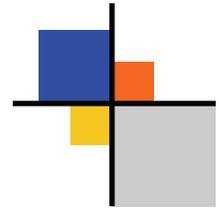




Volume 3, Issue 3  
Summer 2005

# Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

A great annual meeting was held at the Pine Valley Lodge run by new owners George and Nancy Schroepfer (who are also new Association members). The venue for the meeting was great. If you couldn't come, you missed a good one.

We met in the historic bar and recreation hall. Secretary Linda Wilkins counted 60 members in attendance. This is largest number of members at an annual meeting since Donna and I joined in the '80's. Maybe we have found the time and day that is most acceptable to our members: The Saturday after the 4th of July weekend at 10:00 a.m. The exact time, date and location of the 2006 annual meeting will announced after the fall meeting of the board of directors now scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>.

An abbreviated agenda of the July, '05 meeting is printed here for your perusal. Next year the agenda for the meeting will be mailed, along with this year's minutes, and the spring newsletter in anticipation of the annual '06 meeting.

### AGENDA

- Call to order & Welcome – W. Gager
- New members welcome!
- Minutes – July 3, 2004 – Linda Wilkins
- Treasurer's Report – Bob Wilkins
- Board of Director's Report – June 11, '05 – W. Gager

### Standing Committee Reports:

- Channel markers – Lloyd Richmond (Chair), Cal Weck, Bob Wilkins
- Nominating Committee – Wally Kunde (Chair)
- Board of Directors – Sue Ohman (3<sup>rd</sup> Lake)
- Fish Stocking/Cribs – L. Gescheidle
- Water Quality – Donna Gager

### Old Business:

- DNR Shoreland Committee @ NR 115 update.
- Pamphlet: "Changing Wisconsin's Shoreland Development Standards"
- Discussion: Member Newsletter contributions

### New Business:

- OCLRA board meeting 6-11-05
- July 4<sup>th</sup> - Invasive Species float donation
- Float-nic?
- Larry Worth's retirement and resolution  
PROGRAM: Dan Kuzlik,UW-Extension  
"Invasive Species"
- 2006 Annual Meeting dates: tba
- Adjourn

First, new members that have joined since the last annual meeting. (the numbers designate their lake)

- Tim & Ann Richmond (5)
- Gus & Marie Winters (4)
- Robert & Christine Bukowski (5)
- George & Nancy Schroepfer (M)
- Jay and Patti Pazera (M)
- Kris Krause & Scott Patulski (5)
- Gary & Judy Beiweger (M)

Welcome aboard! In eighteen months, we have gained 20 new members – *terrific!*; another selling point for you when you speak to your neighbors about joining the Association.

The committee reports were informative and members added information and asked many questions during the discussions. An Invasive Species Committee was formed with 16 member volunteers to be trained to inspect boats and trailers at the public boat launch site. Hopefully, we will be up and ready for the September Musky Challenge. The more volunteers we have, the easier it will be to staff the launch site in shorter intervals. If you would like to participate and protect our waters from invasive species, give me or Linda a call.

Sue Ohman was re-elected to the Board of Directors for a second term. Pete Boettcher and myself agreed to remain as acting President and Vice President for one year. Our terms (three years) ran out this year and according to the bylaws we are ineligible for re-election for one year and since there were no volunteers to fill the post.....

The Water Quality Committee met at the Gager's cottage for the training of six volunteers by Sandy Wickman from the DNR on Wednesday July 20 at 3:30 p.m.

The volunteers include, Linda Wilkins, Jeff Larson, Marcha Moore, Dan Mevis, Donna Gager and Dan Kuzlik

The public hearings on NR 115 were held in Rhinelander at the Holiday Inn Express on July 28. I hope you got to it or one near you. For the schedule log onto [www.dnr.wi.org](http://www.dnr.wi.org).

FLOAT-NIC: August 14<sup>th</sup>, Third Lake, 1:00 p.m. BYOB and whatever. No charcoal fires available (rain date 8/21) Questions? Call Walt Gager 369-9142

## DID YOU KNOW?

1. The size of Moen Lake is 460 acres with a maximum depth of 11 feet, Fourth lake is 258 acres with a maximum depth of 9 feet and Fifth lake is 240 acres with a maximum depth of 9 feet. Our lakes are considered "drainage lakes" since they are the receptacle of the water runoff from a wide geographic area and have both inlets and an outlet. (I think that we all know that there are spots in our lakes that are deeper than that listed in the DNR "Wisconsin Lakes" publication)
2. The lakes in Oneida county that are already having problems with invasive species are: Bridge Lake (Eurasian Water Milfoil), Kathan Lake (EWM), Kawaguesaga Lake (EWM), Minocqua Lake (EWM) and Lake Nokomis (EWM). Included with this Newsletter is a DNR handout to help you differentiate the invasive Eurasian milfoil from the native Northern milfoil. To date, Zebra mussels have not been found in Oneida County.

