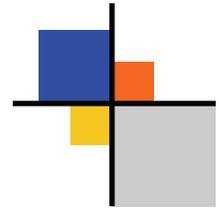




Volume 4, Issue 3

Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our new members since last year's Annual Meeting:

Brian and Holly Bertoia
 Brad and Liane Bertoia
 Kevin and Kathy Black
 Roger and Gerane Brandt
 Don and Susan Broadbridge
 Keith and Judy Carlson
 Laura and William Disbrow
 Richard Eddy
 Lorraine Franklin
 Bernard and Dolores Gau
 Patrick Garvey
 Dan and Janet Groleau
 Rockwell and Julie Gust
 Bob and Jackie Hebein
 David and Joan Kaul
 Keith and Andrea Kelling
 Harold Koppa
 Mark and Karen Marek
 Dennis and Stevanna Myers
 Natalie Obey
 Thomas Peters
 Wallace and Alice Ritchie
 Eileen Sheedy
 David and Linda Stuursma
 Michael and Penny Sutkay
 Bill and Joan Trythall

And, to the North Pelican River shoreland owners: The pristine nature of the area is awesome. We really, really, really enjoy a boat or canoe trip up and down the river - Thank you!

Which brings to mind boating courtesies (I use the latter term rather than that of "law"). In narrow spaces, like rivers, it is a common courtesy of a fast moving boat to slow down to no wake for anchored fisherman, a slow moving boat or native river inhabitants. It is also a courtesy to slow to no wake when traveling through channels and under bridges. On an open lake, the boating laws are specific as to

when, where and how a motor boat (including personal watercraft) a sail boat, canoe and paddle boat may be operated and their relationships to each other. Jet ski operators should remember that these lakes are shallow and whirl-a-gig maneuvers stir up the natural lake habitat and kill vegetation and affect fish populations. Jet ski law allows their use from sunrise to sunset only. Water skiing is also regulated by definitive laws. A competent observer must be in a tow boat in addition to the operator and a personal water craft must be designed to seat people in order to tow a water skier, aquaplane or similar device. If you are unfamiliar with the law, the state prints information pamphlets or contact me for a copy. Think courtesy!

ANNUAL MEETING

The July 8th Annual Meeting at Pine Valley Lodge was attended by 75 members. A heartfelt thank you to George and Nancy Schroepfer for the generous use of their beautiful lodge again this year. Their rehabilitation of the resort is progressing rapidly.

- The treasurer's report showed that we were in good fiscal condition. Committee reports were made:
- If any one wants more information on the half log fish cribs, contact Lennie Gescheidle @ 369-9165.
- The Water Quality Committee continues their good work in measuring water clarity and have begun chemical testing.
- The Clean Boats/Clean Water committee headed by Vicky Houston and Linda Wilkins announced that a small cadre of concerned members have been staffing the boat launch sites at the Moen's public landing and Birchwood lodge Friday evenings 4-8 PM, Saturday and Sunday mornings from 6-12 noon (two hour shifts). We could use more volunteers so nobody has to stand by

every weekend. We can train you "on the job". It's easy and interesting. Nonmembers are welcome; you don't have to pay dues unless you want to be part of our growing organization. It's your lake too! Let's protect it from invasive species! Join the volunteers and receive an identifying CLEANBOATS/ CLEAN WATER T-shirt and cap.

Kathy Winkler was introduced to the membership. She is the new Clean Boats/Clean Water Volunteer Coordinator. She may just be calling YOU to see if you would become a volunteer!

- As outlined in the spring Newsletter, the bylaw changes were approved.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Association contact, by person and/or letter, the Oneida County Planning and Zoning Committee (P & Z) to state that the Association opposes the creation of a marina on Moen Lake. Personal contact with the P & Z Committee was made. After gaining information about the marina request, further action was stopped for the following reasons:
 - First, the motion would not be accepted by the Oneida County Planning and Zoning Committee without reasoned, meaningful legal justification. The campground is currently legally allowed to have six piers and 13 moorings. In addition, they are legally allowed to apply for a "dockage marina" (no service or fueling facilities) doubling their moorings. In other words, the DNR and the P & Z office feel that what they are applying for is legal and reasonable. If approved, it would "max out" the number of their piers and slips and a further request for expansion would be denied and the

P & Z Committee would hold the Campground to the maximum of 26 water craft (any form) moorings.

