

INSIDE
 Town of Pelican
 The Nooos!
 Of Interest?
 Pres. Prose...
 Trolling for....
 Winter Contest
 Wormy Thoughts



moenlakechain.org

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

Winter, 2012



A WINTER WONDER LAND

(AND IT WASN'T EVEN WINTER YET)

Preparing for deer season, a walk in the woods was spectacular. I just had to share these photos with you all.

Beautiful, Don't you think?

Or.....?



PREZ PROSE & MORE

*I leant upon a coppice gate
 When Frost was spectre-grey,
 And Winter's dregs made desolate
 The weakening eye of day.*

Thomas Hardy 1840-1928

During the summer months many of you have encountered Sally & I and our English Cocker Spaniel, Kirby, slowly cruising our lake chain in our pontoon boat. What a relaxing way to enjoy our beautiful Northwoods. Cruising the same body of water on skis or snowshoes in winter can be equally as enjoyable, but the advantage of touring our lakes when the water turns to snow and ice allows us to see a "snapshot" of what animals have visited the frozen shores within the past 24 hours. animal tracks frozen in time are fun to observe and then to identify.

Although hardly experts, we do take pride in being able to identify tracks of deer, fox, coyote, wolf, Cottontail rabbits and Snowshoe hares. But we did initially need to pull out our animal tracks book to learn that those long, sleek crevasses in the snow are actually made by the river otters that we spot frequently in the open river waters, but we were not aware that they can and will travel fairly long distances over land or snow.



This season's Winter Solstice has come and gone, but this does not mean winter has come and gone. And what a crazy winter it is turning out to be. As I write this article, we are receiving 4-6 inches of snow with predictions of below zero evenings just ahead. Of course, this follows two days of setting warm weather record highs in the mid forties as this week started. Go figure!

Another unusual aspect of this winter was a special MCLA board meeting that was held on January 16. The sole topic of this meeting was the finalization of the plan to purchase and install new channel markers replacing many of the old channel markers that we have set out in previous years. When April rolls around this coming season and our lake water turns back to a liquids state, look for some shiny markers to show you the way to safe boating. And in all seasons, be thankful for the enjoyment of our beautiful Moen Lake Chain.

Dan Kuzlik, President



DEFINE:
 Conscience: What hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
 Clear conscience: Is usually the sign of a bad memory

TROLLING FOR HISTORY

TOWN OF PELICAN*

Rhineland and the Town of Pelican history are intimately intertwined because they grew up together and were partitioned out of Lincoln County in closely timed stages.

The inhabitants of the area prior to 1600 were a tribe of the Sioux Nation. The Sioux Nation was made up of seven tribes and roamed the lands of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Montana and two provinces of Canada. They were the first Indians in North America. The Santee Sioux Indians lived in the geographic area that would become Rhineland and the Town of Pelican. They encamped at the junction of the current Wisconsin and Pelican River and named the rivers "Pelican" after the large white birds that inhabited the rivers and lakes of the area**. By 1600 the Canadian Ojibwa (later named the Chippewa) by the settlers forced the Sioux south and west.

Martin Lynch, and his Sioux wife - Ramona, arrived in 1845 at the junction of these two rivers and set up a trading post at "pelican Rapids". At this time Marathon County consisted of Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and the eastern 1/3 of the two Dakotas.

In 1855 a road was begun at the current Pelican River bridge crossing. It followed an Indian trail all the way to Lac Vieux Desert and was completed in 1858. John C. Curran and the Shepherds of Stevens Point arrived at about the same time in 1870. Curran set up a trading post in what is now Shepherd Park. The latter was named after the Shepherd Family who saw an opportunity to create a community in the area. They felt that it was in the "Heart of the Northwoods" and would be the ideal spot for the eventual county seat. They were correct but it was Anderson W. Brown, from Stevens Point, who convinced his father, E.W. Brown to purchase the land from the federal government, envisioning a lumber mill just above the river rapids. It took several years to accomplish their vision. Webster Brown, Anderson's brother was Rhineland's first mayor.

