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MoenBeams

moenlakechain.org

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

Summer, 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Loud is the summer's busy song
The smallest breeze can find a tongue,
While insects of each tiny size
Grow teasing with their melodies
John Clare (1793-1864)

The meteorological summer occurred on June 20. However, don't tell that to the boaters and swimmers, an early spring allowed folks to be in our beautiful chain of lakes before that timely event. If you have been boating on any of our lakes, you should have spotted the placements of the new channel and rock markers that your lake association purchased this past season. The plan was to get these new markers in place and to get them adjusted properly. After that was accomplished, crews will use our newly donated "buoy barge" to remove the old twisted and bent markers out of the water. Thanks to all who donated extra dollars beyond their membership dues to help purchase these new markers.

Tradition dictates that our lake association schedules two major summer events. The first is our MCLA Annual Meeting. That meeting was held on Saturday, July 7, at 10:00 am at the Curran Professional Building in Rhinelander. The change in venue was a last minute scramble as storms had dropped trees on power lines at the Pine Valley resort and with power lines across the driveway and no electricity to be had, the change in location was necessitated. In addition to association business and officer and board elections, our program featured John Latimer, a Phenologist from Grand Rapids, MN. John spoke about plant and animal life cycles of our Moen's chain of lakes watershed. In addition, John explained how we all can practice our own form of Phenology by keeping our own records of first occurrences of biological events in their annual cycle on our own properties. Thank you, John for a great presentation!

Also, our MCLA Summer Picnic will take place on Sunday, August 26, from 3:00 - 6:00 pm at the Birchwood. You can purchase your food and beverages from the Birchwood or bring your own picnic lunch. They are letting us use their beautiful beach side setting on Second Lake at no charge. There will be live music and fun for all so get this on your calendar now.

Finally, we all need to do our part to protect this great natural asset we call the Moen Chain of Lakes. In addition to monitoring our own lakeside habits, we need to educate others who use our waters for their recreation. So, if you have not yet volunteered as a Clean Boats - Clean Waters monitor at our public landing, call our CBCW Coordinator, Kathy Winkler at 715-369-1868 and schedule yourself in for a shift or two.

Have a great summer and give a wave to your fellow MCLA members as you pass them on our beautiful lake waters this season.

Dan Kuzlik



Rita Staus and Sandy Gasser

The new channel markers are "floaters", not dependent on a pipe to keep them in place. Where the water is too shallow to allow these markers, pipe supported ones will persist. Dan Carlson has made great progress in replacing most of the pipes. By the way, I suppose you have noted that the tops of the two markers are different in shape. As mentioned previously, the red marker is cone shaped and the green one flat. This is to assure that color blind people can distinguish between them. Rita Staus and Sandy Gasser were recognized at the annual meeting for donating \$600 toward the purchase of the markers (see article in the Spring Letter). Please continue your memberships and thanks again to those that sent in additional monies in support of the marker purchase. If you haven't paid your annual dues yet, now is a good time to update your membership status. We can't function effectively without you.

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)

FISH & HABITAT COMMITTEE

Dave Hanson gave a summary of Gary Berwegers's "fish and Habitat" committee activities. Folks have been catching only large walleye pike this past season or two and the DNR has found that N.P. 4 & 5 have few of any fingerlings: 3 years of young walleye are missing. Most pike are 14" or greater. Why this is occurring is unknown (some question the presence of more than normal large black crappies). Shocking will continue this fall and a request for stocking in 2013 is in the works.

LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Long Term Planning Chair Tom Cutler announced the formation of an ongoing project committee to put into action the programs currently identified for the near future. One of programs to be studied is the replacement of the lost rice beds in N.P. Lakes 4 & 5. These beds are natural habitat for fish growth and fun for the rice. He also stated that the LTP was almost ready to make a final report so if any of you have suggestions for the future of our lakes please contact Tom. Now is the time to speak up.

Plans are afoot for a very special evening later this summer or early fall. Watch for a special announcement.



Nancy Sattler and her first musky!



Adrienne Birkholz with her prized musky

The slate of officers elected

- Dan Kuzlik, President (third term)
- Tom Cutler, Vice President (Third Term)
- Sue Ohman (confirmed for Board)
- Keith Kelling (elected to Board)

Bonnie Montgomery
El Felton

CHECKING IN

Who?



Treasurer ElFelton reported that our bank balance was down this year compared to recent years. He also noted that our paid membership was down significantly. What happened to our members? did you forget about us? If you haven't paid the princely sum of \$20.00, please do. Reminders will be sent to those in arrears.

