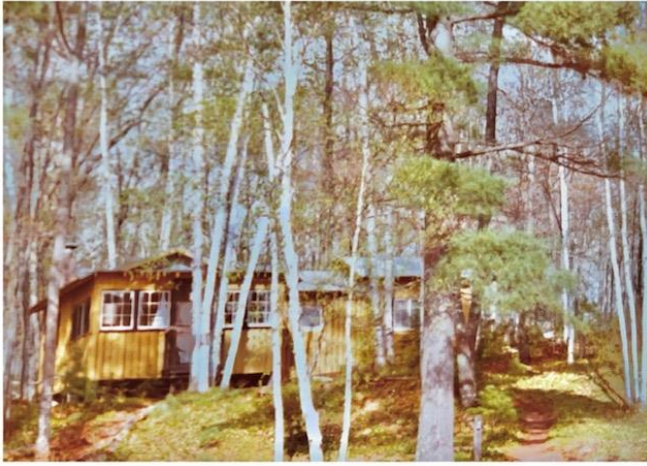
Respectively submitted by
Peggy Zorr, MLRA Secretary

Moon Lake Family History

By Mike Reiels

1967? That's a long time ago!

The summer of 1967 was the Reiels family's first visit to Moon Lake. Mom and Dad rented Bob & Hila Johnson's cottage which was located on Joel & Julie Ander's land for a week. Bob was a co-worker of Dad's at Nicolet High School in Glendale, WI. I was 6, John 4 and Brian 2 and although Mom was convinced we were going to drown in the high water, we had a great time - our first "up north" experience. Bob told Dad that there was an old, closed resort across the lake that if it ever went for sale, he should buy one of the cabins. Fast forward to 1972, the resort, McMahon's Green Tree resort, was sub-divided into 7 parcels and put up for sale - \$7,700 to \$9,500 each! Nicolet faculty bought all seven parcels over the next year and the fun began! The resort had been closed for 15 years and the summer, half log cabins were in need of a lot of work. The summer of 1974 was a busy time for everyone. We cleared trees to get power back in, cleaned trash and animal nests out of cabins, fixed broken windows and replaced roofs. Everybody helped everybody.



PhotoScan by Google Photos

The original resort cottage

My mom and us boys endured 6 weeks without power or running water, moving from cabin to cabin since ours was the among the worst shape. Kerosene lanterns for light, a hand pump for water, a garbage can full of lake water to flush the toilet and a bar of soap on the pier for a bath! Dad and other families came up on the weekends to work on getting our places ready. That's where we first learned carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting, lumberjack and landscaping skills. Fantastic memories!

Three of the original cabins still exist although they have been upgraded over the years. Gene Lannert had come to the resort as a kid and bought the property next to Mom and Dad's when Hal & Hildy Liebherr sold. When they decided to build their year-round home, they donated their cabin to my brother John and his wife Diane. They moved it across the lake to where it sits today. The cabin on the point between Lannert's and ours is original as is the Peterson's cabin.

For the next 15 years or so, we thoroughly enjoyed summers on Moon Lake. The 14' fishing boat complete with 6 HP engine provided thousands of hours of recreation. As Mom and Dad approached retirement, they decided to tear down the old cabin and build their new home. About the same time (1989), Bill & Jeanette Radke decided to sell their place; Julie and I loved Moon Lake so much that we purchased their cabin. Julie was

pregnant with our first child and the following spring we did a major update to the place.



Mike & Julie's renovated cottage - 1992

In 1999, after Julie found a dead squirrel for the third year in a row, we decided to replace our cabin with a more permanent solution. At this point, we not only loved the summers but has also started enjoying snowmobiling and skiing so a refuge that could be enjoyed all year was the answer. We have been enjoying all the seasons and most holidays on Moon Lake. Our four sons, spouses and grandkids have all become very attached to Moon Lake.

John and Diane also loved Moon Lake. In 1994, they bought a lot next to the boat landing (Dave and Mary Pat Kelly's spot) that had an old travel trailer located on it. They enjoyed the lake with their infant daughter, Katie. In 1997, a couple lots came up for sale down the lake next to last remaining resort, Sylvan Moon. They bought one of the lots and moved the Lannert's old cabin in the fall of 1998.

As Mom and Dad planned to move to Milwaukee in 2016, we struggled with the decision to sell their house. The three of us went to dinner and John suggested working out an arrangement whereby brother Brian and Missy would become Moon Lake home owners. Low and behold, 6 years later they sold their Thiensville home and retired to Moon Lake. We are all thrilled! Their kids, Colin and Erin and grandson Braedon are also lovers of Moon Lake.

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Last year, the Michigan State University folks commented that Moon Lake is a “generational” lake. The Reiels, like many of the families on the lake, have deep ties to Moon Lake and many, many cherished memories. There’s no doubt, our third generation will continue enjoying the lake and Moon Lake will be the gathering place for years to come.



The Moon Lake Ladies enjoying their wine and company



The Reiels Family picture from 1983. Back row L-R is John, Brian, Mike.

