



moenslakechain.org

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Fall 2012

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Final Sale Moens Lake Pennants

There are only a few Pennants left and we don't have a contract to make any more. If you are interested in purchasing one call Sally at 715-362-1714.

Cost is \$11.00.

Presidents Corner:

"There's something about a winter's sun,
That aspires hope of struggle.
The wait for tomorrow,
After long, cold, shivering nights"

Azmat Naushad Asif



While the poet's words here take on a rather stark view of winter, I do agree that there is something about a winter's sun. Give me a winter's day with

temperatures in the high teens, with little wind, blue sky and a bright, warm sun and I can become a fan of winter. Add the sounds of Nordic skis swishing through crisp snow or snow shoes breaking through a hard, snowy crust and I'm as happy as one can be in these northern latitudes between December and March.

The winter months are also typically a quiet time for your lake association. The annual meeting and our annual picnic have traditionally been scheduled in July and August. Even your MCLA board has chosen to schedule its meetings in fall and spring, avoiding the darkest days of winter. However, this coming year the board will hold a special long-term planning meeting in late January or early February to discuss various planning issues. As you will read in Dr. Gager's column, our association, like any other organization, must deal with issues that spark some controversy. Those issues and others will be on the agenda of our special winter meeting and the board discussions will be presented to the full membership at the MCLA Annual Meeting in July.

Until then, please feel free to contact myself or any other board member to share your thoughts regarding our great lake association. And, don't forget to take some time to enjoy a warm winter's sun.

Dan Kuzlik, Moens Lake Association President

President: Dan Kuzlik, Vice President: Tom Cutler, Secretary: Bonnie Montgomery, Treasurer: El Felton
Board of Directors: Dave Hanson, Sue Ohman, George Schroepfer, Keith Kelling

Committee Chairs: Gary Berweger, Dan Carlson, Bill Disbrow, Sally Latimer, Jim Pederson, Walt Gager (Editor)

Controversy Without & Within

by Walt Gager, Editor

Who'd a thunk it? A real, live controversy concerning the placement of slow-no-wake (SNW) markers within our chain of lakes. Where did this come from? For what reasons? Where? Why? Who? When? Let's see.....

Several years ago, folks from "Lake 2 1/2" asked if the Association could place SNW markers there to slow speeding boats. The Association responded that we had no authority to do that. The result was someone placed milk jugs at the narrows with markings of "slow-no-Wake". They proved ineffective. At the next annual meeting the subject was raised again and the Association Board agreed to research the problem.

Since our Chain of lakes is actually a dammed river, and is deemed navigable by Uncle Sam, there are certain rules that must be followed as dictated by the Federal and State governments. State law governs speed within 100 feet of shoreline to SNW when living structures are present on shore. That would put the whole of Lake 2 1/2 within it's perview, especially at the north and south ends. Federal and state boating laws govern the remainder of the navigable river with rules of boat use and the courtesies that go with them. Including how to approach and pass boats, the speed a boater should use when passing moored or moving boats, etc. These rules are all in print in the State boating manual.

As the study progressed over a couple of years the State DNR was consulted and supported the placement of the markers. They went so far as to suggest where they should be placed. The progress of the research was discussed at all Board and annual meetings and excerpts (summaries) were in this publication.

In order to complete the study, the two Townships were approached. It was thought that in order to make a formal presentation a petition should be available and used if requested. This was prepared but never used. From discussions with the two townships it was determined that neither Township was anxious to grant placement of the markers because it would be expensive and time consuming to alter the existing ordinances. In order to see if

removing the cost involved would change their minds, the Association offered to undertake those costs and even write the ordinance for them if it would help. The Town of Stella was plainly against the effort involved under any circumstance.

The controversy was raised by a former member who felt that the Association was on the way to control speeds, boat and motor sizes, and other aspects of lake and shoreline activity as well that would ruin the chain as we knew (past tense) it. This got the attention of several other folks with like impressions. At our most recent Board meeting, member felt that the Association failed to keep the members and property owners appropriately updated on their activities. A motion was made and passed unanimously to do just that. The Association never had intentions, nor discussed or raised any other subjects even remotely related to those suggested by the former member. Placement of the SNW markers was intended as a reminder to boaters to adhere to the law currently in place, not to create new laws.



PICK YOUR BATTLES

Some things are better left alone

This past summer milk jugs were again placed in Lake 2 1/2 in an attempt to slow speeders. If boaters would acquaint themselves with, and adhere to the law without a SNW remainder it would be wonderful. Will they? If they would, there would be no "Controversy".

President Dan Kuzlik and the board were surprised with the amount of controversy that this issue raised. He will update the membership and property owners regarding their demands and ask for guidance in what avenues the Association should take in the future on this subject.

FALL BOARD MEETING

The Fall Board meeting was held at President Dan Kuzlik's home on October 12, 2012. In attendance were 12 board and committee chairs. After the minutes of the spring meeting were accepted as read, El Felton reported the delay in receiving the remainder of the State's grant monies. The monies will be coming soon (they were received in November).

