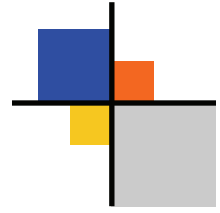




Volume 2, Issue
Spring 2004

Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a great winter! The snow was SO good - nay – TERRIFIC!! Alas, as in all good things there are always some negatives. The amount of snow and the inevitable spring melt prevented us from having an “on the lake” picnic again this year. However, never fear, like the Green Bay Packers, there’s always next year.

The **annual meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, July 3rd** (because July Fourth falls on Sunday), from 12:00-3:00 at the Pelican Town Hall. The minutes of the July MCLA meeting were sent to you in the Winter Newsletter. Any changes or additions can be made before July 3, 2004.

This year is special because we are having a picnic following the meeting. The pavilion (and possibly the Town hall) will offer shelter if the weather doesn’t co-operate **and** we will have access to the facilities. The Association will provide soft drinks, water, ice, chips and condiments (including pickles, mustard and ketchup, salt, pepper and napkins). A charcoal grill will be available for cooking. Bring a dish or dessert to share and your main course. C’mon and join the fun and bend a Board member’s ear. A reminder card will be sent in June.

Congratulations to our association member Victoria Houston on her appearance in the *Wall Street Journal* as well as on the front page of the Our Town (now, c’mon, which is the more important paper?). I know that you all read the *Wall Street Journal* but for those that forgot to renew their subscription, I’m enclosing the article. If you haven’t read her series of mysteries, you’re missing some good old up north fun. This is not meant to be an advertisement for Ms. Houston, but you better buy them while they last!

TROLLING FOR HISTORY

My father built what I think was the first cottage on what is now called Fifth Lake (according to Pete Boettcher, officially fourth and fifth lake are still recorded as North Pelican Lake, hence the name of the access road) in about 1927 or 8.

He married my mother in 1929 while a student at the University of Wisconsin (the cottage still stands; it’s the third structure southeast of the narrows. It was built of upright logs and had two bedrooms. The floor plan was taken from logging camps where the sleeping quarters were separated by a commons room with the cooking and dining facilities on the opposite end of the building. The “commons” room (we now call it the living room) had a stone fireplace to the rear and French windows with built in window seats and a center door facing the lake. The small kitchen and large dining room was heated by a standing wood stove. Water was obtained from a hand well just outside the back kitchen door. It was a long walk to the log structure next to the big shed, where Dad had his saw mill set up, to gain “relief”, if you know what I mean.

The view was breathtaking. The cottage was up a high bank and the cottage was surrounded by huge white pine trees. From two of these trees a rope swing hung and soared out over the water. My mother told me that Dad would stand out in the middle of the lake and sing “My Wild Irish Rose” to her (she was 100% Irish). I could go on and on.....maybe I will!

That’s a start, let’s hear from you!

Shoreland Management Advisory Committee Update

As you know I have been monitoring this committee’s activities for the past year. This past fall and winter the committee held public workshops about the state to gain insight into peoples’ shoreland problems and concerns. On March 18th a notice of a meeting scheduled for March 30th was received and board members Cal Weck and myself planned to attend. A few days later the meeting was cancelled without explanation and without an alternate meeting date. The gathering was to discuss the August 30th recommended changes to the current DNR regulations after gathering the publics comments.

Recently, Peter Boettcher, our Vice President, sent me what may have caused the cancellation. The recent (February 6, 2004) effective date of the Jobs Creation Act of 2003 which deals with “Water Regulation” via what activities are permitted when dealing with shoreland and water. Many of the now in effect regulations are at logger heads with the proposed DNR rules and regulation changes. (continued on back)



The JCA'03 regulations are divided in exempt, general permits, and individual permits. Incomplete examples follow since the details cannot be dealt with in this newsletter, but you can be sure that they are far reaching and will have a direct effect on our shore and water activities and even include air quality.

Exempt permits deal with rock/gravel (<2 yards), piers and wharfs, seasonal structures (boat hoist, shelters, etc.), some rip rap, fish habitat structures (cribs), bird nesting platforms, and many others.

General permits: direct the DNR to use these permits for certain activities: beach material, limited rip rap, fords, boat landings, replacement seawalls, span bridges, culverts, grading, storm water ponds dredging.

Individual permits are intended to decrease the lengthy delays and costly hearing proceedings under the prior law. In effect, the DNR now must meet strict time schedules for accepting, approving and responding to an individual's application and/or hearing requests.

If you wish more detailed information contact Waltraud Arts at 608-283-2469 or wxa@quarles.com or a Quarles and Brady attorney if you know one.

Is your home address for our mailing list up to date? Would you like to be taken off the mailing list? Do you have a new or a changed e-mail address? Let us know. Contact Linda Wilkins at 715-369-5511, e-mail at lwilkins@newnorth.net, or send a quick note. Help us keep our information current.

WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says "Dam".

I went to a seafood disco last night and pulled a muscle!

What do you call a fish with no eye? A fish!

DISABLED KIDS FISHING DAY

Don't forget the **Gus Tuskey Fishing Day** scheduled for **May 29, 2004** at **Birchwood Lodge**. If you would like to help disabled children enjoy a day of outdoor activities, including fishing and eating (we will also need a few volunteers with the cooking) call Larry Worth or fill out and mail the enclosed application and volunteer to help.



Dues for 2004 are due anytime. You can send them to:

Bob Wilkins
3786 Port Aurora Road
Rhineland WI 54501

or you can bring them with you when you come to the Annual Meeting/Picnic in July.