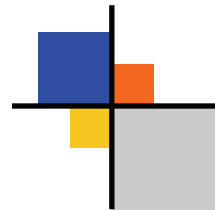




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Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



From the President

Greetings to all in the winter of '03. The Board of the Association hope that this letter finds you all in good spirits, enduring the fickle weather and girding for the upcoming summer season.

This newsletter is being sent to all current active members as well as those that have shown interest in the Association in the past. Beginning next fall, however, only active dues paying members will be apprised of the activities of the Association and those of agencies and governmental bodies that will affect us and our lakes.

Soooo! If you haven't paid your dues lately, now would be a good time to do it. Welcome aboard! Send \$20.00 to Bob Wilkins, 3786 Port Aurora Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Current active members can prepay their 2003 annual dues now or at attendance at the annual meeting this summer (date and time to be announced soon).

Walter E. Gager, *President*

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

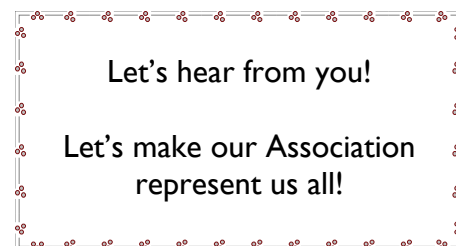
A winter gathering was planned for early March, but concerns about access to the lake (snow and distance) have put that idea on hold. If you would like to have a gathering this spring (someplace), let me know—369-9142 (message ?) or (262) 786-2321 or wegager@pol.net or 14935 Franklin Drive, Brookfield WI 53005 or call Cal or Caroline Weck 369-9065. The response will decide.

A summer gathering is being planned, hopefully, to be held at the Pelican Town Hall picnic shelter. Details in the next communique .

DNR ACTIVITIES

As you all are probably aware, the third meeting of the DNR Advisory Committee on Shoreland Management formed by the State to examine local shoreland ordinances concerning setbacks, buffers, etc., was held in Stevens Point on January 30. There will be public forums this fall. More when info is available.

Individuals can log on to the DNR web site and follow the Committee's progress: www.dnr.state.wi.us. Go to "choose some topics" and select "shoreland management". There is even a means for you to send comments.



WHAT IS A SHORELINE BUFFER

(excerpt from the "Shoreland Stewardship Series", UW-Extension)

Maintaining a 35-foot buffer on our shores is the law, but ultimately the fate of our waters depends on the sense of environmental responsibility and individual actions. Owners and users of waterfront property have the potential to directly improve or impair Wisconsin's legacy of clean water. Preserving or improving a shoreland buffer can also benefit the landowner in these ways:

Good "cents" - Leaving native vegetation in place can be less expensive and less time-consuming than maintaining a lawn. Buffers also prevent destructive and expensive shoreland erosion and filter nutrients (like fertilizers) from the water. Ultimately keeping the water clean can be far less costly than cleaning up a damaged lake or river, and lots along clean waters framed by natural vegetation often have the highest property values.

Good neighbors—Diverse native vegetation on shore and fallen trees left in the water can improve fishing by providing and shading shallow-water habitat. Vegetation furnishes cover, food, nesting places and travel corridors for wildlife, so you and your neighbors can enjoy a variety of butterflies, birds, amphibians and mammals.

Peace and quite—Buffers can provide screening and privacy from neighbors and recreational lake users. Trees and shrubs around your property can muffle the noise of gas-powered tools, motor boats and grasses discourage unwanted species (like geese or purple loosestrife) from invading your property