



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

moenlakechain.org

WINTER, 2011

EDITOR: WALT GAGER

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Historian  
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**++On January 1, 2011++**

**Annual Dues: \$20.00**

**Mail to:**

**El Felton  
4182 Shady Lane  
Rhineland, WI 54501**

**ANNUAL MEETING:**

**10:00AM, JULY 10, 2011  
PINE VALLEY LODGE  
3980 LAKE SHORE DR**

**THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST WORDS**

*"Whose woods are these, I think I know. His house is in the village though. He will not see me stopping here to watch his woods fill up with snow"*

*Robert Frost*

It was Sunday, January 9, when Sally and I went out with our faithful cocker spaniel Kirby, for our first ski down the river. We typically leave our place at the northwest shore of the Northbranch and head southeast toward fourth lake. We had tried snow shoeing a few weeks earlier, but we ran into top slush, so it was a great workout, but not very pleasant. This day was different however, and while the temperature was a cold 12 degrees, there was about an inch or snow of snow covering a hard layer of ice and the skiing was effortless. In addition, there was no wind and a bright blue, cloudless sky, with a very bright sun to keep us cozy. Skiing down the left side of the river we immediately picked up some large canine tracks in the snow. Following the trail we decided that these were not the tracks of a domestic dog, as they were not accompanied by human footprints and the tracks darted back and forth from the river to brush piles on the shore and back again. Eyeballing the size of the tracks we further deduced that the animal that made these tracks was either a coyote or a wolf and was working the frozen shoreline in hopes of finding a nice fat rabbit or at least a den of field mice. As we neared the first large bend in the river our mental questions were answered when a large Grey Wolf came around the bend back-tracking her original path. After she was well around the bend and into the open we were about 200 feet from this gorgeous animal before she noticed us. Sally, I and Kirby starred the wolf down for what seemed forever, but was actually about five minutes. She then turned sideways and her large profile gave us no reservations that this was indeed a good sized wolf. The animal then decided to cross the river in a great, leaping gait, when something happened that made this entire event even more magical. For some reason, unknown to us, a large, fully mature bald eagle swooped down from the tamarack tops and dove at the wolf. It was a magic moment, uncaught on film, but forever locked into our minds and it reminded us how fortunate we are to live in both a pristine wilderness but also in an active and thriving community. So my advice, like that of Robert Frost, is to enjoy our winter season and don't hesitate to stop and watch our woods fill up with snow.....and the wild life that goes with it too.

Dan

**++INSIDE++**

**JOHN HUPPERT  
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ARCHIVES  
'10 PICNIC  
CB/CW CHAIR  
TROLLING  
BLUE HERON  
BATS  
FIELD GUIDE  
BRITISH HUMOR  
WORMY THOTS**

## SPRING CLEANUP REMINDERS

One of the rituals of spring is the annual cleanup of nature's debris left over in the yard following the long snow covered winter months. It's one of those chores that we can't seem to escape whether we're a year round or seasonal resident of the area. Once the last vestiges of snow disappear the rakes come out and we assemble remnant leaves, branches, brush, dry grass etc into nice piles as we tidy up the yard. It's a new, much anticipated season of warmer weather and we're all anxious to get out, enjoy it, and escape the winter blues.

In rural areas such as that surrounding the Moen's Lake Chain, some people elect to burn this material to make it "go away". Done properly, this can be an effective and legal means of doing so. If this is your method of choice, there are some things you need to know before you start.

First, you must be legal. This means obtaining an annual burning permit which is required anytime the ground is not snow covered. These permits are free of charge and may be obtained at a variety of locations. Locally, they are available at the DNR Service Center in Rhinelander on Mondays and Thursdays or from a nearby Emergency Fire Warden which include:

### Lake George Resort on Hwy. P east of Rhinelander Short Stop Gas Station on Hwy. 8 in Monico

Permits may also be obtained over the phone by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) between the hours of 7 AM and 10 PM. A customer service representative will then either send you your permit by regular mail or have it sent to you immediately by e-mail. Now that you have your permit there are a couple additional things you need to know about.

