

SUMMER - 2021



Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



A Season of Transition

Hockey photo by Kim Hunwardsen
Surfing photo by Jen Loeffler

WHAT'S INSIDE

LETTER FROM THE NEW EDITOR	3
CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS	5
ARTICLE: THE BIRDS	6-7
4TH OF JULY EVENTS	20

Letter from the Chair

by BUD ERICKSEN

Hello Everyone:

I'm sure we are all excited as we approach summer 2021 on Half Moon Lake. Thanks to the vaccines we can return to near normal activities. Activities that will bring smiles and return the welcome sounds of laughter to our shores.

However, COVID-19 has left a lingering effect on our two major projects for this spring: to replace the boat landing, and to establish a boat cleaning station. The DNR has had several staff retirements that have caused our submittal process to be essentially delayed one year. In addition, we now have been reassigned to the Green Bay office of the DNR. We need complete construction documents and DNR permits to work in the water prior to our submittal for the grant process. We will have this work completed this fall for a submittal and await the DNR grant approvals notifications in January. If we are successful, we would then take bids and schedule construction for the spring of 2022. The boat cleaning station will have a similar delay on its schedule and hope to have a DNR grant approval this fall. We will continue to complete our submittal information for both projects and hope to have some good news to report at the Annual Meeting on July 17.

Jim Benike reports that Yellow Iris (an invasive plant) will be treated this spring. Property owners affected should have been notified in early June with a Licensed Chemist contracted to eliminate the plant properly shortly thereafter.

Ellen Butler has prepared a postcard to identify the 4th of July activities and their schedule for your planning. Remember water guns and super soakers at the end of the parade. The DNR does not allow water balloons. Hope to see you all at the parade.

A discussion item for our first Board Meeting was the possible need for rip-rap along the shoreline of Half Moon Lake. While this is beyond the responsibility of the Board, it is an item for the individual home owners to address. There is concern specifically for the open shoreline along County Road G, where there is notable shore erosion. This is not an issue for wake-boats alone, as it is caused by all the boat traffic and storm winds.

A special thank you to Dave Balestri for volunteering to edit the Loon Lines. He is following the retirement of Kim Bulter who did a great job for many years. The Loon Lines is our prime source of communication, and revenue from the advertisements fund the fireworks show for the 4th of July. Please remember to support our advertisers.

Thank you,
Bud Ericksen, Chairman of the Board



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & OTHER RESOURCES

Bud Ericksen, Chair
Cell: 612-812-7838
bsericksen@comcast.net

Ellen Butler, Treasurer
Cell: 612-964-1024
ellenbutler1912@gmail.com

Robert Cutshall, Secretary
612-360-3239
cutshallrj@icloud.com

Jim Benike, Board Member
507-254-1063
jimben@benike.com

Doug Ebeling, Board Member
612-964-4653
dougsgolfcars@gmail.com

Dave Balestri, Newsletter Editor
Cell: 612-770-6153
halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com

Dan Leh, Clean Boats Committee
Cell: 612-490-1002
halfmoonlake@hotmail.com

Chris Nelson
Polk County Board of Supervisors
715-557-0169
christopher.nelson@co.polk.us

Mike Dau, Milltown Chair
715-857-5203
email: hdau@lakeland.ws

Sally Klevgard, Newsletter Publisher
Address: 131 Birch St. E., Amery
Phone: 715-268-5800
paperworx@amerytel.net

Hello, Half Moon Lake neighbors!

As Bud points out in his Letter from the Chair, with this issue I assume the role of Editor of the Loon Lines from Kim Butler. Kim has served in this role for about five years. She has written articles, submitted photos, solicited contributions from neighbors, and worked with our publisher to deliver colorful, informative newsletters every summer and winter. Although Kim retires from her role on the Loon Lines, she remains an advocate for our lake and district. Thank you, Kim, for all the work you've put into producing the Half Moon Lake Loon Lines over the years!

To introduce myself... many of you know me or at least recognize my name. For several years, I contributed updates on water quality at the annual meeting. I have occasionally contributed articles on bats and other topics to the Loon Lines. I served as Secretary on the Board for three years. You may have seen me walking or running along Highway G on the north shore. Most likely, you've seen me in or on the water. I love nature. I love water. I love outdoor activities. Half Moon Lake and the area around it give me year-round enjoyment.

My family (Sarah, Leo, Jill) and I have been on the lake for about 20 years. Sarah and I bought our little cabin on the east shore in the fall of 2001, three days after 9/11. Our kids were four and two years old. At the time, we didn't know if our kids would like the cabin life. Sarah and I figured that if we got 10 good years out of it, the investment would have been worth it. Now two decades, a new cabin, a couple major storms, and a summer of limited social interaction later, we all still love it. But although we've been coming to Half Moon Lake for 20 summers now, I sometimes still feel like a newcomer. I recently found out that my neighbor Scott Aker has been coming here for 60 years! (Sorry, Scott, if you didn't care for me to divulge that.) Another neighbor, Greg Kolbjornsen, has also been coming since he was a child. Greg now has two grown sons of his own. Same for Annemarie (Paulsen) Bryan, who grew up coming to the lake and now has two adult daughters that still come. Many families on the lake have been here for generations. I guess I'll be a relative newcomer for some time yet.

In this issue, I write about the Birds and the Bees. Actual birds and actual bees, that is. And about bats. These articles reflect my appreciation for and curiosity about the life all around us. I also write a bit about the broader area, as many of us ventured out a bit beyond the lake as we spent more time here in the year of the pandemic. I share tidbits on some of the favorite discoveries that I've heard about from family and friends. I appreciate their help in identifying these newfound destinations.

