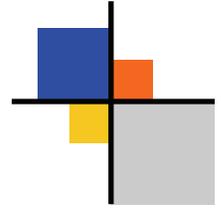




Volume 2, Issue  
Spring 2004

# Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Summertime, and the living is easy" - or so the song goes! Still, in spite of the rainy days, it's pretty nice.

The annual meeting of the Association was held on July 3rd at the Pelican Town Hall. The weather was threatening but the rain didn't start to fall until the picnic and meeting was over and we were cleaning up. The minutes will fill you in on the details of the meeting. Let me speak of the picnic. Twenty four members attended the meeting plus six guests. (You're always welcome to bring guests to our meetings)

From Mosinee: Our guest speaker, Tom Girolamo and wife, Kathy from Eco-Builders & Forestry, LLC. From Moen's Lake: Bob and Linda Wilkins. From Third Lake: Bal and Marcia Moore. From Fourth Lake: Pete and Jean Boettcher, Cal and Caroline Weck, Lloyd and Liz Richmond, Dave and Nancy Hanson, myself and wife Donna, our daughter Kathie and grandchildren, Aimee and Adam. From Fifth Lake: Lennie and Char Gescheidle, Chuck Goosen and Barb, Paul and Angela Lorenzen with son, Jim and Paul's parents, Merle and Arlene Lorenzen, Dan and Donna Krejci and Gabe Pallagi with brother-in-law Jim Gallup.

Because there was a communication gap between secretary Linda and I (the spring newsletter stated a noon set up and the reminder postcard said a one o'clock setup) we had the picnic first and the meeting last, just before the rain came. Tom Girolamo gave an interesting and instructive presentation, including exhibits, on 'whys' and 'why nots' of shoreland sustainable landscaping.

Particularly instructive was the use of "coconut logs", when to and when not to use them, to encourage regrowth at the waters edge to maintain shoreland integrity, protect fish habitat and ultimately water quality. He answered many questions.

The grill was busy with goodies from burgers and brats to hot dogs and shrimp and you should have seen and tasted the dishes that folks brought. I can't describe them all but suffice it say, I was stuffed "to the gills" (because, of course, I had to sample ALL the deserts - burp!)

Enclosed is a copy of the MCLA "Letter of Appreciation" given to Kayleigh Pallagi and family. Neat story.

## FYI

- We need volunteers for these soon to be formed committees: Water Quality, Fish Stocking and Membership
- The "Marker Mavens" were at it again. Two channel markers at the bridge narrows were replaced on 7-27-04 by Bob Wilkins, Cal Weck and Lloyd Richmond. The old markers will be straightened by Lennie Gescheidle and remodeled by Cal Weck for future replacement. Thanks fellas.
- The 28 members of the Shoreland Advisory committee of the DNR met in May and June to discuss the first draft of NR115 "in an effort to balance the public's interest in water resource protection while allowing waterfront owners more flexibility, especially those with 'nonconforming' lots or structures".
- Comments from the initial public hearings fell into three categories: 1. Keep the changes simple and understandable 2. Make the changes enforceable 3. Allow communities to decide how to best administer the minimum standards.

- NR115 seeks to control the density of development and create buffers around public waters. Counties are required to adopt the statewide minimum standards for lot sizes, how far buildings must be set back from the water and others. Counties may choose to adopt more protective rules to better protect local lakes and rivers.\*

\*From the July e-Lake Letter of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

- When the committee agrees on the recommended changes more public hearings will be held around the state, probably in the spring of 2005. The committee will meet again to review the comments. The final draft will then go to the DNR and then to the legislature.
- Complaint Department: The Association is coming of age. Several communications about a variety of subjects have arrived by phone. As promised, the Association will help if possible. The complaints have been passed on to the appropriate bodies or persons. One word, the Association cannot act as a mediator, our expertise doesn't lie in that area, but we will do what we can.

## NON-WORMY TOAST TO FISH BY

May there always be work for your hands to do;  
May your purse always hold a coin or two;  
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;  
May the hand of a friend always be near you;  
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



Flag cake made by Donna Gager for the pic-

## TROLLING FOR HISTORY THE PELICAN LAKES

Moen Lake (Moon or Mo-en?), officially recorded as 'Moen' not Moen's on maps as early as 1930, is formed from the watershed of a large area of Oneida county. To the west from Shepard Lake via the Shepard Creek, and north from Jenny Weber Lake via the Jenny Weber Creek. Cook and Hutchinson Lakes contribute via the Hutchinson Creek which also accepts water from Stella Lake and then joins with the Jenny Weber Creek forming the Gudogast Creek which drains into Moen Lake. The Starks Creek begins at the Starks Spring and drains Angelo Lake and Tenderfoot Lake into Sunset Lake and then into Moen.