One is that there are only certain times when burning is allowed. These hours may vary depending on weather conditions and the time of year and the permit holder is responsible to know what those hours are. The daily burning restrictions can be easily obtained by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN and then entering the Oneida County code---which is 44. A recorded message will then tell you what the legal burning hours are for that day. The hours can also be obtained at the DNR Web Site ([dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire](http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire)). Once there click on View Burning Permit Restrictions and then click on Oneida County on the state map that is displayed.

Another important restriction to know about is that not everything can legally be burned. Only leaves, brush, needles, paper products, and clean wood may be burned. It is illegal to burn things like rubber, plastics, vinyl, oily products like shingles, wet garbage, and painted, stained, or treated wood. These items release toxic materials into the air when burned and let's face it, they stink!! There's no better way to be a bad neighbor than to force somebody downwind to put up with your smelly, poisonous smoke. In fact, even when burning legal material, it doesn't hurt to pay attention to where your smoke is going. In the interest of being good neighbors, try not to burn when the smoke will head right for your neighbor's open window or patio full of people. It's annoying to them just as it would be to you.

A couple additional thoughts. What about burning barrels used to burn household paper? Answer, a burning permit is required and burning barrels are subject to the same daily and hourly restrictions. What about campfires? Legally referred to as cooking or warming fires, campfires do not require a burning permit and you may have a campfire at any time. But you should know that a fire in a "fire pit" or "fire ring" does not in itself make it a campfire. What matters is the nature of the fire itself. Burning cut firewood in a fire ring would likely be a campfire. Burning a pile of brush, leaves, junk wood etc to dispose of it in a fire ring is not a campfire and would be subject to the burning permit regulations. Why the hourly restrictions? Outdoor debris burning is generally limited to the evening hours because it is the safest time of day to burn. Debris fires are much less likely to escape control at that time because the wind has usually died down, the humidity has usually increased, and the temperature has usually dropped,

Conversely, outdoor fires are much more likely to escape control in the middle of the day when winds and temperatures are highest and the humidity is lowest. People should also realize the importance of making sure their fire is totally out before leaving it unattended. The lack of open flame or visible smoke does not necessarily mean a fire is out. It's not uncommon for people to casually look at and assume their fire is out only to have hot embers come to life the next day when the wind picks up. These embers can easily be blown into surrounding dry fuels resulting in a wildfire.

And lastly, just because you can burn some forms of debris doesn't mean you always have to. It's become quite easy to recycle most paper products. Brush and leaves etc can be composted or simply spread around in the woods of your property to let mother nature take care of. Assuming you don't create a massive pile, it won't take long and you'll never know you put them there.

Let's all have a safe, smart, and considerate 2011.

Submitted by: John Huppert DNR Forest Ranger  
Eagle River, WI  
(And Fourth Lake property owner)



One of the first to use our new boat launch on Moen Lake  
Note the campground in the background!

## MEMBERS TURN

Please submit your questions, pet peeves, articles, observations or any criticism you may have that will help us do a better job for you. Anonymity guaranteed, if requested. Several people have asked different questions about our lakes. The most recently asked is concern about the lake level, water color and quality and the increase of aquatic plant growth. Without an authority, here's what I have dug up:

1. With the drought the last few years the lake levels were very low combined with the lack of rain the swamps dried up, the water had less tannin stain (clearer) and this allowed the sun reach the lake bottom allowing new or more aquatic plants to grow. Secchy disc readings are less than in the past because of the increase in the water stain and sediment levels.
2. Recent rains (records) have refilled the swamps and the dead vegetation can again flow into the lakes.
3. With time, how much is not known, the higher and darker water will again reduce the lake bottom plant life, in certain depths, to more "normal".
4. In spite of what the water looks like, water quality remains high. There may be a few more sedimentary particles noted, especially if the bottom is disturbed by recreational activities. Oxygen saturation has been stable.
5. During the recent high water levels, the dam was shedding as much water as the down stream capacity would allow.
6. The water color does not affect the water creatures in any way except for the loons, who have a somewhat more difficult time seeing.