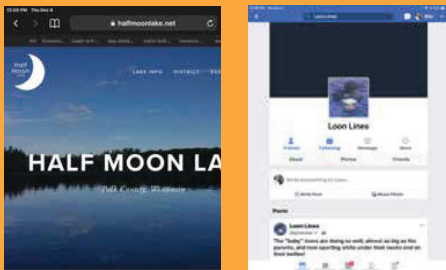
I also thank Ellen Butler. Ellen gave me lots of guidance on how to go about putting together an issue of the Loon Lines. She even accompanied me to the office of our publisher in Amery. And as always, she contributed lots of pictures and ideas for this issue. Together, we've tried to include photos and articles that represent the range of seasons and activities in and around Half Moon Lake. I hope that for the next issue, you'll contribute ideas, pictures, information, recipes, or even articles. Please send any of these to me at halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com. I'd love to see photos of the Pets of Half Moon Lake, pictures of family reunions, of kids tubing, of friends hanging out, and of the "catch of the day". I hope you'll enjoy this issue. Here's to a fun summer on Half Moon Lake!

See you on the water!
Dave Balestri, Editor



Editor's Column

Stay in Touch Keep up with the latest news, ice out dates, neighborhood concerns and more. Also share articles, ideas for articles, new neighbor info, and photos of Life On The Lake!



On the Web
www.halfmoonlake.net

On Facebook
search for then "Friend"
Loon Lines

Email halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com
Send address changes to: jjweber2002@gmail.com

Nextdoor App & Website Go to www.nextdoor.com. Enter your HML street address and email address & click "Find My Neighborhood." Add a few more details and you are done. You can also download the app to your smartphone or tablet. If you already use NextDoor at your permanent home, you'll need to make a new email address at Google/gmail or Yahoo.

This is an online neighborhood bulletin board that could include topics like storm damage, free stuff, recommendations for plumbers or caterers, suspicious activity, buy and sell, etc.

It's Easy Being Green

How to Recycle Around Half Moon Lake

Since local garbage haulers do not pick up recycling, you can cart it home with you or bring it to several convenient locations near Half Moon Lake.

What Can I Recycle?

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Office Paper (in a Brown Paper bag)
- Glass/Plastic/Aluminium/
Tin Cans and Bottles
- Cardboard

Where Can I Recycle?

- Balsam Lake, east of the Government Center at the 4 Corners of Hwy 46 & Co. Rd. 1
- Milltown, near the Community Center, by the Softball Field
- Luck, by the Town Shop on 3rd Ave. (west of Library and Co-op)
- Blue Bins at Luck, Milltown, and Balsam Lake are open 24/7



Main Facility at Highway 8 also accepts appliances, electronics, tires, and light bulbs for a fee

6:30am - 4:30pm Monday-Thursday

1302 208th St. - corner of Hwy 8, across the Roundabout from Menards.

www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling



HALF MOON LAKE CONSERVANCY BOARD MEMBERS

Pictured left to right. Ellen Butler, Bud Erickson, Bob Cutshall, Eric Johnson, John Weber, seated is founding member, David J. Butler. Not pictured: David W. Butler.



Clean Boats Clean Waters

The 2021 Clean Boats/Clean Waters season is in full swing. Our inspectors have been maintaining the landing since ice out and will continue until Labor Day. If you wonder what their role is at the launch it is simple...to prevent Aquatic Invasive Species from entering Half Moon Lake.

It's everyone's job to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. Whether you are a boater, angler or paddler, you have an important role to play in keeping Half Moon Lake free of Aquatic Invasive Species. The main way Aquatic Invasive Species like zebra mussels and Eurasian Watermilfoil spread to new waters is by hitching a ride on the boats and trailers of visitors.

To learn more information check out the University of Wisconsin-Extension website: www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/.

You can also help this year by educating your family, guests and neighbors on the importance of stopping Aquatic Hitchhikers.

Dan Leh
CBCW Volunteer
612-490-1002
halfmoonlake@hotmail.com



Water Quality Update:

On Monday, May 31st, the water clarity was 18'. This is better than normal for this time of year. The clarity in late spring is typically 16'. Several factors can affect the measurement on any given day - boat traffic, heavy rain, strong winds, an extended spell of unusually hot weather, for example. This measurement was taken on a sunny, calm day with almost no boat traffic. And although the day before had been a little drizzly at times, we hadn't had much rain in May. Although clarity is just one gauge of water quality, we do need to remain vigilant.

Milfoil, pesticides, farm runoff, and fertilizers are a constant threat. To protect the water in Half Moon Lake, please don't mow all the way down to the water's edge (a 30-foot buffer is great for controlling runoff). If you do use fertilizer, make sure the middle number on the bag is "0". And keep your septic system in good order.



THE BIRDS...

By Dave Balestri

It all started in April 2020. I was out kayaking shortly after ice-out when I noticed a very strange-looking duck. Everything about it looked normal except for its way oversized head. This duck's black-and-white head was shaped like a skillet, with its bill as the handle. Its head looked like a Loon's head that had been flattened with a rolling pin. It turned out there were lots of these odd ducks, especially on the north shore and in the tamarack west of the beach. Later, when I dug out my 1984 copy of Peterson's Guide to Birds, I found it: the "Hooded Merganser". Apparently, these ducks were stopping by Half Moon Lake on their migration north. I realized I had never really spent much time at the lake in April, and didn't remember ever noticing them before. After a few weeks, they were gone.

Not long after that, I was walking on our road when I noticed a bird on the ground that seemed to be screeching at me. It was well camouflaged and kept running ahead of me, continuing to chirp but never taking flight. It seemed totally out of place; it looked like a bird you would see running on the beach in Florida, not one you would see running on the ground in Wisconsin. It stuck around for days. I could find it any time in generally the same location, always on the ground. After getting a couple fuzzy photos of it, I was able to determine that it was a "Killdeer", so named for its call (although it didn't sound like it was saying "killdeer" to me). After a while I realized there were actually two Killdeer but they were rarely both there at the same time. One of them, upon seeing me, would do this weird dance, stumbling around on the ground before taking off into the air.

Finally, one day I got too close to something and the Killdeer really went nuts, doing its spastic dance and flying away, then coming back and doing it over again. Looking closely, I saw a tiny, poorly built "nest" on the ground about three feet from the paved road. In it were four little brown speckled eggs. Everything was nicely camouflaged, but still... it was on the ground! Knowing that cars regularly would park on the side of the road, that this area was sometimes mowed, and that

people walked their dogs along the road all the time, I planted a couple of tomato cages on either side of the nest and strung little red strips to discourage drivers and to alert people that there was something to avoid.

