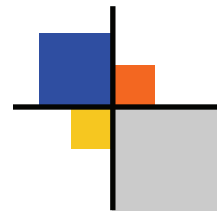




Volume 5, Issue 2

Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



Summer 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUMMER NEWSLETTER, '07

A great deal was accomplished by member volunteers and officers this year. Thanks to you all!

Our "floatnic" last August was great fun and we look forward to the Pine Island picnic in Fifth Lake on August 12 at noon. See you all there.

The annual meeting was held on July 7, 2007 at the Pine Valley Lodge through the courtesy of George and Nancy Schroepfer. About 80 members attended. Coffee and doughnuts were served. A good turn out. Let's have 100 present on July 6, 2008 - plan now to attend. Here are abbreviated minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by president Gager. After opening remarks Jim Lemke, the new owner/developer of the Moen Lake Campground, was introduced. Mr. Lemke described his plans for the property. Approximately 26 lots of one to one and a half acres in size would be created for purchase for home construction. He assured the gathering that there would be restrictions on the deeds to guarantee quality construction and appropriate land use. The maximum pier count of six with 26 moorings would be part of the development. He described how the shoreline would be maintained and that the construction association that would be created would control all aspects of the community grounds, including the lake front, according to County and Township rules and regulations. Mr. Lemke answered questions and offered his office address and phone number if there were other concerns.

Committee reports:

Water Quality: Donna Gager, Chair, described the use of the Sekey Disc as one measure of water clarity and Don Mevis described his Chemical testing of water quality.

CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER:

Kathy Winkler, AIS coordinator, reported on the results of last year's (and so far this year's) results of the volunteer staffing of the public boat landing inspections for aquatic invasive species (AIS). 20 new volunteers have been trained since last year (Six new volunteers signed up at the this year's meeting. Are you one of the members volunteering to protect your lake?) Dan Kuzlik has agreed to chair the committee.

Channel Marker: Lloyd Richmond, Chair, introduced Cal Weck, Bob McCall,

Bob Wilkins and Paul Lorenzen. They maintain the markers and placement.

Nominating: President emeritus Wally Kunde introduced the slate of officers for election: Walt Gager, President, Pete Boettcher Vice President, Jim Pederson and George Schroepfer for Board of Directors. The nominees were approved unanimously.

Fish stocking/fish cribs: Lenny Gescheidle introduced creel clerk Marty Kiepke, fish specialist technician for the DNR who described the current chain fish survey. You have probably

seen them placing nets as well as shocking along shorelines in the evening. Marty on Moen Lake and Jason Halvorson on Fourth and Fifth Lakes will continue a "creel Survey" throughout the summer and into March, 2008. They will approach a fishing boat and ask about the intended catch and the actual catch as well as where, when and how long the fishing party has been on the lake.

They are

only interested in the fish caught, they are not wardens. The final results will be reported at our annual meeting on July 6, 2008. Be there! Marty finished his presentation by giving the history of Indian spearing from the beginning.

Old business:

NR115 is up for public hearings again after 5 years, eight listening sessions, 11 public hearings, and over 50,000 comments from folks. The last revision of the statute was in 1968. Currently, the term "non-conforming" will be eliminated. Instead, existing cottage owners will be able to keep and/or alter their structures indefinitely within guided by the amount of impervious surface involved in whole parcel. Impervious surfaces refers to any surface that allows a flow through or over of water into body of water that would affect the water quality and wildlife habitat. Examples of impervious surfaces would be roof surface volume, driveways, etc. Simply stated, impervious surfaces would be limited to 10% for new construction, 15% for existing structures but could be increased to 20% for both through mitigating the impact on water quality and wildlife habitat by mitigation. For example, creation a rain garden could mitigate for both water quality and wildlife habitat whereas restoring a shoreline would probably only mitigate for one.

(The seven hearings about the state you may be interested in attending are:
July 24, Wausau @ N. Central Tech. College;
July 25, Rhinelander @ Rhinelander High School;
July 26, Rice Lake @ Blue Hills Masonic Center;
~~July 31, Tomah @ Farmers & Merchant's bank~~
August 2, Green Bay @ Neville Museum theater;
August 7, Waukesha @ Waukesha County Tech College;
August 8, Stoughton @ Opera House (2nd floor of City Hall)

The Pine Island picnic scheduled for August 12th was discussed. The Association will provide grills, charcoal, and condiments. Come join your neighbors.