Also, in 1882, Pelican Rapids became Rhineland in honor of F.W. Rhineland of New York, the president of the **Milwaukee, Lakeshore and Western Road** Railroad Company. He had agreed to build a spur from Monico to Pelican Rapids.

By 1874 the state was forming townships. The Town of Pelican initially ranged from the northern border of Lincoln County to the southern border of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. A great deal of haggling and behind the door meetings finally set the boundaries of the northern counties and thence the Townships.

The town of Pelican shrunk to about its' current size (there were some minor adjustments in boundary lines later). The first Town Chairman was John C. Curran in 1882. Rhineland was incorporated in 1894, Pine lake in 1903 and Stella in 1921.

*A Township (Twp or Tp or T) is a subdivision of a county in most states. It is a very, very old administrative division of a large parcel of land under English law. It has a local government with varying powers. A Township consists of 36 sections, each (36 square miles). Each section contains 16 parcels of 40 acres. They usually contains small towns or villages.

**White Pelicans can still be seen on the central and southern Wisconsin River as far north as Stevens Point.



I Think the
tides is
coming in!

THE NUZ

E15 IS COMING!

The EPA recently (2011) authorized the use of E15 (15% Ethanol) in fuel for motor vehicles of 2001 or newer vintage. They did NOT authorize it's use in small engines. This includes outboards, marine engines, ATVs, small tools, etc. Use of E15 added fuel will void warranties in most small engines. Be alert when you fill your tanks. Watch for the sign the announces what additive is going to come from the pump handle you've got hold of. A disabled engine out on the water does not allow you much latitude in forward movement.

BLUE GREEN ALGAE

Blue Green Algae is actually a bacteria. More specifically, it is cyanobacteria. Ingesting some can cause serious gastrointestinal (tummy) upset in humans. In dogs it can be fatal. The DNR has reported the deaths of three dogs in the past three years due to the ingestion of this algae. That doesn't seem like a very large statistic but the lost of a well trained hunting dog or just the valued family pet is.....

So, if you have a dog that has to go into a pond or water with the algae present take these precautions:

1. Provide fresh clean water for drinking.
2. Rinse any dog that has been in the algae water thoroughly before he begins to clean him(her)self after the exposure.
3. Observe any dog that has been that type of water for 24 to 36 hours of symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, seizures, lethargy or loss of appetite.

Be aware that these blooms occur mostly in summer but can be present in the fall AND winter.

PHOSPHOROUS RULES

Last June the National Recourse Board approved new rules for nutrient pollution, erosion, sedimentation and water degradation quality. Among those rules was one that, for the first time, established science based numerical water quality standards for the use of phosphorous based fertilizers.

Info: dnr.wis.gov/news/breakingnews_lookup.asp?18=1738



This is the Pine Valley Lodge but back in 1944 The resort had just changed ownership from the original Kane's Moen Lake Resort and Lodge. Several sleeping rooms on the upper floor and food service and light entertainment on the ground floor.

OF INTEREST?

(a sort of a repeat)

In case you don't remember, or didn't get to read the article, I wrote on the definition and difference between a "lake District" and a "lake association".

Lake Nokomis, north of Tomahawk, is part of the Willow Flowage. It presents a large body of water (4,00 acres) that is in both Oneida and Lincoln counties. Unfortunately, the lake has been invaded by unwelcome species of aquatic plants, in particular – Eurasian Milfoil. That single aquatic plant grows up to 20 feet long and spreads rapidly. It COMPLETELY occupies all the water where it grows. Motoring through it is impossible. Combating it is time consuming and money expensive. Eradicating it is impossible, unless identified in the early stage.

Lake Nokomis began an informal lake association in 1957. The group changed venue several times and in early 1980 created a bonifide, incorporated association. Because only a few members were doing all the work combating the aquatic invasive species a Lake district was proposed to involve all land owners. How does this work?