Congratulations to Dan Carlson who has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the Clean Boats Clean Waters committee. Dan's first responsibility will be to prepare an AIS grant to submit to the DNR by February 1. Dan Kuzlik will assist Dan in the grant preparation and hopefully we will be funded again for the coming year to monitor boats being put in and taken out at our public landing. Dan will also continue his responsibilities of placing, removing and maintaining our channel markers. A BIG THANK YOU goes to Dan for all of his hard work on behalf of the MCLA

### TROLLING FOR HISTORY

Today, good readers, we are going back in time. This column will reprint some of the articles of historical interest as well as those that address questions of concern.

#### FROM THE WINTER 2005 NEWSLETTER:

John O. Moen ( the "O" is thought to be Oscar) was born September 9, 1847 in Norway, Son of O.T. and Gure Moen. He Emigrated to the United States in 1866 and ultimately arrived at a farm in Portage county. During his employment there he was introduced to logging. After a period of time he moved to Nelsonville, Wisconsin where he remained for 18 years. It was here that he became professionally involved in the logging business. During his stay in Nelsonville he traveled to the states of Oregon and Washington for short periods, studying the logging practices of the northwest.

In 1887 John Moen moved to Rhinelander where he bought shares in the Wisconsin Veneer Co of Rhinelander, ultimately becoming Vice President. Mr. Moen eventually became President of the First National Bank and was instrumental in the development of the city of Rhinelander. Among many of his credits was a directorship in the Rhinelander Refrigerator Co

He married Mattie Iverson, a Wisconsin native. The marriage resulted in 3 children: Hannah, Gunda and Oscar.

Because of his large land holdings with other partners in the North Pelican River basin, it was decided to name a lake in his honor - Moen Lake. Thanks John!

NOTE: In a future Newsletter we will revisit the correct pronunciation of the name "Moen".

Some members still debate whether it should be "Moon" or "Mo-en". Let just say that "Moon" is correct. Now let the debate continue.



### BRITISH HUMOR (from newspaper ads)

FREE Yorkshire terrier, 8 years old, hateful little b....., bites!  
FREE puppies, 1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbor's dog.  
FREE puppies, Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd, Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

FOR SALE: Cows & Calves,, never bred. Also one gay bull.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY, must sell washer and dryer.

WEDDING DRESS FOE SALE. Worn by misake.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything

### BATS

I suppose that you know that bats are very important for our comfort during the summer (they eat thousands of pesky insects at night). However , did you know that they are being decimated by a fungal disease that smothers them while they hibernate? The problem is the "White Nose Syndrome" which is a fungus that grows over their noses while they sleep. If you are inclined to participate in a survey using handheld ultrasound bat detectors (from Australia) contact the DNR at 715-356-5211 ext 207 for information.

### INVASIVE PLANT GUIDE

This new field guide can help you identify the plants that are detrimental to our lakes. the Guide is entitled: "**A Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants of Wisconsin**". the guide has photographs for help in identifying the 58 offending plant species that threaten our wetlands, grasslands and forests. The DNR has classified invasive species into two groups; restricted and prohibited. It is illegal to sell/purchase or transport any of them in either group. (ref: Chapter NR40 of the Wisconsin administrative code)

Restricted are those that are already widespread and we as landowners are not required to control them.

Prohibited species are those that are not yet established in Wisconsin. These species should be vigorously controlled by the DNR, private individuals, volunteers, etc.

The "Field Guide" can be obtained in a "PDF" form from: <http://dnr.wi.gov>. In the search box type: "invasive plant field guide" or call 1-608-267-5006. The guides cost \$5.00 plus s/h. Call that same number if you discover a plot of invasive plants. Photographs and samples are greatly encouraged.

