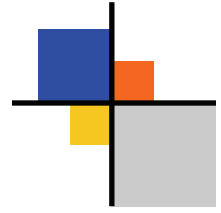




Volume 4, Issue 2  
2006

# Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### SPRING NEWSLETTER, '06

Happy Springtime! Summer is almost here and our beautiful chain of lakes awaits us. Along with the anticipation of summer comes the effort of pier placement, boat launching and lakefront preparation for water activities. If your boat has been in any other waters since introduced here last summer, please see that there are no hitchhikers aboard boat or trailer. It's usually the latter that snags the unwanted weeds and the boat hulls that attract the Zebra Mussels.

The development of our CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER group of volunteers to man the public launch sites continues. If you haven't yet volunteered, please do so soon so that we can work out a schedule that will not be an undue burden on any of us. The more volunteers we have, the less of an imposition it will be on our vacation time. With enough committee members, a couple of hours a summer is all you may have to volunteer! The DNR will hold training sessions for new volunteers on May 25th. Later that same day there will be a session on clean shorelines. I'll bet many of you would be interested in both.

Folks that come up for weekends, weeks or all summer can help. We need you! Help us, protect your lake! Contact Vicki Houston or Linda Wilkins.



## MEMBER STUFF

Welcome to new members who have joined the Association since the 2005 summer meeting:

Brian and Holly Bertoia  
Brad and Liane Bertoia  
Roger and Gerane Brandt  
Keith and Judy Carlson  
Laura and William Disbrow  
Richard Eddy  
Bernard and Dolores Gau  
Patrick Garvey  
Rockwell and Julie Gust  
Bob and Jackie Hebein  
Keith and Andrea Kelling  
Harold Koppa  
Mark and Karen Marek  
Dennis and Stevanna Myers  
Natalie Obey  
Thomas Peters  
Wallace and Alice Ritchie  
Eileen Sheedy  
Michael and Penny Sutkay  
Bill and Joan Trythall

The Association continues to grow, have you sent in your dues?

**The Annual Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, July 8, 2006** at Pine Valley Lodge. The Schroepfers have agreed to allow us to enjoy their gracious hospitality again.

### Agenda:

Call to order—Walt Gager, President  
Treasurer's Report—Bob Wilkins  
Secretary's Report—Linda Wilkins  
Committee Reports:  
Cribs/Fish Stocking - Lennie Gescheidle  
Water Quality—Donna Gager  
Clean Boats/Clean Water—Vicky Houston  
Channel Markers—Lloyd Richmond  
Nominating Committee—Walt Kunde  
Old Business: TBA  
New Business: TBA  
Presentation: "Eagles and Osprey",  
Ron Eckstein, BS, MS, Wildlife biologist

## ASSOCIATION MINUTES: Annual Meeting - Pine Valley Lodge, July 9, 2005

President Walt Gager called the meeting to order. He remarked that there was a great turnout for the meeting (60+ people), and that it has been difficult to find a day and time that is convenient for the majority. New members have been encouraged to join. We have seven new families since last year at this time.

Minutes from the July 3, 2004 meeting were sent to the membership and copies were available for those in attendance. As there were no additions or corrections, they were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report was also approved as presented.

The Board of Directors met on June 11 at the Gagers' home. Read the summary in the summer newsletter.

### Committee Reports:

**Channel Markers:** Lloyd Richmond reported that the channel markers are in thanks to the regular crew. The markers on 4th and 5th lake were in need of repair as they were taken out by the ice, but they have been retrieved and repaired.

**Nominating Committee:** Wally Kunde reported that the only office that needed to be filled was for a board member on 3rd Lake. The nomination was made, seconded and passed that Sue Ohman continue on as that board member.

**Fish Stocking/Cribs:** Larry Gescheidle reported that his committee went to a DNR session on June 22 with a fish biologist. The biologist stated that habitat is the key to a healthy lake and

that they will work with us on shoreline development for habitats. There should be no disruption of the natural shoreline. Regarding fish cribs, we can construct them and place them in the lakes, however, they have to be made and placed according to DNR specifications. Gescheidle reported that split logs are now available for habitat placement according to the description in the winter newsletter. Interested parties can contact Lennie (369-9165) or search the DNR website ([http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/checklists/checklist\\_halflogs.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/checklists/checklist_halflogs.pdf)) for more info.

The DNR has grants available for shoreland restoration and in some cases will pay some of the cost. The DNR has information on how we control invasive species and that we need to educate the property owners. We have no problems yet on our chain with invasive species. Another fish survey is slated for the Spring of 2007. At this time, we know that our lakes have adequate fish in all species and we also have great water quality. Fish stocking is not recommended for our lake system.

It was discussed that we can all get great information by going to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) (WI DNR web site). We can also subscribe to the Natural Resources Magazine, which is a quarterly magazine with great articles about what we can do as shoreland owners.

Marcha Moore questioned why there are large snails in Third Lake. Lloyd Richmond had asked that question of the DNR and responded that this is the natural cycle of the lake.