- Second, the motion and vote did not follow the rules of our bylaws and therefore was invalid. Any contested (non-unanimous) vote must be by written ballot. I apologize for this oversight. It slipped past me.

- Third, the question of safety along the roadway and beach area must be addressed to the Town of Pine Lake. Concerned citizens should contact them by mail or phone. Association involvement here is inappropriate.

- Fourth, an Ad Hoc committee was formed to discuss the impact of any marina on the chain's waters but will be disbanded because of the above.

- A wonderfully informative presentation on "Eagles & Osprey" was presented by DNR wildlife biologist Ron Eckstein.

- A "Float-nic" is planned for August 13th @ 1:00 p.m. in the middle of Third Lake. A reminder card will be mailed.

- Elections: The President, Vice President and Secretary remain the same. Bob Wilkins declined re-election. El Felton, our new treasurer, ran on a personality ticket and won the position unanimously. Bob Wilkins, thank you for your dedicated services over the years. Cal Weck was re-elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term.

- **Next years annual meeting will be on July 7th, 10:00 a.m. at the Pine Valley Lodge.**

HISTORY

The North Pelican River, receiving water from the large water shed described in the '04 summer Newsletter, created the Moen Chain of Lakes. Originally, natural narrows formed two large bodies of water. Moen Lake, the largest, was the head waters of the river and Fourth and Fifth Lake were (and are still officially) North Pelican Lake which ultimately wound it's way to the Wisconsin River. The current Second and Third Lakes were referred to as the "Upper Lakes".

During the lumbering era, over 100 years ago, a wooden and earthen dam was built to create a larger body of water with which to transport cut timbers. Later, a concrete dam was constructed as part of the Wisconsin River Reservoir System under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC) was licensed to manage it.

(The following description of WVIC's function is from WVIC's recent reapplication to FERC for it's license renewal.)

"The license is required because this is a federal project and the Wisconsin River system is a navigable waterway which contributes to the generation of electricity at 25 hydroelectric dams on the Tomahawk and Wisconsin Rivers. Twenty one (21) of the dams lie in Vilas, Oneida and Lincoln Counties. WVIC dams do not generate electricity.

WVIC is a private corporation, which was organized in 1907 under the laws of Wisconsin and granted authority by the state legislature to acquire and build a system to regulate the flow of the Wisconsin River. WVIC is owned by six paper mill companies and four electric utility companies. These companies finance WVIC operations through a toll process regulated by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, because of the benefit of reservoir operation they receive at their hydroelectric facilities on the rivers. The 25 hydroelectric dams are not part of the WVIC Project. WVIC coordinates the operation of the Wisconsin River System for flood control and flow augmentation."

The purpose of the System, as stated in authorizing legislation, is to "...produce as nearly a uniform flow of water as practicable in the Wisconsin and Tomahawk rivers by storing in reservoirs surplus water for discharge when water supply is low to improve the usefulness of the rivers for all public purposes and to reduce flood damage."

JUNK FOOD

- ★ The dot over the letter "i" is called a 'tittle' !
- ★ 315 entries in Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled
- ★ Most lipsticks contain fish scales.
- ★ Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland .
- ★ Ketchup was sold as a medicine in the 1830s.

YOUR MLCA OFFICERS

President—Walt Gager—369-9142
Vice Pres. — Pete Boettcher-369-9267
Treasurer—El Felton—369-0662
Secretary—Linda Wilkins—369-5511

Board Members

Cal Weck—369-9065
Victoria Houston—369-4535
Tom Cutler—920-338-1553
Sue Ohman—369-1480
Bill Bethke—362-3271