Kathy Winkler reported that 80 volunteers, representing 51 families, staffed the boat landing this year. That is 407 volunteer hours. 598 boats were inspected and 1,201 individuals were contacted. No violations were reported. The Clean Sweep program on July 7, preceding the annual meeting, had 13 participants. Five new species from our chain were identified. To date, 27 native plants and 2 confirmed invasive species have been



Annual Meeting

brought in for identification. The AIS are the Chinese Mystery Snail and the Rusty Crayfish. A list of the plants identified is available upon request. (e-mail Editor: wegager@pol.net)

Water Quality reports by Don Mevis and Jim Peterson report continuing good water quality. The tannin stain of the water varies with the amount of rain fall.

Gary Berweger's Fish and Habitat committee reported that the DNR has found no walleye fingerlings in N.P. # 4 & 5. Stocking has been requested in 2013.

Bill Disbrow is rebuilding the website. He asked for any and all new ideas from members and non-

members for the new format. He plans an interactive page. Please visit our web page for more information:

<http://moenlakechain.org/>

Sally Latimer and Walt Gager asked if there is any interest in a Fourth of July boat parade. Comments? Should we continue the annual picnic? Comments? Suggestions for the Newsletter would be gratefully received by Walt Gager.

Long Term Planning Committee Report

WHERE WE WERE, WHERE WE ARE

AND.....

Tom Cutler, Planning Committee

In the 1930s neighbors gathered to harvest ice for the summers. In the 1950s they gathered in homes to celebrate birthdays. These informal gatherings led to fish stocking and placement of fish cribs throughout the chain and ultimately led to the formalization of a group into the early Lake Association. A corporate charter was added in the 1980s but no Bylaws were ever unearthed. Led by Larry Worth the Association met regularly at the Birchwood Lodge. Bylaws were written in late 1999. Aquatic Invasive Species moved the Association to formalize committees and the battle was on to prevent our chain from being infected.

Over the past ten years, the Association remains healthy and active, participating in several activities aimed to meet the mission originally defined. Full participation of property owners has not been realized. The present form of the Association has taken us as far as it is able. Thus, **a Long Term Planning Committee was formed to recommend what the Association's makeup and course should be in the future in order to preserve/restore the Lake System and habitat.**

The following are those recommendations.

1. Reorganize the Association. Form a "lakes Committee", made up of one representative from each of the six lakes. The charge is to identify and focus on the individual lake's needs and problems. Report to BOD, meet with other committees as needed.

(continued)

(Long Term Planning- continued from page 3)

2. Reinstitute the bylaws committee to document the changes.
3. Form a grant research committee to develop new sources of funds.
4. BOD to meet separately, increase their activity, increase oversight on activities, and meet with committee chairs when necessary.
5. Each committee must have a least three members.
6. Committees to define their mission as directed by the BOD
7. Each committee must provide a written report for each BOD meeting.
8. All committees (and BOD) must communicate activities to the website.
9. Divide the CB.CW committee into three or four subcommittees: Marker, CB/CW, chemistry/ quality and possibly Adopt-a-Shore.
10. Maintain a planning committee (a program and planning committee exists now).
11. Continue to urge non-members to participate in Association activities
12. Emphasize the benefits of membership.
13. Consider involvement in public and other events.
14. Create a political officer to maintain contact with elected bodies and individuals.

If you have ideas on these proposed recommendations please contact Dan Kuzlik, President of Moens Lake Association to be part on an ongoing planning committee. 715-362-1714

Letter from the Membership Chair

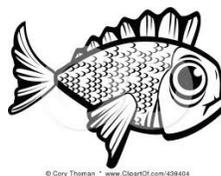
Thank you to everyone who renewed their 2012 membership that was due this past January. For those of you who haven't yet, please consider doing so.

Your \$20 provides the funds to protect our lake properties by monitoring the boat landing to prevent invasive species from invading our lakes.

The Association also provides members with valuable information on how to protect and improve the environmental and recreational values of our lakes and shores. Our big project for the 2012 summer season is to replace many the markers on the chain, creating safer boating. We need your dues, however, to continue this work. If you haven't already done so, please complete the attached membership application and return it with your \$20 membership fee. It is a small investment with a big return. Also, please check out our website at moenlakechain.org. It is an informative and a valuable source of information on our chain.

Sue Ohman, Membership Chairman

WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY



Atheism is a non-prophet organization
A backward poet writes inverse
Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies
like a banana

Membership Application/ Renewal

- Name: _____
- Permanent Address: _____
- Address for USPS Mail: _____
- Email address: _____

Date: _____
Phone: _____

Category (circle all that apply)

New Back Membership 2012 Renew 2013

Dues: \$20.00 per year
Donation: \$ _____
Total: \$ _____

Please mail to: EL Felton, Treasurer, 4182 Shady Lane, Rhineland, WI 54501