A few days later, my brother Brian was over and I brought him up to the road to show him the little nest that some foolish bird had built on the ground right next to the road. As we walked towards it the Killdeer went into its routine. It was Brian who realized what was actually happening. The bird was pretending to be injured as it wobbled along on the ground, holding one wing awkwardly out to the side. It was drawing us away from the nest. And then, when it determined we had been suitably distracted, it took off into the air.

Both of us being slightly smarter than the average predator (I think), Brian and I weren't fooled. We walked back to take a look at the nest. As we did, a tiny chick scampered off into the tall grass. The remains of three eggshells lay in the nest. It had just happened that we came to take a look on the very day that the chicks hatched and made for the woods. I have since learned that some birds, like Robins, are "altricial" and hatch featherless, with their eyes closed, barely able to keep their heads up. They need to be fed and cared for by their parents in the nest for several days – usually between 11 and 14. Other birds, like Killdeer, owls, and ducks, are "precocial" and hatch with their eyes open, their legs functional, and their feathers sprouted. They can't fly right away, but they can feed themselves. They leave the nest as soon as they're born. The little Killdeer chicks never returned to the nest next to our road. The fourth egg never hatched, and the parents were never heard from again. I haven't seen them there this spring, but Ellen Butler discovered a Killdeer nest in her garden and has now had the experience of watching the fake-injury dance.





Interesting facts about some of the birds around us:

Between the Hooded Merganser, with its skillet head, and the Killdeer, with its death-defying lay-your-eggs-on-the-ground-and-pretend-to-be-injured-to-lure-danger-from-the-nest craziness, I was hooked. I started really noticing the birds around our property and on the lake. After the Mayfly hatch, I watched a swarm of barn swallows buzz the air. I saw Eastern Bluebirds. I saw the big, cool-looking Pileated Woodpecker. I carried around my binoculars and my bird guide, trying to tell the difference between a Downy Woodpecker and a Hairy Woodpecker. It was surprisingly and frustratingly difficult to tell the difference. I started chronicling what I saw on what date. It became a mission. Or a hobby, at least.

My neighbors soon picked up on my new idiosyncrasies. At the sound of a bird, my head would snap around like a dog hearing “squirrel”. For me, identifying a bird by its call is much, much harder than identifying it by its markings. I still can’t do it very often, which adds to the allure of trying to solve this puzzle. The hardest birds to identify were the most common of all – the little brown sparrows that were everywhere. It turns out there are a bunch of varieties of sparrows. There are House Sparrows and Tree Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows. They all look alike. The males and the females look basically the same. And they never sit still long enough to get a good look.

By the end of the summer, I was reasonably confident that I had identified 51 distinct bird species in and around Half Moon Lake. I had, I’m afraid, become a “birder”. A clumsy beginner, but a birder nonetheless.

This spring seems to have brought an explosion of birds to Half Moon Lake. I’ve read that storm damage, with all the downed trees, can be a boon to birds. The broken trunks provide protection, nesting opportunities, and easy access to bugs that inhabit the cracks and crevices. My neighbor Carol Aker mentioned to me that there seem to be more birds here this spring than any other time she can remember. I think so too.

I know there are other “birders” around the lake. I’m curious as to how many species there are in this immediate area. If you’d like to contribute to an informal Half Moon Lake bird inventory, please email me what you see at halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com. Please send pictures if you get them. In the next issue, I’ll publish a complete list of what we’ve jointly spotted. The boundaries are a little bit loose – say, about a 10-mile radius around the lake. If you’re not a birder but you’re curious about who is making all those calls you’re hearing, I recommend an app for your phone called “BirdNET” from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The app is easy to use and a handy tool for helping identify what you’re looking at or hearing.

- Chickadees that live in cold climates utilize a food storage strategy called “scatter hoarding”. The birds will tuck seeds into any crevice in which it will fit – a cluster of spruce needles or a crack in the bark of a tree. A single chickadee can store up to a thousand seeds in a day. Incredibly, the bird can remember where each seed is stored and (at least according to one book I read) can remember at least some of which ones have been eaten and which seeds are of the best quality. My daughter and I witnessed this behavior outside our window this winter when a chickadee kept flying from the bird feeder to a particular branch in a nearby evergreen, where it pressed the seeds into gaps in the bark.
- Loons need a long expanse of water in order to take flight. They are relatively heavy birds, and need a long runway to build up enough speed to become airborne. If a loon lands on too small of a lake or pond, it can become stranded. Loons can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes and can swim down as far as 200 feet but their average dive is about 45 seconds and they stay within about 40 feet of the surface. Also, due to how their legs are set so far back on their bodies, loons have trouble walking on land.
- Birds lay one egg per day until they have a full “clutch”, or nest. For Mallard ducks, a full clutch is 10 eggs. For Robins and Bluebirds, it can be four or five. They don’t start sitting on the eggs until all the eggs are laid. That way, all the babies hatch on the same day. So in every case, that first egg lays there for several days before incubation begins.



