



The LOON Crier

Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#148

moonlake.org

Fall 2025

From the President

Steve Sunderland



It felt like the summer came and went very quickly this year on Moon Lake. I suppose it feels like that every year. As always, there was much activity going on and off the lake. As many have already noticed, Michigan Broadband has been working for a few weeks on preparing Moon Lake for high-speed internet. We've waited many years for this and it's finally happening!

The MLRA Board continues its efforts with water quality, communication with Watersmeet township, loon management, finances, membership tracking and many other activities. Thank you to all our members who are dedicated in paying their yearly dues, and to all those that are lapsed, this is your gentle reminder. As you will read in the annual meeting report, we have a new Treasurer – see the Dues notice with address/contact information.

Please also see in this newsletter a fun fish story, and recap of the summer in photos.

Have a wonderful Fall and Winter!

Steve Sunderland

MLRA Annual Meeting Minutes August 9th, 2025 VFW Meeting called to order at 4pm

Welcome: President Steve Sunderland welcomed all and introduced board members and guest, Yvonne Clark Watersmeet Town Supervisor. Board Members:

Steve Sunderland - President
Mike Reiels – Vice President
Cindy Harris – Watersmeet Township Liaison
Bob Turnquist - Lake Cam
Steve LaPalio - Water Quality
Unable to attend –
Eric Zorr - Treasurer
Peggy Zorr - Secretary

In addition to the 5 board members, there were 14 Moon Lake MLRA members present.

Treasurer's Report: Steve S. reported in Eric's absence. Thank you to Eric for providing an advanced written report:

- Checking account balance: August 2024 \$2,697.27. August 2025 \$2,447.27
- Outgoing Checks in 2025 total \$952.32
- Deposits since 2024 Annual Meeting total \$625
- Invasive Species Fund \$5,196.25
- Regular Savings \$2,704.77

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- Thank you to the Sharpee and Foster Families for their added donations to the Invasive Species Fund this year
- **Membership/Secretary Report:** Steve S. reported in Peg's absence. There are currently 15 paid members for 2025, plus 1 for 2026. Welcome to new members present Dave and Marianne Foster. Thank you for joining the MLRA!
 - **Water Quality Report:** Steve LaPalio
 - a. Lake level measured in August – 7.66 ft (at marker in Loon Bay). Slightly up from Ice On last Dec. 9th at 7.57, and Ice Out Apr. 27 at 7.55
 - b. Seci Disk reading varies on the lake from 24 ft visibility to 14.5 ft.
 - c. Phosphorous and Chlorophyll levels are ticking up; will keep an eye on it, but so far there doesn't seem to be any reason for it other than natural change.
 - d. No fish were stocked last year and are waiting to see if there will be any excess lake trout for stocking this year
 - **Loon Report:** Steve Sunderland
 - a. No chicks again this year. Two eggs were laid. Dinner Lake did not have chicks either. Thanks to Bob Turnquist, Steve LaPalio, and Tom Wheeler for putting in and taking out the Loon Watch buoys.
 - **Newsletter:** Steve Sunderland
 - a. Continuing to send out the newsletter bi-annually, late spring and early fall. [Articles are always welcome from all members!]
 - **Watersmeet News.** Cindy Harris
 - a. Brochure on township meetings was created and sent to MLRA members via email. This is a handy guide for all public Watersmeet Township meetings.

New Business:

- **Election of Board Member and Officers**
 - a. **Election of Board Members** - Eric Zorr has completed his term and has made the decision to retire as Treasurer. Applause and many thanks were given to Eric for his dedication and work to keep MLRA finances in order. Bob Turnquist, Steve Sunderland, and Steve LaPalio have also completed their terms and have all agreed to run again. With Eric's retirement there is one position open. Steve S. nominated Tom Bybee to join the board. Tom and his wife Linda (Lloyd) have long ties to Moon Lake as Linda was born and raised there! A joint motion was made by Brian Reiels to elect all 4 to the board, motion seconded and carried unanimously by the group. Welcome Tom!
 - b. **Approval of Officers** - Cindy Harris agreed to become the new Treasurer if approved. A joint motion from Brian Reiels was made to keep Steve S, Bob, and Steve L in their current officer roles along with Cindy as the new treasurer. Motion seconded and carried unanimously by the group.
- **Approval of Dues** – Prudy Caudill made the motion to keep MLRA membership dues at \$25.00 for another year. Motion seconded and carried unanimously by the group.