*Water Quality:* Donna Gager reported that we are in need of volunteers to monitor water quality. There will be a training on July 20th at 3:30 at the Gager cottage for anyone interested in attending.

#### **Old Business:**

Walt reported that he has been attending the NR 115 Shoreland Management

meetings and that approval has been given for public hearings to begin. Rhinelander has a session slated for July 28th at the Holiday Inn and there will be sessions held throughout the state. After the hearings, they will take the suggestions and come up with a final draft. It will be at least a year before the new law goes into effect. The new bill really supports the property owner. A pamphlet was available entitled "Changing Wisconsin's Shoreland Development.

Walt asked those in attendance to submit articles for upcoming newsletters. There are a lot of you who have great stories about our area. Please share them with us.

#### **New Business:**

Walt reported that he attended a meeting of the OCLRA (Oneida County Lake and River Association). The group was formed in 1995. There are 11 lake associations represented in the group. Walt feels that this may be a good group to be a part of if there are benefits to our association.

At the 4th of July Parade this year there was a float sponsored by four local agencies for clean water. The Association donated \$100 for fishing bobbers that said "Clean Boats/Clean Water". Any group who donated \$100 or more had their name on the float.

It was suggested that there might be a "Float-Nic" on Third Lake sometime in August. Watch for a post card in this regard.

A motion was made that the Association have a plaque made for Larry Worth for all of his years of involvement with the Association. The motion was seconded and the motion carried.

There was then an information session regarding Invasive Species given by Dan Kuzlik of the UW-

Extension Office. Although brief, Dan had great information regarding this threat to our waterway. For more information, you can contact the Extension Office.

A motion was made that the Association have posts placed at all the landings on the chain for the new signage informing boaters of the procedure for making sure their boats do not contaminate our water. The motion was seconded, a vote taken, motion carried.

A committee was formed for volunteers to be trained to staff the public boat landing sites on the chain. Members need not be permanent lake residents. The committee can use more volunteers. Contact Walt Gager or any board member if you are interested. Help protect our waters. Think of the muskie tournament boats!

The meeting was adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Wilkins, Secretary

#### **PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES:**

Moen Lake Chain Association, Inc.

#### **Membership**

Section 1: Active Membership: any person (s) owning a shoreline parcel (s) of property on the Moen Lake Chain, or within a one mile distance from the chain shall be eligible to be an active member. Only Active members may vote or serve as an Officer or At-Large-Director.

The term "any person" is defined as any natural person, corporation, partnership, trust or other legal entity.

Section 2: Membership Dues: Dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and approved at the annual meeting of the members of the Association. Said dues are payable before the Annual General meeting and must be paid before an active member may vote.

**Section 3: Voting Units:** There shall be as many voting units as there are parcels of shoreline property on the Moen Lake Chain and a voting unit shall be allocated to each parcel. When the following circumstances exist, the parcels so owned shall be deemed be one parcel for purposes of voting. It is intended that each parcel of property shall have only one vote and no one person shall have more than one vote with current dues paid before the start of the meeting. When the following circumstances exist, the parcels so owned shall be deemed to be one parcel for purposes of voting:

- (1) If one member or the Association owns two or more such parcels or
- (2) If two or more members own one such parcel
- (3) Or one more member also owns one or more parcels.

No fractional votes shall be allowed  
The person voting must be a member in good standing.

**Section 4: Proxy:** Prior to any meeting, a member who is entitled to a vote and is not able to attend a meeting may designate, by written proxy, a spouse, a child, a grandchild, another member or the President of the Association to vote for him or her.

**THOUGHT FOOD**

Conservation is good economics. It's essential to make economic arguments to help validate our conservation values and actions. But it's equally essential to look beyond economics, to look beyond its limited perspective. We need to be articulating a defense of nature based on principles of quality: the world is simply better, and we are better off in the long run, with wildness - with natural communities - left intact. Few good economists today doubt that the things Leopold most valued in nature are fast becoming the scarcest things on the planet, and thus the most valuable.

If Vilas or Oneida County were to sell itself as the place with the cleanest water, the most quiet, the most eagles/osprey/loons, the most beautiful sunsets, the

loveliest hiking and paddling trails, the most natural communities still intact, it would draw people from all over the world seeking this rare experience that is only becoming more scarce as our population burgeons. We have a globally important lake district- that is our greatest gift, and our greatest responsibility, our greatest obligation. (John Bates, 7-28-'04, WAL presentation)

**PROTECTING OUR SHORELINE**  
In the last Newsletter we approached the definition of piers and touched on reasonable use. Just what is meant by reasonable use, the public trust and the need for permits?

A pier is reasonable if it is located within the riparian\* zone (re: winter Newsletter), within the line of navigation and to a navigable depth or three feet (Wisconsin Court ruling). The DNR established that a pier may be constructed to the greater of either: 1. the three foot bottom contour, 2. a greater depth for a particular water craft, 3. The length of the boat to moored. The greater of these three standards is called "the line of navigation" for the individual property. A municipality has the right to establish this "line" by ordinance and calls it a "pier headline". Any piers that extend beyond this line must obtain a permit. (Figure 3, winter Newsletter)

The concept of "The Public Trust" holds all navigable waters and lake beds in trust

for the public's use.



