



Moen Lake Chain Association Spring 2017 Newsletter

The spring 2017 news letter contains information on the following subjects;

Introduction and update by the President of the MLCA Board of Directors.

Landowner Lottery and Invasive Species

A discussion of the 2017 MLCA Budget.

Photos of predator species recently spotted near or on Association members properties.

Summer Picnic Survey

A General View of the Moen Lake Chain Association

By Scott A. Patulski

Good Day to you. The Moen Lake Chain Association (MLCA) has a history practice of communicating with its members by way of newsletters. In the past few years this has evolved to two newsletters, one in the spring and one in the fall. Occasional notes from members of the Board of Directors, which are issued when items of general interest to the MLCA members arise, augment these.

Originally the newsletters were done in "hard copy." With the current prevalence of electronic media in today's society, and the diverse geographical membership of our members, the MLCA has moved to predominantly electronic communication.

The Association also maintains a vibrant and current web site at <http://moenlakechain.org/>. Past copies of the Association's newsletter are on this website along with other topics of current interest. I suggest that you stop in at this site when you have a few minutes to look at current and past activities of the MLCA.

By way of introduction I, Scott Patulski, am currently the President of the MLCA Board of Directors. I was elected to this position by the Board of Directors immediately after the annual membership meeting in July of 2016.

I succeed Sally Winfred Latimer, who stepped down as President in 2016. Thanks to Sally for her many contributions to the development and success of the Association in previous years. I wish her much continued success in all she does.

My spouse, Kristine Krause, and I have owned a home on 5th Lake since 2003. From 2003 until 2011 we spent weekends and extended summer stays here. After retirement, Kris in late 2010 and myself in early 2011 our lifestyle evolved and we have

become year round residents.

Although I am not good at it I enjoy fishing, as well as motorcycling and snowmobiling as the climate allows as well as a variety of north woods activities.

In addition to myself the MLCA Board of Directors is composed of Nancy Sattler - Vice President, Sue Ohlman - Treasurer, Jan Groleau - Secretary. BOD Members at Large include; Gary Berweger, Lenny Gescheidel, Dave Hansen, Keith Kelling, and George Schroeffer.

As a not for profit volunteer organization we are always in search of individuals who want to contribute to improvement in the quality of life on the Chain and in the north woods. I encourage you consider and expanded role in the Associations activities.

For more information on participation please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

The following is the Mission Statement for the MLCA:

Our MISSION is to protect, maintain and enhance the environmental and recreational values of the Moen Lake Chain of Lakes and it's surrounding; to provide it's members information of concern; to represent it's members with other organizations and public officials and to conduct such other activities as are appropriate to the purpose and consistent with the nonprofit status of the Association.

Our activities center around two primary areas - improvement of the safety and navigation on our water bodies and protection of the environment in and around the lakes making up the Moen Chain.

To accomplish this the Association concentrates on the placement and maintenance of channel markers on and between the Moen Chain lakes.

State and local governmental bodies lack the resources, financial, personnel, or material, to effectively implement and maintain a system of channel markers. To improve the navigability of the Chains lakes these activities have historically fallen to the members of a non-governmental organization (NGO's) around the State of Wisconsin.

In this case the MLCA addresses issues surrounding Channel Marker placement in the spring, fall removal and winter storage. Thanks to the generosity of property owners the hardware needed to properly mark the lakes is stored on the Chain when not in use.

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and local governmental bodies, the towns of Pine Lake, Stella and Pelican Lake, all hold regulatory authority over the actions of the NGO's like the Association when it comes to marker placement. It is thus a cooperative relationship as without the actions of the MLCA channel markers would not be placed and navigation on the Chain would come at an elevated level of risk to boaters and owners of personal watercraft.

Equally important to the quality of life on the Chain is protecting the water bodies and the area immediately adjacent to the water bodies from invasive species.

At the forefront in protecting the Moen Lakes Chain water bodies from invasive species are the members of the Clean Boats Clean Waters Committee of the MLCA. The activities of the monitors help to remind new boaters on the lakes to protect them from inadvertent contamination of invasive species. The Wisconsin DNR website already quantifies that the following invasive species have been confirmed, observed or are suspected on lakes in the Moen Chain; Banded Mystery Snail, Rusty Crayfish and Chinese Mystery Snail.

We have not yet been impacted by invasive aquatic species such as Eurasian Water

Milfoil (EWM). This plant can have major recreational and economic impacts on water bodies where they gain a foothold.