PROTECTING OUR SHORELINE

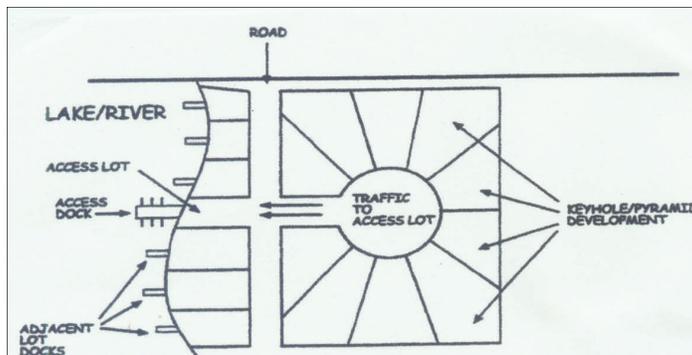
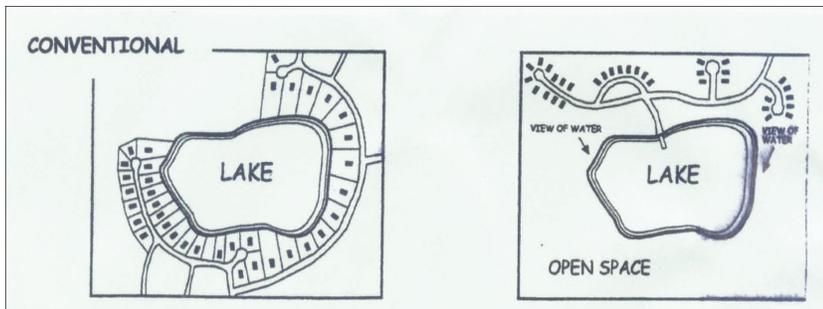
(Because of the current interest in lake access, the subject of pier permits, exceptions, lighting, accessories and construction materials alluded to in the Spring Newsletter will be postponed in favor of a review of lake access development types.)

Lake access types*:

1. Single family lakeshore dwellings (conventional) on one or more lots.
2. Cluster (conservational development) groupings of dwellings on a shoreline parcel (several lake shore lots) with open spaces for wildlife habitat, scenic beauty and for environmentally sensitive areas. Dwellings are back from the shoreline thereby reducing lake pollution from runoff, etc. Municipal services are more efficiently used. Lake access is by communal shoreline ownership.
3. Keyhole development is similar to #2 but uses only one lot for Lake access for off lake development and has many variations on the land development. ie: subdivision, high rise condominiums, resorts, golf communities, etc. Keyhole development results in high boat traffic, disturbed shoreline and near shoreline habitat areas, increased noise, litter, surface runoff and increased re-suspension of sediments.

Control of all of the above is by municipal, county or state law. Generally, the ordinances/laws apply to conditional use, set minimum water frontage standards for lot areas and insist on design standards for water access, shoreline maintenance, piers, moorings and boathouses.

*(Paraphrased from: WAL, Protecting our Lakes and Shorelands)



Graphics from Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, 1999

And speaking of protecting our shoreline, Nancy Hansen (one of our esteemed members) has provided the following information for those interested in shoreline restoration:

- The Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) administers a Cost Share Program (CSP) for landowners. This department is designed to restore and protect shorelands. The emphasis is on water quality for Oneida County's 1,100 plus lakes. The program offers a cost share incentive for landowners who wish to restore indigenous habitat to their land or provide erosion control protection along their shoreline. Reimbursement can be up to 70% for the cost of eligible restoration and shoreland protection practices.

A waiting list for larger projects currently exists but a smaller project, such as assistance with a planting plan, could be fit in this year. A site walk-through by LWCD staff with the landowner would be done to address and document specific landowner concerns. If you are interested in further information, contact the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department at 715-369-7835 to obtain the necessary application forms.

I want to thank all the members of the Association for their support. New members are welcome (dues are dirt cheap) and any member who has an interest in one of the standing committees is welcomed to participate. If you are concerned about the future of YOUR lake, Join the CLEAN BOAT/ CLEAN WATER volunteers and help protect it.

Do you have a pet peeve or a subject of interest to Association members? A family history to share? A burning desire to see you name in print? A deep interest in helping a "word weary" (ha!) President with the next, or future, newsletter? Contact me!

Walt Gager,
President