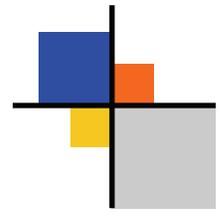




Volume 6, Issue 1

Moen Lake Chain Association Newsletter



Winter, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's January 7th. As I sit here writing this newsletter, the beautiful snow we had during the month of December is melting! Winters just aren't like they were when I was a child. I remember snow piles and drifts taller than I ('course I was somewhat shorter then). We could dig tunnels and caves in them and I don't ever remember them melting this early.

Oh well, times change and we must also. Along with those changes come challenges. I have seen our lake association grow, face significant challenges and reach significant goals. Initially rebuilding the association was a slam dunk. Folks stepped forward to rewrite the bylaws, a new board of directors formed committees with volunteers and new programs got off the ground. The CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER committee got off to a shaky start, but a start no less. When Kathy Winkler became our coordinator of volunteers, it took off (see the next section).

Your Board of Directors has met twice a year and been very active in all our programs. The Association is functioning well and will continue to grow. Our membership has increased every year. Hopefully, shoreland owners that are not now members will join us in the future so that we can have a unified voice in the activities that are so essential to preserving our lakes and ultimately our properties. If you have a new neighbor that may not be on our mailing list, please let us know so that we may contact them.

At this summers Annual meeting (July 12, 2008, at Pine Valley Lodge) the membership will select a new president and secretary. Linda Wilkins has been secretary from before I arrived on the scene. She and her husband Bob, have been strong advocates of our programs and actively worked within them.

Our Vice President, Pete Boettcher, has vast experience with lake issues and has agreed to continue in that capacity in support of our new officers (unless a volunteer comes forward to accept the challenge). With the pleasure of the new president and the board, I will continue to edit the Newsletter and remain active within the Association. As ex-president I will be an ex-officio Board member and the Nominating Chair. This is an important meeting and I hope for a good turnout. Ex-president Wally Kunde will accept volunteers for officer nominations and/or nominations of someone you think would be a viable candidate. Be sure to attend the annual meeting to ensure that your voice (and vote) is heard.

TRIVIA — In this issue we introduce a new quarterly newsletter feature. A trivia quiz for prizes. The individuals with the most correct answers to the trivia questions presented each month will receive a quarterly prize. Also, at the end of the year, the three individuals answering the most trivia questions during the years four quarters will receive the grand prize (tba). Send a post-card or note to me at 3302 W. Cottage Road, 54501. Collaboration with friends or family is allowed but only one person per property. The deadline for the answers is 30 days from the Newsletter posting date. This challenge is open to all property owners on the chain. The authorities for the questions will be available at the end of the challenge. Here is challenge number one:

1. What is A. A. Fair?
2. Who was Woozy Winks?
3. What were the names of Popeye's nephews?
4. Who (not the computer) was the first Mac?
5. Who was the athlete that scored 100 points against the N.Y. Knicks on March 1962?
6. What hotel received the first Gideon's bible?
7. The first motorcar regularly used in the USA by a police department was in Boston, MA, in what year?

Good luck!

CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER

The Association is entering our third year of boat launch ramp inspections and the second year of lake monitoring (Adopt a Shoreline). Under the able coordination of Kathy Winkler, our boat launch site inspection program has progressed very well indeed but we can always use more volunteers. Even if a family only comes up to visit their property one or two weeks a season, it would be helpful of them to volunteer a couple hours of their time. The more volunteers we have available the less time each of us has to spend on the launch site. I know we all have family and guests. Bring them along— make a picnic, or at least an event out of it. Call Kathy Winkler at 369-1868 or me at 369-9142 to join our dedicated group of volunteer inspectors. You'll receive a cap and T-shirt for your efforts.

I have compared our program with several other lake groups in our area and found some interesting differences. First, some launch shifts run a full AM or PM (four to six hours), and others are a flat four hours. Ours is only two hours. The number of volunteers varies widely. Our 52 households, for a total of 82 individual volunteers, devoted 507.5 hours of time over the 2007 season. One half of the lakes I looked at had a paid volunteer coordinator. All the surveyed lakes have applied for state grants. Two lakes had a lake monitoring program (Adopt a Shoreline) in place but others were planning one. This is the program that I want to address here.