Moon Lake Summer Fun:

By Prudy Caudill

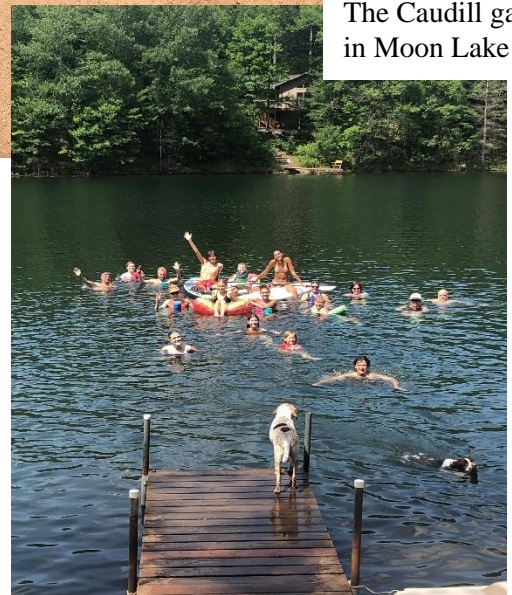
The Moon Lake “Ladies of the Lake” had several get-togethers this summer; one being on July 11 at the home of Kate & Don Worden for a Wine Tasting event! Sommelier Erich Zorr (the uncle of Eric Zorr) brought samples of wine and did a wonderful job explaining the qualities of each. Guests brought appetizers to share and a great time was had by all! Thanks to Erich and Kate for hosting this event.

4th of July Fun:

Moon Lake is the place to be on July 4th! Thirty-two members of Prudy Caudill ‘s family gathered for the celebration. They all enjoyed Moon lake’s clear, clean water and swam frequently. The youth decorated Prudy’s golf cart for the parade and this year won the youth award! Two nephews also entered the bike parade in Watersmeet. Lots of fun, food and family togetherness.



The kids with their 4th of July parade float trophy



The Caudill gang in Moon Lake

**4th of July Moon
Lake Boat Parade!**



“Pistol Pete” starting to get his coloring
Photo by Pam Jeidy

Loon Family Photos

How precious to have a baby loon on the lake after several years! Thank you to everyone who captured the loon family all summer with amazing photos – here’s just a couple:



Baby gets out swimming on his own! Photo by Kate Worden

This is why we live here...

By Steve Sunderland

You’ve heard of the story “The Fox and the Hound” ...but have you heard the story of “The Fox and the Otter?”

Early one morning we had our visiting fox on the deck, not unusual...



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...until... from up the bluff pounced a very large river otter! He did not appreciate the fox's playfulness we suspect.



Aquatic Organism of the Month: Dragonflies

Michigan has around 160 species of dragonflies. These spectacular insects are common around lakes and wetlands where they first begin their lives under the water as nymphs. Here's [a quick article](#) on dragonflies and a [more in-depth article](#).



Here's just a sampling of the garbage picked out of Moon Lake. Yes, even our pristine lake gets cluttered with various items, whether by accident or for sport (notice the golf balls). A good reminder to always be vigilant of what goes on/into the water.



Another Form of Pollution?

Artificial lighting can also be a source of pollution for lake residents – yard and house spot lights on all night impacts not only your lake neighbors across or adjacent to you, but animals and habitat in general.

Quotable Quote:
Joys come from simple and natural things:
mists over meadows, sunlight on leaves, the
path of the moon over water.
Sigurd F. Olson

Don't Forget!

If you haven't already – please send in your
2023 MLRA dues to Treasurer Eric Zorr:

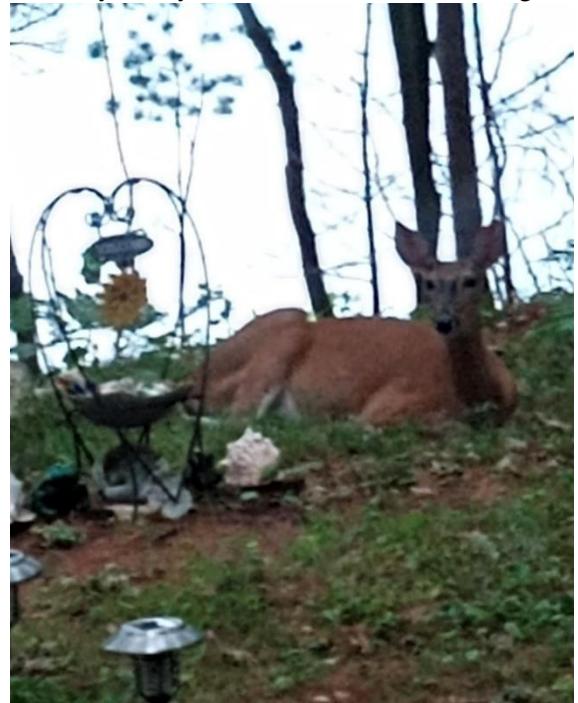
Eric Zorr
PO Box 664
Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

\$25.00

We thank everyone for supporting Moon Lake!

Lastly, the editors thank everyone who
contributed articles for this newsletter – keep
them coming!

Photo by Marty LaPalio – Mama deer taking a rest



Have a wonderful Fall Season! See you around Moon Lake.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve and Carleen Sunderland