Four Seasons of Fun on Half Moon Lake



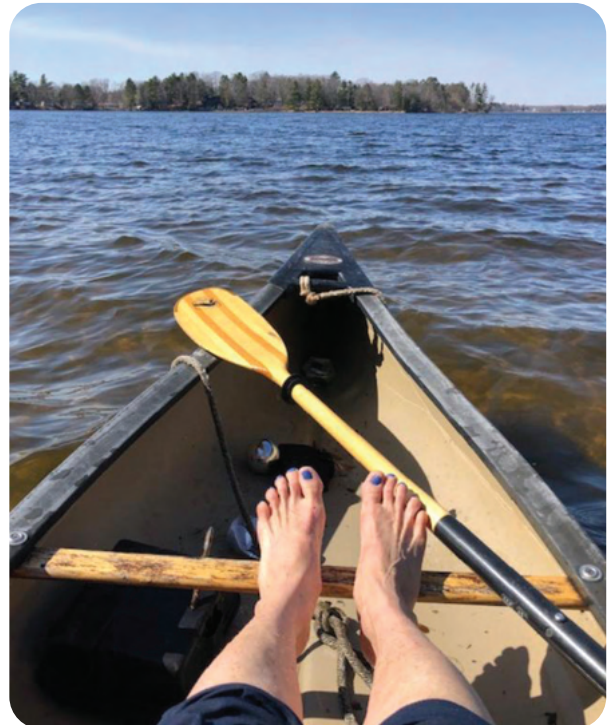
“Covid Careful”
Photo by Chuck Knapp



“Fishing from the Dock”
Photo by Lisa Goolsby



“Moonglow”
Photo by Darrell Anderson



“Ahhhhh...”
Photo by Ellen Butler



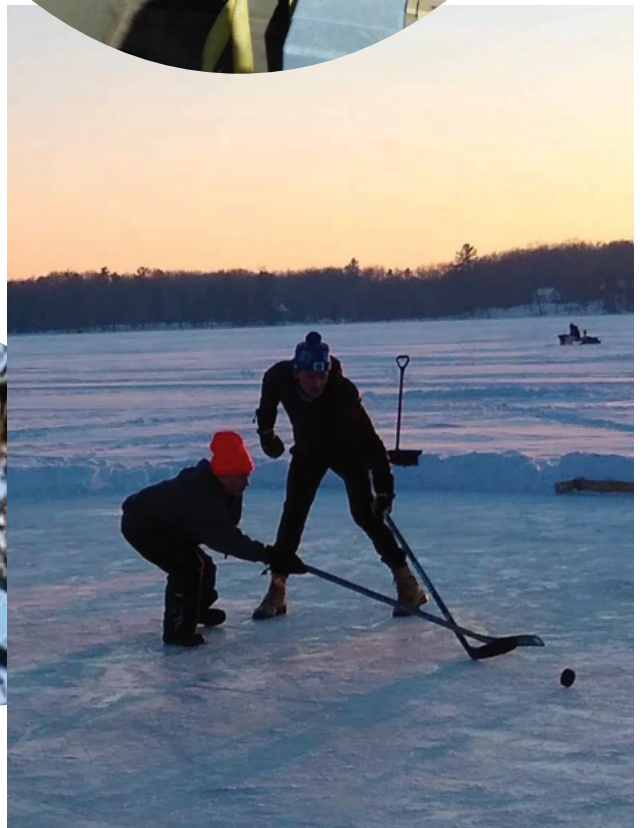
“Spring Surfing”
Photo by Kim Hunwardsen



“Cleo, one of the Dogs of Half Moon Lake”
Photo by Dave Balestri



“Who’s Watching Hoo”
Photo by Stan Murzn

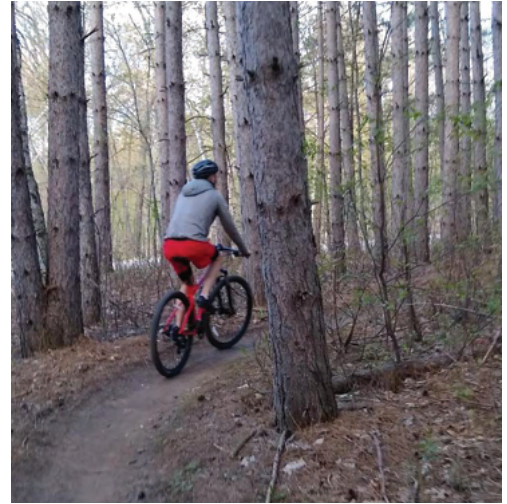


“Boot Hockey Battle”
Photo by Dave Balestri

Venturing Out...

For many of us, last year's work-from-home edict became a work-from-cabin opportunity. That meant spending much more time at the lake than we have in prior years. I can't speak for all of us "seasonal" occupants, but in normal years I would want to spend all my time at the cabin in, on, or around the water. All of this extra time at the cabin meant a chance to explore the area beyond the lake a bit. I've spoken to several family members and neighbors (the distinction is beginning to blur a bit, it seems).

Here are some of the places they've tried and recommend if you care to venture out a bit:



Ryan Hunwardsen rides the Woolly Bike Trails,
Photo by Dave Balestri

RESTAURANTS AND BARS:

- **CAFÉ WREN** on the edge of Luck (Jill Balestri): healthy sandwiches, soups, and salads with a beautiful outdoor seating space and flower gardens
- **FARM TABLE** in Amery (Annmarie Bryan): locally sourced ingredients and excellent food
- **AMERY ALE WORKS** (Roger Hunwardsen): craft beers, including "Barn Brew" which is brewed in-house
- **WATERSHED CAFÉ** in Osceola (Dave Balestri): lots of healthy choices, fresh ingredients, great view from creekside deck
- **THE PACKER BAR** behind the bowling alley in Osceola (Sarah Balestri): outdoor seating with big-screen tv's showing Packer games and local high-school football games. Décor includes a big scoreboard and a couple of goalposts. Fun even if you're not a full-fledged Packer fan

PARKS AND NATURE:

- **STRAIGHT LAKE STATE PARK** near Luck (Ryan Hunwardsen): one of Wisconsin's newest and least-known state parks is right in our backyard. Three lakes (one is stocked with Rainbow Trout!) and lots of hiking trails over varying terrain.
- **DD KENNEDY COUNTY PARK** just south of Balsam Lake on the other side of Highway 8 (Dave Balestri): about a mile or so of paved walking trails that go around a small scenic lake and through a meadow. Very nicely maintained picnic area. Excellent bird-watching. Right across the road from the Balsam Branch ski and snowshoe trails.
- **CREX MEADOWS STATE WILDLIFE AREA** near Grantsburg (David Bryan): 30,000 acres of restored wetland/brush prairie. Home to over 280 species of birds, 720 species of plants, and 96 species of butterflies. Self-direct driving tours and walking areas.
- **THE APPLE RIVER** (Dave Balestri): drop your kayak in one of the entry points 10 minutes from Half Moon Lake and kayak for an hour or two down the river. Takeout at the intersection of Hwy 8 and County Road H near the Apple River Country Inn. A variety of scenery, occasional rapids, and good fishing!