Thusly, state law prohibits the construction of any structure or material on the bed of navigable waterways (Sec. 30.12 Wis. Stats). A permit is required if the construction is outside the described parameters. However, portions of Sec. 30.12 and 30.13 present exceptions to this prohibition. These prohibitions have been confirmed in NR 326.04 and 326.05. However, to avoid the permit requirement, the following criteria must be met.

1. The structure must not interfere with public rights or those of other riparians.
2. The structure must not extend beyond the line of navigation or the length of the moored boat, a pierhead line or violate ordinances or pier regulation.
3. The pier or wharf cannot interfere with free movement of water or form land on the lake bed. In general, an Oneida County shoreline property owner is allowed one pier per 150 feet or less of shoreline frontage. For each additional 100 feet, or less, of shoreline one additional pier is permitted. In general, a permit request is required if the pier in question is beyond any of the above definitions.

In the summer Newsletter, we will cover local exceptions, lighting, accessories and construction materials. \*Riparian: (ri pair 'e en) adj. of, situated, or dwelling on the bank of a river or other body of water - Riparian right: n. a right, as fishing or use of water for irrigation or power, enjoyed

by a person who owns riparian property.

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**TROLLING FOR HISTORY**  
**Birchwood Lodge**

(In part by Robert Jorata, Leo Stutz & Larry Worth and from The History of Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties (1924) and the Oneida County Register of Deeds Archives)

Charles Zirzow, founded the well known Birchwood Lodge in the town of Pine Lake, Oneida County in 1912. He was born in Chicago on November 18, 1858, was reared and educated in Chicago and subsequently employed for many years by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Later, he represented D.A. Matot, a contractor and builder. He married Miss Minnie Lippert in Armstrong Creek, Wisconsin on February 26, 1898. In 1908 he left D.A. Matot and moved to Bagdad, WI in Forest County where he purchased a farm. He farmed for three years and in 1911 moved to Roosevelt in Oneida County. It was during this time that he purchased four lots on the south shore of Moen lake, erected two fine houses, and established Birchwood Lodge. One house had ten rooms and the other 11. Both structures were artistically designed and constructed of Tamarack poles. The Lodge had accommodations for 30 people, a fleet of six fine rowboats and provided excellent services for its' guests.

Mr Zirzow was a man of high character and great energy. He was one of the leading and well known resort men of northern Wisconsin and a constant booster for Oneida County. After his death in 1922, the lodge was run by Mrs. Zirzow until 1924 when she sold the Lodge to Thomas and Elizabeth Domek. The Domeks acquired other partners (Andy Hall and Hugh McMillan @ Lewis Hardware) and in 1930 the partnership transferred ownership to "Oneida Retail Yards" who later (1932) lost the property in a sheriff's sale to the American Association of Lutherans.

In the mid to late 1930's, William H. Zuehlke bought (probably via a land contract) the Lodge from AAL and subsequently transferred title in 1944 to Gertrude Doyle who ran the lodge for two years. In 1946, Mrs. Doyle sold Birchwood Lodge to Forrest Knapp and Ruth Herriss. It appears that they partnered with Richard and Eloise Stevens who later acquired exclusive ownership in 1958. Clarence and J.T. Herriss of Florida and Lester and Pauline Fredericks from Illinois became co-owners for a short period and then in 1964 Stevens sold to Larry and Barbara Worth.

Larry, with wife Barbara, ran the lodge longer than any of the previous owners and established Birchwood Lodge as a commercial success and anchor in the Moen Chain's history. The Lodge is loved by many and is currently under new ownership. We hope the history continues.

<p><b>WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY</b></p> <p>A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time. (1/100th of a second).</p> <p>Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.</p> <p>It's impossible to lick your elbow. Try it!</p> <p>Since the early bird gets the worm, sleep late!</p> <p>Some mistakes are too much fun to do just once!</p> <p>What would you like to see in your Newsletter? Let me hear from you!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Walt Gager President</p>	<p><b>LISTEN UP!!</b></p> <p>A Float-Nic on Third Lake is planned for August 13th, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. BYO "nic". One dish to pass is optional. More information to follow. See you there!</p> <hr/> <p><b>Association Dues</b></p> <p>Some of you have already paid your \$20.00 dues for 2006. If you have not and would like send them, remit to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bob Wilkins 3786 Port Aurora Rd. Rhineland WI 54501</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MLCA OFFICERS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOUR MLCA OFFICERS</b></p> <p>President—Walt Gager—369-9142  Vice Pres. — Pete Boettcher-369-9267  Treasurer—Bob Wilkins—369-5511  Secretary—Linda Wilkins—369-5511  <u>Board Members</u>  Cal Weck—369-9065  Victoria Houston—369-4535  Tom Cutler—920-338-1553  Sue Ohman—369-1480  Bill Bethke—362-3271</p>
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