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- **Open Comments** from MLRA Members

- a) MLRA Website – who is looking at it? Should we spend \$200 on average a year on it? John Reiels was looking into providing a more economical solution. The board will reach out to John to get a status. Ideally, we'd like a solution before next spring when payment will be needed again.
- b) Prudy Caudill told a hilariously wonderful memory/story of Moon Lake (the “milk jug” story)
- c) Bodil asked about this year’s propane contracts and was told the information should be coming out next week for the yearly signup.

- **Watersmeet Township News** from Yvonne Clark, Town Supervisor:

- a) **Internet:** Michigan Broadband is saying that our area will start to see the fiber optic service lines turned on as early as September.
- b) **Ambulance Service:** LVD Tribe has started a task force to look into setting up an ambulance service with 2 rigs and bunkhouse within 9-18 months. The Township will be partners and will work on fundraising efforts for the initial costs. Please let Yvonne know if you wish to take part in this important endeavor.
- c) **Senior Meals:** Part of our tax dollars go to subsidize senior meals. The meals are prepped in Bessemer and delivered to the Watersmeet Food Pantry for pick up on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10-11am. All Watersmeet residents 60 and over qualify for this benefit.
- d) **Zoning Changes:** Town board will vote on the proposal to remove requirement for 150 ft minimum of lake front property. Without this requirement, “keyholing” can occur where property owners could build additional houses on their lakefront lots, thereby creating more densely populated lakes. Zoning meeting is Thursday Aug 14th at 5:30 pm.
- e) **Clerk position:** The clerk position is open, will be advertising for new clerk.

- **ISCCW:** Due to scheduling conflicts, Michelle Kanipes was not able to attend, however Cindy Harris reminded the group of the upcoming ISCCW Scramble Golf Fundraiser, Sunday Aug 31st at noon with reception after at the LVD Golf course.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned and all in attendance enjoyed the pot luck dishes. Thanks to all taking the time to attend and stay connected.

Respectfully submitted by Carleen Sunderland, in Secretary Peg’s absence.



**PLEASE PAY YOUR 2025
ANNUAL MLRA DUES**

\$25 - in person or via mail to new Treasurer:

Cindy Harris
PO Box 824
Watersmeet, MI 49969

4th of July Moon Lake Boat Parade Review

After a couple years of rainouts, we finally had a beautiful evening for our annual boat parade. How wonderful to see all our friends and neighbors enjoying the lake. Let's keep this tradition going; your decorations get better every year! Thanks to Pam Jeidy for sending photos of all the boats! Here's a great one:



Another photo captured by Steve Sunderland:



A Moment on the Lake

By Peg Zorr



Eric and I had been out of town. The morning after we arrived home, I opened the blinds to look out at the lake, something I had done every morning since we bought our house on Moon Lake. I noticed one of the poles on our pontoon had slipped and a puddle of rain water was sitting on the cover. In short, here's how I described the 'moment' to my younger brother, Phil in a TEXT trying to be brief yet wanting him to get the flavor and humor of my 'moment'...

"Went out to adjust poles on pontoon cover. Saw the fishing pole. Decided to make a cast. No lure or hook. Had to tie the lure back on. Made a cast, nothing. Second cast got snagged. Set pole on dock. Went up to lower deck to grab a kayak. Got in kayak, picked up pole off the dock. Pole not snagged any more. Tried to make a cast. Lure twisted around tip. Decided to try another cast this time toward shore and downed tree. Came up with a bass. 18 inches (measured by my two shoes laid end to end.) The bass was just short of the two together. And naturally, no camera or phone with me (wasn't planning to fish) so I yelled up to Eric to get the camera. He did. ...the battery was dead so he went back in grabbed his phone and got a picture. Three casts later with no fish I came in to make supper."

That was the end of my text to my brother.

Never let those little moments pass by you.

The picture was too grainy from the distance Eric took it for publication...but...there's proof!

I shared this story with my father-in-law and he suggested I share it. So, thank you Bill Zorr for your encouragement.