Sam's Christmas Village and Light Show
Photo courtesy Brian Balestri

EXCURSIONS AND DESTINATIONS:

11

- **ACME JUNK COMPANY** (Trent Hunwardsen): the name says it all. Lots of junk and a lot of good finds!
- **SAM'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE AND LIGHT SHOW** on the Apple River near Somerset (Lori Balestri): It's woody, it's magical and it's fun for all ages. The Village features over 6 million Christmas lights and a European style Christmas market.
- **FRANCONIA SCULPTURE GARDEN** near Taylor's Falls (Greg Kolbjornsen): If you're coming from Minnesota, you see it on the way to HML. Definitely worth a stop sometime.
- **WOOLLY BIKE TRAILS IN ST. CROIX FALLS** (Ryan Hunwardsen): A variety of paved and unpaved mountain bike trails through meadows and woods, with varying degrees of difficulty. Great scenery and access to the Ice Age Trail.



INDIANHEAD SUPPER CLUB

Specializing in steaks, seafood and pasta.

715-485-3359

107 Indianhead Shores
Balsam Lake, WI 54810



HALF MOON LAKE RESORT

Seasonal, housekeeping cabins

INDOOR STORAGE AVAILABLE!

Boats – Pontoons - Cars

715.825.3737

halfmoonresort.weebly.com

1261 County Rd. G
Milltown, WI 54858

In Memory



Sandy Smith

Sandra (Sandy) Mary Wieland Smith, 68, of Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, passed away quietly in her home on April 19, 2021

Sandy was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, on April 13, 1953 to Wes and Louise Wieland. The second of six siblings, she was an avid country girl, helping out around the dairy farm and showing cattle in 4H. She loved attending Green Bay Packers games with her father as a young girl, and would later continue this tradition with her sisters and family. Sandy attended Brother Dutton Catholic grade school and graduated from Beloit Catholic High School in 1971.

In her adult life, Sandy attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where she received a degree in Health Education. She met Jim Smith during the summer of 1977 and they were married on October 7, 1978. They enjoyed all 43 years of their marriage on Half Moon Lake. Their sons Matt and Rick were born in 1980 and 1982, respectively. Following 8 years of her self-described favorite job as a stay-at-home mom, Sandy worked as a teacher for Turtle Lake School District for 28 years.

Sandy cherished being a mother. She and Jim supported the boys in their many extracurricular activities, but most of all enjoyed teaching them to have fun on the lake. They also took many cross-country trips in their conversion van, visiting locations such as Florida, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Park. When her sons later married, she lovingly welcomed their wives into the family, insisting they were the daughters she never had.

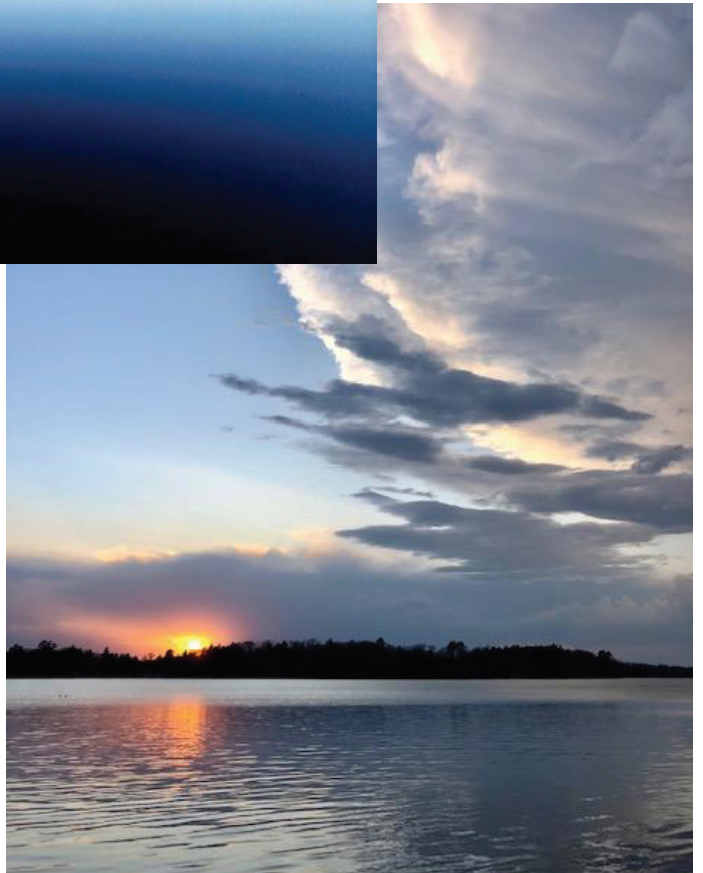
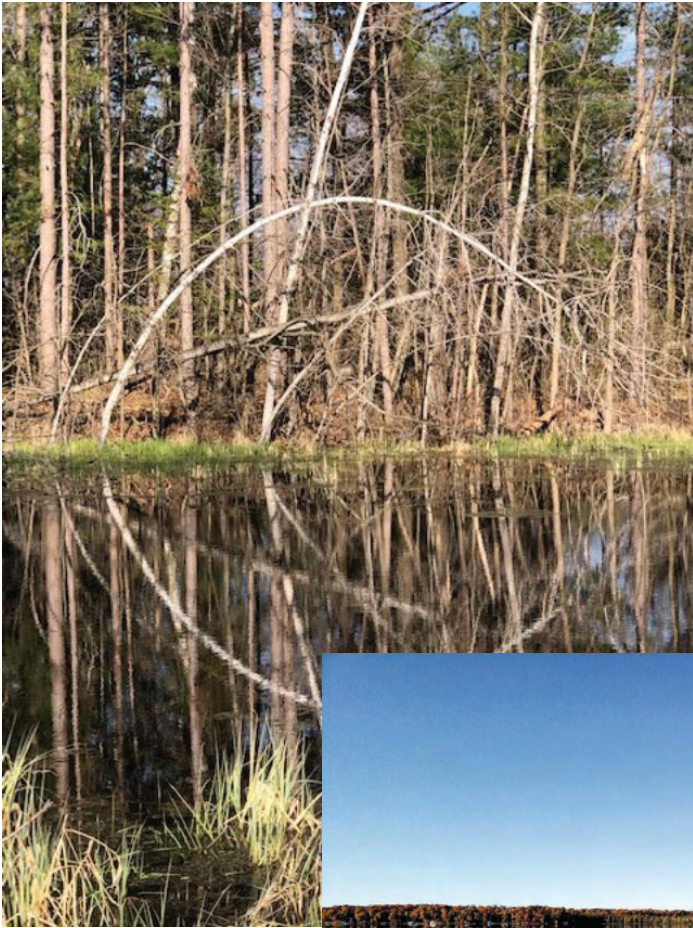
What love she had for her sons was magnified when Sandy became a grandma. She lived for and doted on her four beloved grandchildren, making sure she never went more than a few weeks without seeing them and always being sure to spread her time and love between them.