## YOUR MLCA OFFICERS

President—Walt Gager—369-9142  
 Vice Pres. — Pete Boettcher-369-9267  
 Treasurer—Bob Wilkins—369-5511  
 Secretary—Linda Wilkins—369-5511  
Board Members  
 Cal Weck—369-9065  
 Vicky Houston—369-4535  
 Tom Cutler—920-338-1553  
 Sue Ohman—369-1480  
 Bill Bethke—362-3271

3. The Eurasian water milfoil is one scary plant. It can choke the life out of a lake if left unidentified and unchecked. Watch for it on your lake tours. Take samples to the DNR if there is any question.

### PROTECTING OUR LAKES

I've written about "buffers", but what exactly are they intended to do? The department of Agriculture defines a buffer as "strips or other areas of land in permanent vegetation (emphasis is mine) that helps control pollutants and manage other environmental concerns". To us, riparian (shoreland and shallow water) buffers (water plants, trees, shrubs) slow and absorb runoff, trap sediment from impermeable surfaces (driveways, rooftops, etc.), filter out chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, pathogens, etc) maintain a firm healthy shore, offer refuge for land, water and air creatures and maintain the beauty and health of a natural lake. A shoreland "primary buffer" can be from 35 to 50 feet from the high water mark. The remainder of the 75 foot setback distance from the water front, for construction purposes, is to preserve and maintain the natural surroundings of a lake as well as support the primary buffer. Local and state ordinances do not allow any changes in the natural vegetation of the primary "buffer". There are mitigating circumstances in these ordinances and the new NRI 15 (which, incidentally is now out for public comment) will define them. More later.

### TROLLING FOR HISTORY

I recently rediscovered my father's doctoral thesis. It was entitled "A Sanitary Survey of Rhinelander, Wis." It is a long document and begins by describing the beginning of Rhinelander "about 35 years ago". Documents in the publication date to 1931, about the time that my father was a senior medical student at the UW-Madison. I would like to quote a couple of paragraphs:

"The sap was scarcely dry on the pine stumps before the early pioneers, led by the Brown brothers, Anderson and Webster, had plotted the town. Sawmills screeched and snarled, the forest receded, buildings sprang up, streets were plowed and graded, schools and churches were established; a new community lived in the wilderness".

".....The City of Rhinelander and the surrounding counties were once covered with virgin forest.....the timber being cut now by the Thunder Lake Lumber Company

is..... virgin timber, and it will not be very many years before timber such as this no longer exist in the State of Wisconsin".

Within the body of the paper are photos and descriptions of the industry and businesses present, the population, property evaluation and much, much more. Dad had great foresight. He bought the first property on fifth lake (North Pelican Lake) in the 1920s, with towering pines and a commanding view of the lake itself. He loved the Northwoods and was disappointed in what was happening to it in those days. In 1950, the population and street activity encouraged him to buy property in Canada in order to return to the "virgin" land of yesterday. His cabin and one other exist on a lake big enough to land a seaplane. The water is clear and filled with trout. No roads, no traffic, no jet skis, just solitude.

We're close!

Two men had been imbibing at a the local bar and were enjoying a walk home on a beautiful evening. First drunk, "What a night, and look at that moon up there". Second drunk, "That's not the moon—that's the sun!" Along comes a third drunk, and the two stop and ask, "Sir, can you tell us if that's the moon or the sun up there?" Third drunk, "Sorry, I don't know, I just moved here last week."

Contributed by Rev. Roy Johnson

### WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY:

There is always a lot to be thankful for if you take the time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here at my word processor thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

When was the last time you read one of these:

Drove to long.

Driver snoozing.

What happened next is not amusing.

or:

Don't lose your head

To gain a minute.

You need your head

Your brains 'r in it.

or:

Brother speeder let's rehearse,

All together—Good morning nurse!

How did they end? You don't know?

You're very young! But we do, ain't it fun?

Ah, summer! Ain't it grand? Hazy warm mornings, shimmering waters, cool evenings with spectacular sunsets, soft rain drops, BIG winds, lightning, temperatures in the 90s, who would rather be elsewhere.....?

Not me! Summer here in the north country is really wonderful. We've got all that plus trees and of course our beautiful lakes! No hurricanes, landslides, floods or forest fires (we hope). Donna and I know that you all are enjoying it as much as we.

Walt Gager  
President



This pen and ink drawing was done by Walt Gager. His wife, Donna, submitted it for this newsletter.