Speaking of memberships: How can we convince non members that it's not only to their advantage to become a member but it's their duty to be a part of the organization that exists to care for the one thing that maintains property values. This Association is here to see that we ALL can enjoy the pride and joy of ownership here. Together we can insure the future for our heirs. If this chain suffers from poor stewardship, everyone loses. So you only come up on weekends or only spend a week or two during the summer or winter. You should want to have a voice (vote) in what the Association is doing now and more importantly what it will be doing in the future. MCLA exists for YOU! If you don't want to participate in the Associations activities, at least support it by becoming a member. Twenty bucks. Do it now. Send a check to El Felton at 4182 Shady Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

At the annual meeting:



John Latimer's presentation on wildlife Phenology was terrific. Phenology is the scientific study of the influence of climate on the annual recurrence of animal and bird migration and plant budding. He encouraged everybody to be more aware of all living things that exist about them. He presented amusing stories and

described amazing phenomena about animals and plants. John lives in Grand Rapids Minnesota and has been interested in all things living as related to the annual rhythms of our environment since childhood.

If you were unable to make the meeting because of the weather that Saturday, you missed a great speaker. The meeting had to be moved to the Curran Building on Oneida Avenue from Pine Valley Lodge because of trees down and loss of electricity. About fifty folks attended.

THE LAW OF

Variation: If you change to a faster traffic lane, the one you were in will then move faster than the one you moved to.

IT'S A PUZZLEMENT!

Why do some people ignore the rules of boat handling and the courtesies of boat traffic? Beats me, but I see it almost every time we are out on the water. It is particularly evident when on the river. Fast traffic remains fast when passing a slower moving boat going in the opposite direction. Channel markers are "slow no wake" and.....right, ignored. Lake two and a half shores fall within the 100' rule for no wake with dwellings on each side. Maybe these folk are visitors and don't understand the rules and ignore the courtesies

This question has arisen recently:

Who is that guy waving a gold or yellow hat at folks as he passes by in a Sylvan pontoon boat?

It's me! When I was President I wanted all to now that they could stop me with questions or concerns anytime and have continued to wear and wave the hat ever since. If you want to talk just indicate it and I'll stop so we can chat. Your concerns, comments, additions to the Newsletter, complaints etc. are always welcome. I guess I never got the concept across well. I'm still waving and willing to listen. ed.



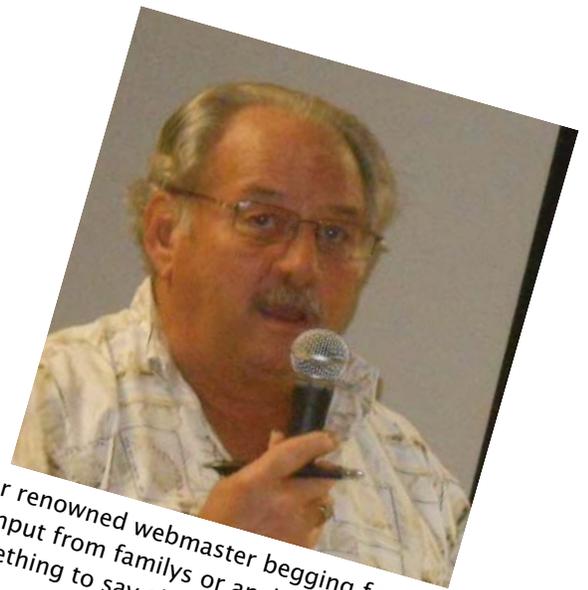
Our meeting room at the Curran Building
Dan Kuzlik, a study in concentration

WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY

Two guys are sitting in a bar when one of them casually points to a couple of old drunks sitting across from them and says: "That's us in ten years." His buddy responds: "You're wrong, that's a mirror!"

Did you hear of the hitchhiker who never got anywhere? He'd get up early to avoid the traffic!

Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.



Our renowned webmaster begging for more input from families or anybody that has something to say about history, the Chain or the Association

Visit moenlakechain.org
You'll be pleasantly entertained.



"Woody"

Kris Krause's



Prez Dan Kuzlik
"You win!" (door prize)



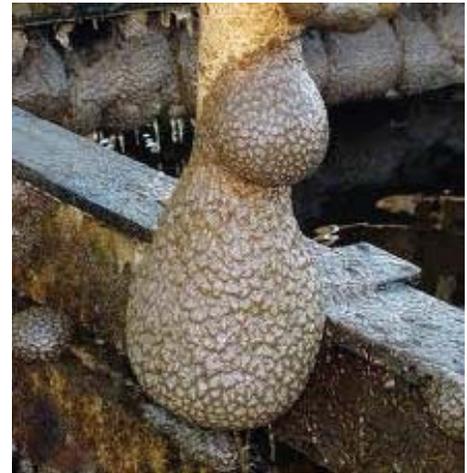
CB?CW Chair, Dan Carlson giving his report



ADOPT-A-SHORE

The following is an example of why you (we) should all participate in this easy, individual program.