Described as an "angel" by her siblings and "the nicest person I knew" by many others, Sandy was compassionate, forgiving, quick-witted, adventurous, easy-going, classy, and endlessly patient and helpful. She most enjoyed spending time with her friends and family, including frequent trips to visit her sisters, walks and lunch with local friends, and agreeing to drive the Mastercraft for anyone who wanted to get behind it. Her nieces and nephews looked forward to Aunt Sandy's summer camp every year as children. She was a lover of gardening, good food, yoga, and Packer and Badger football.

Sandy is survived by her husband Jim, sons Matt (Katie) and Rick (Krystle), four grandchildren (Wes, Annie, Genevieve and Caroline), father Wes, five siblings: Cindy (Mike), Sue, Kim, Jacque (Bill), and Mark (Kyra), many nieces and nephews, and countless other family and friends.

Sandy is preceded in death by her mother, Louise, and her brother-in-law, Rod.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Milltown Public Library, a location Sandy frequented with her grandchildren; online donations are available on their webpage at <https://www.milltownpubliclibrary.org>.



Photos by Ellen Butler, Brian Balestri, and Dave Balestri

Bud Ericksen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held at the Half Moon Lake public beach.
Board members present: Bud Ericksen, Mike Dau, Ellen Butler, Doug Ebling Jim Benike, Bob Cutshall

1. **Approval of the meeting agenda**
 1. Mike McMahon made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as drafted
 2. Doug Ebling seconded the motion
 3. The motion carried unanimously
2. **Approval of the meeting minutes from the August 31, 2019 annual meeting**
 1. John Weber made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as published
 2. Jim Benike seconded the motion
 3. The motion passed unanimously
3. **Guest speaker - (Mike Dau)**
 1. Mike gave an update on the repair of damaged culverts being performed by the county. He also stated that the township's claim with F.E.M.A. has been submitted and is expected to be paid by November. Mike also indicated that the township had to borrow about \$100,000 to perform clean up work.
 2. Steve Minn asked Mike about the charges relating to the fire prevention fee. Mike stated that a mistake had been made and approximately \$27,000 would be refunded to property owners who were overcharged.
4. **Election of new board member**
 1. Ellen Butler's term is up this year
 2. Mike McMahon nominated Ellen for an additional three year term.
 3. Reese Brackins seconded the motion
 4. There were no other nominations and Ellen was elected unanimously
5. **Audit report**
 1. Mike McMahon and Reese Brackins have reviewed the district's financial operations for the past year and have found everything to be in order.
6. **Finance report - (Ellen Butler)**
 1. Our budget for this year is the same as it was for last year (no tax increase)
 2. Steve Minn made a motion to approve the budget as submitted
 3. John Meisner seconded the motion
 4. The motion passed unanimously
7. **Boat landing - (Bob Cutshall)**
 1. The boat ramp is jointly owned by Milltown Township ("Township") and the Village of Milltown ("Village").
 2. The boat ramp is in need of repair. It has been damaged by ice movement in the winter and power loading of boats in the summer.
 3. Making minor repairs to the ramp doesn't appear to be a good solution as they will probably be only temporary in nature.
 4. There are two options that have been evaluated for replacing the ramp
 1. Option #1 - Remove the existing ramp and replace it with a combination of poured in place concrete and precast concrete. This method is commonly used in Minnesota.
 2. Option #2 - Remove the existing ramp and replace it with a ramp that is 100% poured in place concrete. This is the method commonly used in Wisconsin.
5. **Funding sources**
 1. The Wisconsin DNR traditionally has funded up to 75% of the cost through one of their grant programs. We intend to apply for one of these grants. The grant must be submitted no later than June 1, 2021. Decisions on which grants are made occur later in the summer. In order to receive a DNR grant, we must provide an A.D.A. compliant boat dock so that people with a disability can board boats at the landing. The approximate cost of such a dock is about \$7,000.
 2. Traditionally, it is our understanding that, after the DNR grant has been received, the remaining costs have been split equally among the Township, the Village and the lake district.
 3. Estimated total costs of new boat ramps and the ADA dock (before the DNR grant)
 1. Option #1 - \$87,000
 2. Option #2 - \$123,000
 4. Estimated costs to the district assuming a 50% DNR grant and a three way split with the Township and Village
 1. Option #1 - \$14,500
 2. Option #2 - \$20,500
 3. The assumption of a 50% DNR grant is being made because of the current economic conditions and the negative impact they will probably have on state government finances.
 4. All costs associated with the boat ramp would be paid out of reserves that the district has (no tax increase)

