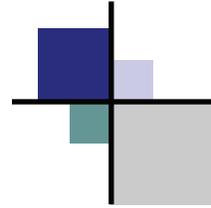




Volume I, Issue I
Fall 2002

Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



From the President

My name is Walt Gager, recently elected president of MLCA. I am retired and my wife and I will be spending much of each summer and winter here on the Moen's Chain. My wife, Donna, and I have a cottage on Fourth Lake. We think that the Moen's Chain is one of the best, if not THE best, in the Wisconsin northern highlands and have, as you, an abiding interest in the quality of our waters and shorelands.

This is the first in a future series of letters that the association will periodically send to members. The elected officers of the Association hope to keep you informed of our activities. In the future, beside the meetings, we want to sponsor some social activities so we can get to know each other.

There are many changes occurring in lake front ownership: new state and local laws and ordinances, population growth with increased usage causing habitat changes (both land and water) and others not mentioned. It seems impossible for anyone of us to stay on top of everything. Maybe as a group, we can make some sense of them. The Association is most interested in suggestions that will lead to improvements that will improve our quality of life on the water and on its edges.

Read the enclosed minutes and other materials and let me hear from you. I hope to meet all of you at future gatherings and meetings.

I wish you good living, safe boating and super fishing.

Walter E. Gager, *President*
262/786-2321 or 715/369-9142 or
wegager@pol.net.

LAKE JULIE LAKE ASSOCIATION RECEIVES \$7,125 DNR PARTNERS WITH NICOLET COLLEGE TO KEEP LAKE JULIA HEALTHY (from an article in the Daily News 8/25/02)

The Lake Julia Lake Association and Nicolet College have partnered to preserve the overall health of Lake Julia with the help of a \$7,125 grant the lake association recently received from the Department of Natural Resources.

The money will fund the first phase of the Lake Julia Stewardship Project, a long-term effort that will study numerous ecological components in and around the lake. The initial work will consist of mapping and assessing the important wetlands in the Lake Julia watershed with a goal of maintaining and hopefully even improving the already good ecosystem health of the 238-acre lake just south of Rhinelander, says Harry Helwig, president of the Lake Julia Lake Association. "Virtually every lake in the Northwoods, including Lake Julia, is coming under increasing pressure from a variety of different sources," Helwig says. "Lake Julia today is in good shape and this project is part of a long-term approach that will help keep the lake healthy for generations to come."

The first phase will consist of mapping the significant wetlands surrounding Lake Julia, assessing the current environmental health of these wetlands, identifying potential threats to these areas, and providing recommendations on ways to improve degraded wetlands and better protect those that are deemed as threatened.

The lake association will use the DNR grant money to hire environment consultant Dean Premo, Ph.D., and his firm White Water Associates, of Amasa, MI, to participate in many technical and educational aspects of the project. According to Premo, healthy wetlands:

- Collect and filter water that seeps down to recharge groundwater aquifers. This clean groundwater then enters the lake through springs in the lake bed;

- Significantly reduce the amount of sediment entering a lake through surface water run-off. If too much sediment enters a lake, the gritty deposit can quickly blanket prime fish spawning areas on a lake bed, leading to significant reductions in fish populations. Lake sedimentation can also cover other lakeshore habitats used by insects, amphibians, and other wildlife, which play an important role in a lake's food chain and add to the overall biotic diversity of a lake ecosystem;
- Trap excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen—the main culprits that cause algae blooms. Along with being unsightly, algae blooms can consume large amounts of dissolved oxygen in the water column, a condition that causes respiratory stress to fish and in the worst cases can cause significant die-offs.

The lake association plans on applying for additional DNR grants in the future to look at other environmental factors that are important to keeping the lake habitat healthy. The grants are made available through DNR's Lake Management Planning Grant Program, which is funded entirely from a portion of the state excise tax on motorboat gasoline. For more information about the grant program, including how to apply for a grant, contact Jennifer Wudi, DNR Lake Management Coordinator, at 715/365-8900

If you have not already done so, please remember to send your \$20.00 2002 dues to:
Moen Lake Chain Association
c/o Bob Wilkins, Treasurer
3786 Port Aurora Road
Rhinelander WI 54501