Introduced last year, I asked shoreline owners to volunteer to spend an hour or two of their time to regularly inspect lake waters for AIS along a shoreline of their choice. It seems to me that ALL of us should take this responsibility of protecting our investments in time and money to heart. Once you have

inspected the shoreline you choose, your time and what you have found should be reported to me or Dan Kuzlik, the CB/CW committee chairman. This effort will allow us to show the state that we are seriously involved in the effort to prevent AIS invading our waters. In turn, this helps us with our state grant applications. Also, if we are successful in identifying a small patch of AIS, eradication may be easy, inexpensive and total as compared with trying to get rid of a large infestation, which could cost thousands of dollars. Worse, because of our shallow shorelines, make access to the lake in that area impossible.

Please contact me at 369-9142 to join the 'Adopt a Shoreline Committee.

FYI

The average secchi disc reading for our chain of lakes is 3.5 feet. The average for this northern Wisconsin region is 11.4 feet. However, the water is reported as clear but stained like tea, suggesting that the difference is the tannin in our waters. The tannin is a stain resulting from decaying matter. Tannins are natural and not the results of pollution. Sediment will "muddy" the waters and make the water darker. Tannin actually has a good side, by decreasing the penetration of light in the water, there is a decrease of algae growth. As we gather more information about our waters with the ongoing chemical analysis being performed by volunteers, we will gain added knowledge and share it.

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
Tom Cutler—920-338-1553
Sue Ohman—369-1480
Jim Pederson—369-3420
George Schroepfer—369-0505

NEWS

The public NRI 15 zoning rules hearings were completed during the '07 summer. The property owners that attended were not enthusiastic to say the least. Most of the complaints were directed at the application process (too long, too complicated), the change to non-permeable surface area for build/remodel guidelines (too limiting), the new mitigation requirements (too expensive), and the new proposed regulation of building heights on shorelands. Other sections reinforce the regulations already on the books on tree and shrub cutting on shorelines.

County governments voiced opposition to the expense and difficulty of enforcement and the need for more staff personnel. However, the document went to the DNR board for approval after some "minor" changes. Will it now go to the legislature?

The following is paraphrased from the "Wisconsin Natural Resources" magazine: In keeping with the DNR's desire to preserve the shoreline experience of past and present generations and ensure their future enjoyment. The new rules include public education and recognition of "shoreland stewards" that are going above and beyond just meeting the "rules". In 2008, the Shoreland Stewardship Award program will recognize property owners, lakes groups, governmental agents and neighbors to commend them for their outstanding examples of shoreland protection. The nomination form (available at the DNR web site: dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore) includes a means of rating such things as the installation of rain gardens, the improvement of natural shorelines plus any other improvements beyond those included in the "rules".

Any nomination by an individual or group should include a narrative and photos. Plaques will awarded to the winning entries and several honorable mentions will receive certificates.

"Anyone who has ever spent time along one of Wisconsin's.....lakes or gurgling streams.....appreciates how shorelines enrich our lives".
Reese & Kramasz, 12/07

Also:

Senate bill 197 was passed on January 5, 2008. That is the bill that bans the use of and the sale of phosphorus containing lawn fertilizers (with a few exceptions) in the state of Wisconsin. Now it goes to the assembly. To protect our waters, contact by mail or phone your assembly representative and ask him/her to support passage of the bill in the assembly.

BURNING PERMITS

This year there is a new way to obtain a burning permit. Visit your local fire warden or DNR office and get your one time annual burning permit. After that all you have to do is call the DNR hotline: 888-WIS-BURN or go to the DNR web site: www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire for the daily restrictions. Cool, huh? With the permit in hand, burn around sunset in the evening hours. The winds are less and the humidity usually rises. Recreational campfires used exclusively for warming and cooking (marshmallow roasting) do not require a burning permit. Be sure the fire is out before leaving it unattended. Use water and/or a shovel. Visit www.firewise.org website for more information on fire safety.

Have you made your donation (dues)? We recommend \$20.00 to \$30.00 but give any amount you feel represents the value of the organization to you.

As I close this Newsletter for mailing, the temperature outside is -8F, new snow abounds. Happy sledding!
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