5. **Reese Brackins made the following motion:**
 1. "The board shall be authorized to continue working with the Wisconsin DNR, the Village and the Township to design and fund the construction of a replacement boat ramp. The board shall further be authorized to enter into agreements to pay for the new ramp subject to the following conditions:
 1. The district's contribution shall not exceed one third of the net cost of the ramp and dock (after the receiving of the DNR grant).
 2. In no event shall the district be authorized to spend in excess of \$25,000 for the construction of the new ramp and dock."
 3. John Weber seconded the motion.
 4. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Invasive species and loon reports - (Jim Benike)**
 1. We continue to deal with the yellow iris problem but have been delayed somewhat because of the Covid-19 situation.
 2. There are two loon families on the lake; one with two babies on the north end and one with two babies on the south end.
7. **Fishing - (Doug Ebling)**
 1. Doug Ebling gave the fishing report
8. **4th of July celebration - (Ellen Butler)**
 1. The events went well this year. Ellen asked for volunteers to help with next summer's celebration. Please contact Ellen if you have any interest in this.
9. **Newsletter - (Ellen Butler)**
 1. Kim Butler will be retiring as the editor of the newsletter after the November newsletter is published. Anyone interested in taking over this responsibility should contact Kim.
10. **Clean boats clean waters - (Dan Leh)**
 1. The boat landing attendants have been working at the landing every day since June 1. Their typical hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 2. There are typically 35 to 38 boats going into the lake each day
11. **Half Moon Lake website - (Joe Lonski)**
 1. The district's website is www.halfmoonlake.net.
 2. Please email Joe any information or articles that you would like posted on the website
12. **CD3 boat cleaning station - (Doug Ebling)**
 1. Doug has been investigating the installation of a boat cleaning station at the landing.
 2. Mark Apfelbacher from CD3 Systems made a brief presentation of his system and answered questions about it. The CD3 system would cost about \$32,000.
 3. DNR grants are available to assist in the purchase of this type of equipment. These grants will typically pay for about 35% of the cost.
 4. Several people at the meeting would like the board to approach the Village and the Township about sharing in the cost of this equipment.
 5. If the district does move ahead and purchase this type of equipment, all costs associated with the purchase would be paid out of reserves that the district has (no tax increase).
 6. John Weber made a motion to reauthorize the motion we approved at last year's annual meeting that read substantially as follows: "The board shall be authorized to spend up to \$5,000 for a consultant to help us evaluate boat cleaning equipment and up to \$25,000 to purchase or lease the equipment." Judy Proell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **A motion to adjourn** the meeting was made by Mike McMahon at 11:50 a.m. Dan Leh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,
Bob Cutshall
Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, July 17th at 10:00 am
at the Public Beach



The Loon Report

Once again Half Moon Lake is the home to two territorial pairs of loons. Normally, loons arrive soon after the ice is out, but although ice out this year was March 27th, the loons didn't arrive until around the 6th of May. This late arrival was noted throughout the state and was due to fluctuations in our weather. The pair on the south end of the lake went to nest on the 12th of May. Loon parents take turns incubating the eggs and the incubation period usually takes 26-28 days. Two chicks hatched between the 6th and 7th of June. Immediately after birth, the chicks are swimming with their parents and occasionally riding on their parent's backs for warmth and protection against predators such as snapping turtles, eagles and ospreys. The pair on the north end of the lake were on their nest by the 21st of May. Under normal circumstances, these chicks should hatch early the week of June 14th.

Prior to their nesting, we witnessed an interesting phenomena with this latter pair. We had seen a "floater", a loon searching for a lake and a mate, on the lake for about a week. One day while we were kayaking, the intruder and the territorial pair met and a territorial fight ensued directly in front of us. At first, they performed what's called a "circle dance". This behavior occurs when rival loons slowly swim in circles around one another in an attempt to assess the other's fitness. Occasionally, they dive under the water in an attempt to stab each other from below with their sharp beaks. These acts normally don't involve physical contact, but that day it did escalate as the two male loons reared up in the water with their wings spread out yodeling loudly and diving and thrusting with their beaks. This behavior we later learned is termed the "penguin dance". This behavior continued for five to ten minutes when finally the floater took off "wing

rowing" across the lake. It used its wings as paddles to propel itself through the water quite rapidly to escape the situation. We felt quite fortunate to have had the opportunity to witness these events.

Because it will take several weeks before the young chicks can successfully dive to avoid danger, they will be very vulnerable to boating activity on the lake especially over the upcoming 4th of July weekend. Personal water craft, wake setters, and ski boats need to take special care in watching for our loons and adhering to the 200' rule. Last year, all four chicks survived predators and humans; let's try and make it two successful years in a row.

By Pat Mechelke



Credit Pat Mechelke

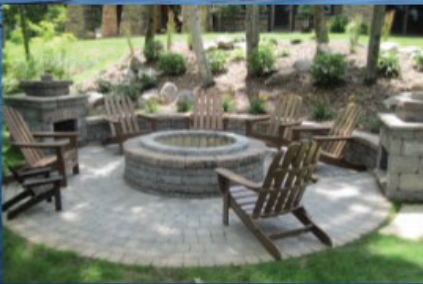


916 Badger Drive * Balsam Lake, WI 54810

715-485-3131



Installing and Maintaining Sustainable Landscapes



Landscape Services

- Boathouses
- Firepits & Patios
- Landscape Lighting
- Master Plan Design
- Outdoor Structures
- Rain Gardens
- Retaining Walls & Steps
- Shoreline Restoration
- Water Features
- Turf Installation



Property Management

- Irrigation
- Enhancement Crew
- Lawncare Services
- Mowing
- Fall / Spring Cleanup
- Winter Services



Retail

- Landscape Materials
- Garden Center
- Floral Arrangements
- Wood-Fired Brick Oven

www.balsamlakeprolawn.com





ST. CROIX
REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER

We help people live healthier,
happier, and longer lives.

ONE OF THE AREA'S LARGEST MEDICAL CENTERS:

Over 80 Providers • 20 Specialties • Family Medicine
Orthopedic Surgeons and Specialists

24/7 Emergency Medicine • The Kinisi Institute for Movement
CroixCares Virtual Health Platform

5 AREA CLINICS: Featuring Family Medicine

Dental Clinic • Mental Health Services • Walk-in Clinic
Full-service Pharmacies

To schedule an appointment call **715.483.3221**
or **800.828.3627**

Frederic • Unity/Balsam Lake • Webster
Lindstrom • St. Croix Falls

scrmc.org

SCRMC Is Here for You



ONE OF THE AREA'S LARGEST MEDICAL CENTERS:

Over 80 Providers • 20 Specialties • Family Medicine • Orthopedic Surgeons and Specialists
24/7 Emergency Medicine • CroixCares Virtual Health Platform • The Kinisi Institute for Movement

5 AREA CLINICS:

Featuring Family Medicine • Dental Clinic • Mental Health Services
Walk-in Clinic • Full-service Pharmacies

We help people live healthier, happier, and longer lives.