As reported in the Northwoods River News on December 4, 2016 financial impacts on Squash Lake property owners have exceeded \$290,000 dollars in the past 6 years. Wisconsin DNR funding, which made up \$200,000 of the funding, has ended. Some of the property owners are working with the County and State to establish a Lake District for the purpose of funding ongoing efforts to control the EWM in Squash Lake.

It behooves those of us who live and enjoy the benefits of life on the lakes to continue to manage these resources for the best outcome in the long run.

The advent of spring - which is not long away - will result in a call for volunteers to monitor boats being launched at the public landing for the possibility of invasive species. I urge that you positively consider donating a few hours of your time this summer season to this worthwhile activity.

Not only does it provide the lakes with protection but it also provides volunteer with some pleasant time at the lake, an opportunity to meet some of your neighbors and to find out what is happening on the lakes. Finally, volunteer hours provide a source of grant funding from the Wisconsin DRN that support paid summer workers to monitor the public launch during critical times when volunteers may not be available.

With the start of the New Year it is time to make your payment for your 2017 Moen Lake Chain Association annual dues. There is a fine way to download and print your membership form off the Association's web site. Also new this year is a way to achieve a free year's membership if that is important to you. Additionally, if you recognize the benefits that flow from volunteerism to those using the MLCA water bodies it is possible to make a small donation above your normal Association fee. In the end these contributions all flow back to benefit those who live and recreate on the Moen Lake Chain of water bodies.

Finally, an reminder that our next annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday July 8th 2017, 10:00am at the Pine Valley Lodge. Your interest, attendance and participation are all invited. We will be filling 3 positions opening that day on the Board of Directors as a result of By Law changes made in 2016 by our membership. Please consider participating this the MLCA Board by indicating your interest in these positions to any of our current BOD members.

Landowner Lottery/Landowner Conservation Report

by Kristine M. Krause

In 2016, we were the "winners" in a program from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources where 100 property owners were treated to a visit from an expert from the WDNR. Our expert was Alex Wenthe, and he spent about two hours walking our property with us. We will be receiving a written report on his visit this spring.

We have 38 acres on the west shore of 5th Lake.

We had a stewardship report done by Steigerwald out of Tomahawk when we first purchased the property in 2012, and have tried to manage according to good practice for wild life with the goal of achieving a climax forest.

There is good news and bad news to report. First, we are fortunate to have a good

distribution of hemlock, from new growth to mature trees. The deer find hemlock to be a tasty treat, and often they over browse the young trees, so it is important that enough young trees survive to grow to maturity.

The bad news that will not be a surprise to many, is that we have reed canary grass. The best way to deal with this invasive is to cut it down in the spring to the extent that you can. This plant is growing in our shallow water, and also in the swamp land further back on our property.

The other bad news is that we have invasive thistles. They are just starting and are easier to deal with if taken care of promptly. The advice Alex gave us was to use aquatic Round Up in the spring while the thistle is still flat on the ground. A drop of herbicide on the center of the plant will kill it before it has a chance to grow and generate seeds. We tried this and can attest that it works. It is really important that we all go after these thistles before they have a chance to establish themselves. Apparently they have become a real problem in Door County, and once they get started it is very difficult to keep them in check.

The DNR has an excellent guide to invasive plants. It is helpful in identifying just what is growing on your property, and how to deal with those plants and grasses that can be harmful. It can be downloaded at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/fr/fr0436a.pdf>

I would encourage other property owners to that a chance on the Landowner Lottery. And if, like us, it takes more than one year, it is worth the wait.

2017 MLCA Budget

By Scott A. Patulski

At the annual membership meeting of the Moen Lake Chain Association, to be held on July 8th 2017 at 10am, you will be asked to approve the annual budget.

In advance of that meeting a few items may be of interest to you.

As of this writing the Association has approximately 120 paid members for 2017. The dues plus donations total some \$3100.

Our two major programs, channel markers and clean boats clean waters, require \$1650 and \$4650 dollars to fund annual operations.

Miscellaneous expenses total approximately \$2800, resulting in a total operating expense of some \$9100.

In the past, grant funding from the Wisconsin DNR has support the revenue difference between out income and expenses. We are expecting to apply for grants in amounts totaling some \$4000 to \$5000. It is apparent that without these grant monies operation of the Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections and placement, repair, upgrade and removal of the channel markers would not be financially viable activities.

Some examples of predation in the north woods.





Moen Lakes Chain Association - Summer Picnic

In past years the Association has arranged a summer picnic. However, lately attendance has been poor at best. We have formulate a survey to determine your interest in such an event, when best to hold it and where is should be located. Your input is important to determining what we will be doing in 2017.

This survey is likely in your in basket as a separate email. Please take a few minutes to review and answer this survey. Thanks for your help in this matter.