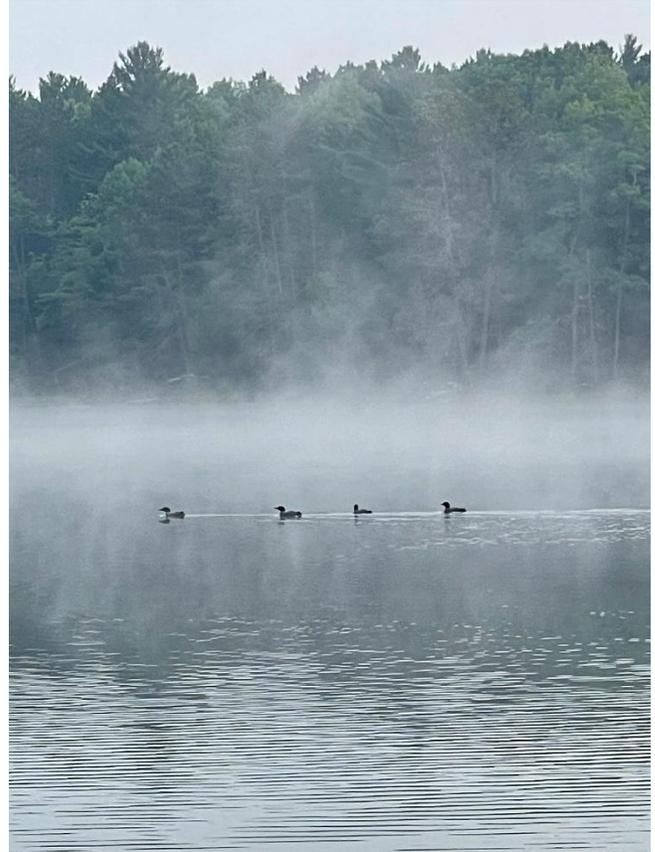
High Speed Internet Coming to a Place Near You...

Can it be happening? Michigan Broadband has been busy around Moon Lake trenching lines and installing boxes like this one:



If you are interested in getting connected during this install period and you have not already contacted Michigan Broadband, be sure to call them now! 855-642-4227.

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"The Singles Club"

Loving Our Loons:



"Basking in the Afternoon Glow"

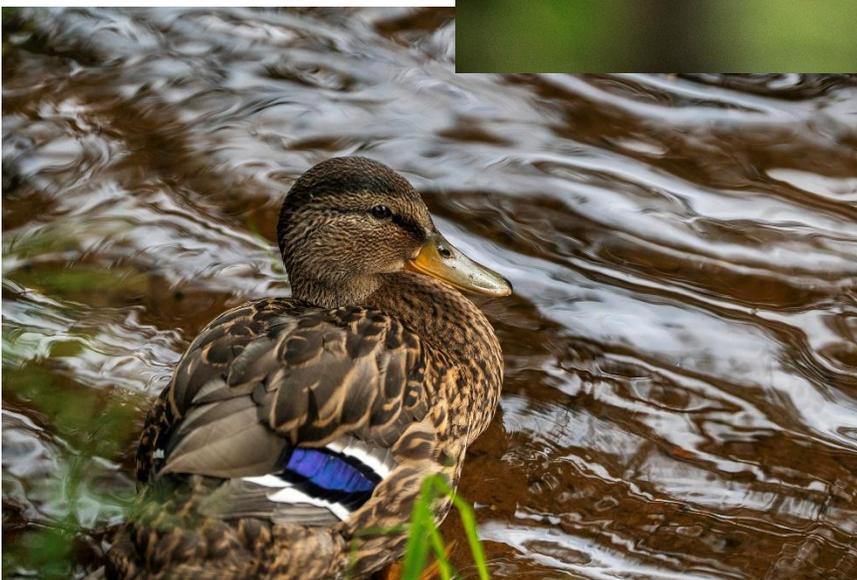


"Bath Time"

But Wait...There's More Than Loons to Love!



Thank you to Marty and Steve LaPalio's son Adam who captured these additional winged favorites while visiting this summer (as well as the 2 single loons on the previous page)



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

Respectfully Submitted,
*Steve and Carleen
Sunderland*