New Business:
"Adopt a Shoreline" program was introduced. Members were asked, at a minimum, to inspect the water within their riparian zone regularly and extend the distance down a nearby shoreline if possible. Collect questionable specimens and give them to the DNR. At the same time, since some lakes have recently experienced burglaries and vandalism, landowners are asked to be on the lookout for their neighboring properties and report suspicious boats or vehicles to the police.

Since many questions have been raised in the past as to how we can control our lakes, the difference between a "lake association" and "lake District" was presented. In a nutshell, a lake district has the right to tax, levy assessments, exercise sanitary district powers, enact boating regulations and operate water safety patrols. These powers are not available to an association. Also presented was the difference between an unincorporated and an incorporated lake association (ours). Again, "in a nut shell" the incorporated association

reduces liability to it's members, volunteers and officers. If sued, only the association's assets are at risk.

Senator Roger Breske added a volunteer funding source to the state budget for AIS control (monitoring and eradication). When an individual buys a fishing license, there will be an opportunity to voluntarily donate to the AIS grant fund. This is similar to the donations made for venison processing and lake research. A one dollar donation could possibly raise \$50,000 annually.

Ron Jorata, representing the Charlie Baker Muskie Club, presented a check for \$250 to the Lake Association in appreciation for the Association's efforts in conservation.

Speaker: Paul Dean, supervisor from both Stella and Pine Lake townships spoke on "Oneida County, How it Works for You".

WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague. Drive carefully, it's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others

FIRE

The current dry situation in the west has resulted in widespread ground and forest fires that threaten both property and life. The state of Wisconsin is considered in a drought state as well. The following are thoughts about fire.

Burning debris is the number one cause of fires in Wisconsin and poses real health concerns for you and your neighbors. With summer here, fire pits and brush piles will again be on the minds of folks. If a fire that you start on your property ignites a wildfire, remember that you are responsible for ALL costs to suppress it, if caused by your negligence. I know that the following are just common sense but they are worth mentioning. Here's some thoughts in the interest of safety, forest fire prevention and good neighborliness.

First always obtain a burning permit. With the exception of cooking, warming fires or "bonfires", they are required in all instances when there is no snow covering the ground. It is always better to consider environmentally sound alternatives to burning if possible. If you must burn, do it late in the day or with snow cover present. Clear debris

EARTHWORMS

The following is paraphrased from an interesting article from the August, 2005 issue of the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine on earthworms, submitted to our Newsletter by Tom Kuczmariski.

Some areas of the northern forest are stripped of low-growing plants and tree seedlings and present a hard surface rather than the soft under-story of soft earth from decaying vegetation and the appearance of young plants. These changes may have been caused by earthworms. According to Cindy Hale, biologist, earthworms are not native fauna in large areas of the upper Midwest and Canada. The earthworms of northern Wisconsin arrived by human introduction. According to Lee Frelich, director of the Center for Hardwood Ecology at the University of Minnesota, "All of the earthworm species are European in origin..".

In fact, these invaders can be destructive in one area and beneficial in another. Earthworms are beneficial in gardens and compost bins by aerating, sifting and turning the soil into nutrient rich soil. However, released from gardens, they invade the forest floor interrupting the delicate balance of fine roots, bacteria and fungi in the decomposing vegetation. People moving plants and/or trees from one area to another spread worms farther and faster than via natural migration. More than 100 earthworm species have been identified. Some live in the leaf litter, some in the top soil areas and some (night crawlers) burrow deeper in subsoil.

Anglers, gardeners and landscapers should act with caution. All mulches, soils and root stock should come from local origins. Anglers should not dump unused worms on the shores of the areas that they have fished and similarly, live bait should not be introduced into a lake from another source.

Earthworms may be another invasive species to be concerned about. Currently research is in it's infancy. To learn more about earthworm monitoring visit Project Worm Watch at www.nrri.umn.edu/worms.
Thanks Tom

Do you have something to share with our readers? Send it to me.

A glorious spring to you all.

Walt Gager
President

MOEN LAKE CHAIN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

Rhineland Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

I would like to serve on the Moen Lake Chain Association Clean Boats Clean Water Committee

Signature _____ Date _____

Send to: Moen Lake Chain Association
c/o Linda Wilkins
3786 Port Aurora Road
Rhineland WI 54501

Yearly dues are \$20.00