First, you must get 51% of the land owners signatures of agreement with the proposal or the signature of the owners of 51% of the acreage around the lake. Then you must get approval of the county(s) in which the lake resides. In this case only Oneida County held the most of the land acreage. Secondly, a board is elected to manage the district.

Then, Any project must be approved by the district membership. This means ALL land owners are members automatically and can vote for or against any project proposed. Further, a Tax can be levied on ALL land owners to cover the costs. Of course, the membership can vote for or against the taxes also. And, I think any tax put forward must be approved by the accrediting county.

A lake district, in effect, makes all landowners members and therefore partners in the future of their lake. This also, in a way, determines where property values may end up in the long run.

During my presidency there were a number of times that someone wanted to create a lake district. Because of the time and expense involved and the fact that we still did not have a majority of landowners as members, I resisted and still do. However, if Eurasian Milfoil ever gets into our chain I will be the first and most vocal to support the formation of one. ed.

WINTER CONTEST

(any body on the chain is eligible)

DEFINE: Palindrome

SUBMIT: The longest one you can find. One per submission but you can submit as many as you like.

SEND: to – **wegager@pol.net**, include name and phone # with each, of course.

WIN: Something – of value – gain self respect – have fun – involve – the family, learn something!?

CONTEST: ends on March 31st. which should give you plenty of time to do your research.

A WORMY THOUGHT TO FISH BY

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and when he grows up he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

CHANNEL MARKERS

It's time! The current marker sentinels have been on duty for over twenty years and they are showing their age. The committee of three (Dan Carlson–chair, Bonnie Montgomery and Tom Cutler) have been working on the problem for the last few months. An open meeting was held on January 16th in order to finalize the project and determine what, where, when and how much—to obtain and place the markers before summer.

Here are the problems discussed.

1. What type of marker replacement? (stationary or floating)
2. All the same? Both? How many of each?
3. Where each should be placed.
4. No wake markers? Permission, from whom? Placement?
5. Cost? How to pay? Members/nonmembers? Grants? Townships?
6. Work platform (old pontoon boat/motor) for installation/removal? Summer/winter storage site? Cost? Maintenance? Fuel?, etc.
7. Marker committee input – more help needed? same folk?

Here are the solutions:

1. The markers will be split between floaters and pipe mounted.
2. The floaters will be in areas where the depth allows them
3. The Pipes will persist in shallow areas.
4. "No wake" markers were discussed per requests of property owners for placement on the channel between second and third lake and the two channels on Fourth and Fifth lakes. Conclusions:
 - a. Boaters are NOT following the law of "no wake" within 100' of shoreline in certain areas on the chain. These areas are shorelines where living structures are evident.
 - b. Rivers are considered "navigable waterways" so don't adhere to the 100' law. "Lake 2 1/2" is considered river so "no wake" markers are not mandatory.
 - c. Property owners may request them.
 - d. The Association must respond to member's concerns.
 - e. In order for the placement, three townships must approve and the DNR must be informed and the marker "map" must be modified and filed.
 - f. The Association will do a "due diligence" investigation and follow the final results.
5. New rock markers will be placed. One in Moen Lake and two in Fifth Lake.

6. How do we pay for the new equipment? As a result of the article in the spring Newsletter, Members have been making voluntary donations as they pay their annual dues this January. (You haven't forgotten to pay yours have you?). Donations average \$35. If you are so inclined to follow the voluntary route, here is the cost breakdown:

Purchase cost: \$2,350 50% Grant money: \$1,175

Any donations received over and above the \$1,175 will be placed in a special account for future equipment needs.

7. Such as: a work boat. The placement and removal of the markers is a significant task. The possibility of finding an older pontoon boat and motor was discussed and will be looked at more deeply in the near future. Anybody have one they would like to donate?

This is a major project and undertaking. The committee of three should be thanked mightily for their endeavors. Thanks y'all!