

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I bring you warm greetings, and I do mean warm, as I write my first newsletter article as the newly installed President of the Moen Lake Chain Association. It is a gorgeous 80 plus degree day in August, as I take my turn in leadership and stewardship for our great lake association. One of the reasons that I agreed to accept the position as President, is that our past leadership, most recently our "President-emeritus" Walt Gager, has handed over a leadership role in an organization that is in very good financial condition, has a fabulous hard working board and that is made up of a large number of talented and dedicated members. Thank you Walt, past leaders and association members!

Now for more musings.....While Sally & I and friends were paddling the North Branch of the Pelican between 3rd and 4th lake in late June, we came upon a dramatic sight of a loon, spread over her nest in the classic, camouflage pose that made her appear as a rock at the edge of the tamarack swamp. Had we not come as close as a kayak will allow, we would not have even noticed her presence. For the same reason, we were also so close to the beautiful bird that she broke her pose and immediately went into her broken wing act exposing two large, brown Loon eggs. We quickly left the area, but over a period of a week, we sadly watched from a distance as the two eggs in the nest become one, and then eventually, none. That is the way it is in the wild, but we were heartened to the fact that our beautiful lake chain is currently pristine enough to encourage Loon nesting on our waters. The other good news is that the haunting cries of Loons continue to be heard all across our lake chain.

I don't know if you have been following some of the DNR advertisements in the media regarding enforcement of laws forbidding the transport of any vegetation on boats, trailers, hitches etc. While we know how powerful educating the public is in stopping the spread of invasive species, the various law enforcement agencies across our state are now stepping up enforcement of the launch and transport laws. A case in point can be taken from an incident that occurred in the neighboring county to our north. DNR Water Guard John Preuss checked the public launch at pristine Allequash Lake in Vilas County and found a trailer with Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels hanging from it. When the boater returned to the launch, he told Preuss he was aware of aquatic species law but launched anyway with weeds attached. The man had fished earlier that week in Shawano Lake in Shawano County, which has aquatic invasives including Eurasian water-milfoil, rusty crayfish and zebra mussels. Preuss cited the man for launching a boat in state waters with invasive plants attached, which carries a penalty of \$389.50 for a first time offense. So, those of us working our own public landing on the main lake can offer this story to anyone who might think that the launch law has no teeth.

Speaking of boat landing monitoring, we all need to do our share. We cannot depend on "others" to do all the monitoring when this is a task we all need to share to protect the waters of our lake chain. You can make this a pleasant task by bringing along your spouse, a friend or even a good book. Package that with a thermos of coffee or another favorite beverage and your two hour shift will breeze by and you will feel great knowing that you are doing your part to protect the value of your lake property. So when Kathy Winkler comes calling, be prepared to say "Yes, I'll help". Finishing up my communiqué for this newsletter edition, let me take this opportunity to invite you to this years MCLA picnic at my and Sally's home at 3571 County Road C, on Saturday, August 14. Come by car or boat. Additional details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Happy summer days,

Dan Kuzlik, President