### THE GREAT BLUE HERON

How do you tell a Great Blue Heron from a Sandhill Crane? The Heron flies with it's head tucked backward and upward in a graceful curve while the Crane flies with it's head straight. They range throughout North America. This beautiful and graceful bird fishes in shallow lake and river waters, spearing catches with it's sharp beak. The Heron's long legs allow them to fish in deeper water than other fishing birds. An adult Heron can range in height to almost five feet. The wing span can be over six feet. A Heron matures in about 2 years. The Juvenile has slightly different markings than the adult. The juveniles do not have plumes on the back and have a gray head crown and dark upper bills.

The nests of the heron are usually in treetops and made of branches, twigs, grasses and other ground cover. The nests measure about four feet in diameter. In areas of large wetlands, the Heron may nest with other Herons (rookeries) for protection. They lay up to six pale blue eggs which hatch in about a month.

There is one big difference in their feathers from other water birds. The Heron has powder down water proofing for it's feathers compared to the oil water proofing of other birds.

(ref: "Living on the Lake", Sept/Oct, 2010)

### WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY

If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would you know?

Why is it called "after dark" when it's really after "light"?

Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?

If the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?

Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?

What is an Oxymoron?

See above. ed



## MOEN LAKE CHAIN

### ANNUAL PICNIC

AUGUST, 2010

The weather was great, the company relaxed, conversation low key, food terrific. Were you there?

Enjoy some of the pictures.

Dan Kuzlik & Sally Latimer were our gracious hosts.

The 2011 picnic has been scheduled for August, again at Dan and Sally's.



# MOEN LAKE CHAIN ASSOCIATION, Inc.

## Order Blank and Membership Application page

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For **EMBROIDERED APPAREL** mail or call:

METRO PRINTING - 510 LINCOLN STREET, RHINELANDER, WI 54501 - 715-365-3195

<b>PENNANTS</b>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>\$\$\$\$</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(Mounting clips &/or posts at Shoeder Marine (See Casey)	_____	11.00	_____

**SILK SCREENED APPAREL:** (Large MLCA logo on front with Red M and Black Chain)

<u>ORDER (CIRCLE):</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>\$\$\$\$</u>	<u>\$ TOTAL</u>
Tee shirt:	GREY	YOUTH	_____	13.00	_____
Long Sleeve Tee Shirt	WHITE	SMALL	_____	16.00	_____
Crew Neck Sweatshirt	KHAKI	LARGE	_____	23.00	_____
Hooded Sweatshirt		X LARGE	_____	28.00	_____
		XX LARGE	_____		_____

### DARK COLORS:

REQUIRE DIFERENT MLCA LOGO COLORS

CHECK WITH METRO FOR MATERIAL & LOGO COLORS, PROVIDE LIZ WITH CHOICE FOR ORDER

\*\*NOTE: METRO REQUIRES A MINIMUM ORDER OF 12 WITH THE SAME LOGO BEFORE PROCESSING DARK COLORS

### MODIFICATIONS AVAILABLE:

LARGE LOGO ON BACK ONLY

SMALL LOGO ON FRONT ONLY

SMALL LOGO ON FRONT, LARGE LOGO ON BACK (EXTRA CHARGE PER SIRT): \_\_\_\_\_ \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_

MAY REQUEST DIFFERENT LIGHT COLORED MATERIALS WITH STANDARD RED "M" & BLACK "CHAIN"

COLOR REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_ ORDER TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO: SALLY LATIMER: 3571 CTY RD "C", RHINELANDER, 54501 OR 715-362-1714**

**OR: WALT GAGER: 3302 W. COTTAGE RD, RHINELANDER, WI 54501 OR 715-369-9142**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

RHINELANDER ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ DUES: (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW                      RENEW                      UNSUBSCRIBE

MAIL TO: EL FELTON, TREASURER, 4182 SHADY LANE, RHINELANDER, WI 54501