Two weeks ago I was doing my "due diligence" observations along our shoreline and riparian waters. On the beach was this tan colored mass of gelatine. It measured about 4" in diameter and was about 18" long. It was curled upon itself and close examination revealed small (measuring about 1/2"), round, indented spots. They resembled "suckers" to me. When I tried to roll it further up on the beach to examine it more closely it split in the middle. The center was clear with the tea color of our waters and had no real substance. With a shovel, my grandson put the sections in a bucket of lake water. A call to Sandy Wickman at the DNR the next day identified it as a "Bryozoan", a native lake colony of tiny vegetative animals. They are considered a mark of water quality. Wikipedia says:



The Bryozoan (bryozoa means "moss animal") is a Wisconsin native and common in fresh or salt waters. It is a colony of tiny aquatic animals often attached to a submerged object like a tree limb, pier support, mooring line, etc. The salt water version is often caught in fisherman's nets. The individual animal is usually less than a millimeter to a few millimeters in size. Each colony can be made up of millions of individuals. The colony itself can range from millimeters to meters in size, up to 2' in length, but usually less than a foot. The "pock" marks I observed were the feeding tentacles that catch nutrients. These unusual colonies were first described in 1885 by Hyatt and originally called *Lophopododelia carteri*. Since other names have been added.

Attached to a pier support



Examples of size

**Moen Lake Association PICNIC
at the Birchwood BEACH
On third lake**

August 26 from 3:00 to 6:00

All chain residents are invited!

Bring chairs

Buy food and/or drinks there or bring your own picnic.

Dance or just listen to the music from the bar

**Desert will be furnished by the Association
(via Sally Latimer)**

No rain dates



**John
Easterly**

**Erica
Birkholz**

**Connor
Birkholz**

TROLLING FOR HISTORY

BRANDT COTTAGE

Set back among the tall whispering pines along the tea colored waters of Moen Lake is relatively new home, owned by Roger and Gerane Brandt. Though new, the house is a continuation of history dating back to the 1940's. During that time, Roger's parents, the late Paul and Amanda Brandt purchased two lake front lots across the peninsula between Moen and Second Lake. Then, Moen Lake Road, the only access road, stopped at the resort of Graystone Manor, which is presently known as Conro's.

By 1949 the road continued beyond the Manor and into the heavily wooded hilly peninsula. During that summer Roger remembers sleeping in the car at night while by the day his parents and a family friend started to build a summer cottage. The labor of love and determination morphed into a four room cabin hewn from vertical hemlock half logs. The end result was built in what is now affectionately and nostalgically known as the "Northwoods" style, which also had hand built pine cupboards, oak flooring and red shutters over mustard/gold walls. Luxuries were limited to a hand pumped well (behind the cabin), a small wood stove, screened porch overlooking the lake and an all important outhouse. Electricity was not added until 1963.

In the 1950's a metal boathouse was constructed along the swampy, tag alder shore of Second Lake. The original structure still stands today. Paul and Amanda passed the cabin to their son Roger and his wife Gerane. Four generations of family and friends and neighbors have enjoyed activities on the Brandt property.

The cottage may have been quaint, with authentic northwoods rustic chic, but the limited seasonal capabilities of the structure and lack of comforts of convenience led to a very hard decision to tear down the original and replace it with a year-round home. During the summer of 2004 an old era was respectfully and reverently torn down by hand and a new user-friendly era was introduced. Old memories won't be forgotten however. Memories of meals under whispering pines on the screened porch, late night card games, early morning pancakes at the kitchen table, campfires with memories of skunks under the cabin and chasing bats through the rooms with a fishing net. New memories now include winter activities and warm nights minus midnight offerings to the wood stove.

Perhaps the most memorable event during our history was the historic July 4, 1977 storm, or more officially downburst. This storm was dubbed the "Rolling Phillips Tornado". It traveled 160 miles and cut a wide swath of 17 miles wide. With excess winds or 115 mph, it flattened thousands of acres of northern forest*. Three generations of Brandt's were celebrating the holiday at the cabin and rode out the terrifying winds with nowhere to hide. We watched from windows as dozens of trees toppled over, one landing across the roof of our 1973 Jeep Wagoneer. Hundreds of trees fell along the peninsula and we could not leave until downed wires and trees were removed from the roads.

Despite a few rough memories, the majority of them have been relaxing and recreational and we look forward to more being created. A couple talismans have been employed to bridge the past and present. During the tear down of the cottage a 2X4 was found with an inscription dated July 4, 1949, fifty five summer prior when it was built. That little piece of wood along with the pine cupboards are in the new house.

Perhaps more fitting is the old outhouse, which is either a stinky lawn ornament or loving icon standing in memorium to simpler ways..

Written by Paul Brandt
Grandson

(Paul is the son Roger & Gerane Brandt of Merrill who enjoy the cottage now.)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS for USPS MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

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

DONATION: \$ _____

NEW RENEW UNSUBSCRIBE

TOTAL: \$ _____

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