From here, the "North Pelican Lakes" form a chain of interlocking waterways forming the North branch of the Pelican River. These lakes are currently called Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Lakes (some advertisements include Lake 2 1/2). Originally the names were: Moen Lake, Upper lake, Third Lake and North Pelican Lake. 'Fourth' and 'Fifth Lakes' are still maintained on state records as North Pelican Lake. On other maps by private cartographers, from Moen Lake south all are just labeled "North Pelican Lakes".

A number of commercial enterprises exist on Moen Lake. One resort even straddles the isthmus between Moen and "Third Lake" (Birchwood). Commercial properties decrease in numbers as the water flows southward from Moen Lake. There is only one commercial enterprise after Third Lake. Entering what is currently called "Fourth Lake" and bearing to port is a broad beach with a large "U" shaped pier and much waterfront equipment that introduces you to Camp Deerhorn.

### CAMP DEERHORN

(Contributed by Lloyd Richmond, camper and counselor in the '40's and '50')

Founded in 1930 by Dr. Don Broadbridge and wife Kathryn, it continues to function as an introduction to life in the woods and the diversities of nature and man. The camp has grown over the years but still has the same philosophy of the founder. He was simply known as Dr. Don.

In the course of time, the Broadbridges had a son with the same first name. Young Don grew up and participated in Camp activities until college and the service. In 1958 he returned to the camp after serving in the Marines and later with TWA as a pilot. He became known as "Big D". Big D and wife "Skeeter" (a former Bryn Afton counselor) managed the camp as Dr. Don retired. Big D and Skeeter had three boys. Donnie, Blaine and Patrick. In 1994, Big D retired and the camp came under the leadership.

The camp environment today is much the same as when the camp was founded. There are some structural changes but the cabins remain non-electrified. Activities center around the waterfront, the woods, sports and a strong sense of camaraderie. This rustic, outdoor approach is probably a contributing factor in the camp's continuing success while others have gone 'modern' and failed, in recent years. Deerhorn celebrates it's 75th season this summer and there will be a gathering and celebration of old counselors and campers over the Labor Day weekend.

### PELICAN DAM

Continuing southward, the 'Fifth Lake' flows into the North Branch of the Pelican river at the North Pelican Dam, and later joins the South Branch of the Pelican River coming from Pelican lake and thence into the Wisconsin River in Rhinelander.

(The following history acquired from the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Co. by Pete Boettcher)

In 1905 the Farm Land Co.,\* formed by Stapleton, Stapleton, Brown, Moen, Barnes and Barnes, received authorization to build a dam under Chapter 398 of Wisconsin Law at the narrows of the North Branch of the Pelican River. The dam was built within the next three years and on December 16, 1908 the land rights, dam and dam site were acquired from the Farm Land Co. by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. Five months later, in May, 1909 the original dam\*\* was replaced with a concrete structure including a concrete

If you haven't paid your  
2004 dues yet, there is still  
time! Send \$20 to:

Bob Wilkins  
3786 Port Aurora Road  
Rhinelander WI 54501

Three wood gates with wood stems and rack & pinion hoists were installed. This created the North Pelican River Reservoir\*\*\*. In 1924 the original wood gates were replaced with steel gates. Thirty years later, in 1954, the original wooden stems were replaced with steel stems. In 1961, the gate house, except the lower 20 inches of the south wall which was left as a guard for the bridge deck, was removed. At the same time, steel rollers were installed on the gate guides.

One year later, in March, 1962, a concrete headwall was constructed at the upper end of the fishway section, gate slots in the west pier and east abutment were enlarged and eroded concrete replaced. In July, the steel fishway tank was removed.

In August, 1969 the wood bridge railings were replaced with steel and fill material added to the upstream slope of the dike to decrease slope, pitch and seepage. The fill was protected with riprap in November that same year. In March, 1989, the steel substructure holding the gates was completely replaced.

\* There is no record of the Farm Land Co. Can anyone shed light on this old company? It probably was associated with logging but the name is very unusual for that industry.  
\*\* The original dam was probably simple sluice gates.  
\*\*\*See the attached Wisconsin River Reservoir System graphic.

Now! There's some history. Let's hear from you! Does anybody remember or have information on the history of the resorts on Moen Lake? Does anyone remember the water slide that was at the original resort now called Pine Valley?

Thanks to all for the feed back that I have received and for all your support. There's strength in numbers. Ask a neighbor to join.

Walt Gager, President