235 State Street, St. Croix Falls, WI | [scrmc.org](https://www.scrmc.org)

To schedule an appointment call, **715.483.3221** or **800.828.3627**

Frederic • Lindstrom • St. Croix Falls • Unity/Balsam Lake • Webster

2021 Upcoming Events on Half Moon Lake

4TH OF JULY EVENTS AND TIMES

Saturday, July 3rd 10:00 a.m T-SHIRT TIE DYE AT PUBLIC BEACH
Public Beach - tee shirt tie dye - please bring your own cotton t-shirts or caps. One item per person. No towels please.

Sunday, July 4th Happy 245th Birthday to our beloved USA!

2:00 p.m. BOAT PARADE
Decorated boat parade around the lake. Meet in south end to begin.

Dusk FIREWORKS - Public Beach
Watch from the beach, your boat or dock. Sponsored by our Loon Lines advertisers. Thank you all!

NO MOVIE
Milltown library sold their projector.

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting:
Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m. at the public beach. Free bag lunch at noon for you and your families. Yoder's ice cream will also be served!

Who Can Vote at the HML P&R District Annual Meeting

PER THE WISCONSIN LAKES ASSOCIATION:

Any property that is held in a trust, corporation, foundation, or association is entitled to one vote, even if the trust is listed in two names, i.e., The John and Mary Smith Trust. An exception to this is if you are a qualified voter in the Half Moon Lake District, such as legal resident of the district. The owners of a property, whose names appear in the tax roll, are qualified

to vote. This would include spouses. A sibling could be qualified, but must bring documentation to the meeting proving proof of ownership. John Weber suggests that you contact a board member before the annual meeting to arrange documentation. If you own more than one piece of property, you are only entitled to one vote. If you rent or lease, you must bring proof of eligibility to the registration. There are no absentee ballots or proxies. Please arrive early for registration.

The Deceptive Beauty of the Yellow Iris

By Susan Grothe

Two years ago I snapped a picture of a pretty yellow flower growing on our shoreline. It was similar to an iris, but about half the size of the bearded iris growing in my flower bed. I thought the striking yellow color was beautiful against the wild, green shoreline. I had no idea that I had just stumbled across a true invasive species.

A year later, I heard a comment made during a Half Moon lakeshore property owners meeting. The discussion centered around protecting our pristine lake from invasive species—the Yellow Iris being one of the culprits to look for. I didn't make the connection right away until I saw the Yellow Iris once again—but there was only one flower that bloomed early and the plant was quickly lost in the natural shoreline.

This year I looked again for that distinctive yellow flower. I easily found it the second week of June; the bright yellow was noticeable in several more spots along the shoreline. I tried to cut out the small clumps of iris, which was no easy task given the tenacity of the root system.

I made a quick call to Polk County Water Quality department to report the invasive plant. Two days later a boat was nosing its way very closely down the shoreline. As they drifted to our dock, I learned the occupants were hired by the Half Moon Lakeshore Association: these two guys were professional "hunters", scouting to identify areas of the lake where the Yellow Iris could be found. They could report the appearance of the plant using GPS, but not actually remove or treat any findings until the following year. I had seen the quick spread from one clump on our shoreline to now five clumps, so I asked for their input on what I could do this year.

I got a quick field identification lesson from the pro's about the Yellow Iris, as there just happened to be a non-invasive Blue iris right next to its undesirable yellow cousin on our shoreline. Once the distinctive yellow blooms are gone, the two species look remarkably alike. Using touch as your guide, the Yellow Iris leaves have a very distinct single "spine" running right down the center whereas the Blue iris feels like there are multiple spines more broadly on the leaf. They explained that after the flower blooms a seed pod is left that will eventually dry out, drop into the lake and find its way somewhere else down the shoreline.

If left to spread on its own, it could quickly gain footing on our shoreline. Once it takes hold, it can be hard to get rid of! Cutting off and disposing of the pods can help limit the spread. Digging the plants out is another option to eliminate it.

My investigation resulted in a better understanding of this deceptively pretty invader and how to limit its spread. I hope this will help others to understand the threat it poses, how to identify the Yellow Iris and the importance of trying to limit its spread on Halfmoon Lake.





Nichole Reed

Realtor



715-554-2594
NicholeReed@EdinaRealty.com



2021 TOP 3%
OF EDINA REALTY AGENTS

*Visit Nichole at her office
at Sunnyside Marina!*

#1 Lakeshore Agent in the Area

WWW.NICHOLEREEDLAKES.COM



Protecting our Wildlife

FISHING STOCKING (DOUG EBELING):

2020 was a non-stocking year. One thousand walleye fingerlings (5-7 inches) will be stocked this fall.

CONSERVANCY (BOB CUTSHALL):

The Conservancy Board met on June 12th to identify properties adjacent to or near the lake that we feel need to be protected. The Board members will prioritize the list and begin to develop strategies to gain some measure of influence over these properties. That may or may not be possible because they are all owned by private owners. We will work with any property owners that are interesting in protecting the Half Moon Lake watershed and district.

BATS (DAVE BALESTRI):

For about 17 years, we've been contributing data to the Wisconsin Bat Program, a division within the Wisconsin Department of Resources. As I reported years ago in the Loon Lines, little brown bats consume large amounts of insects every night, including moths and mosquitos. By some estimates, little brown bats may eat as many as 400 mosquitos per night each. Over the years, I have built and installed three different bat houses on our property. I built the first one in 2002 and mounted it directly on our cabin. I built the second one on a post when we tore down our original cabin and built our new one in 2014. The bats didn't miss a beat – they occupied their new house the very next summer. The second bat house got blown down in the storm of 2019, just days after I had counted 136 bats emerging from the roost. Those bats included pups that had just learned to fly. I got a new bat house up as quickly as I could, but the bats didn't come back that summer. In the spring of 2020, I was happy to see some bats return. I had counted about 25 before Memorial Day, but they disappeared shortly thereafter. About 22 of them returned in late July.

I have often wondered about the effect that the annual fireworks have on the bats, and thought that maybe some loud fireworks that were set off nearby on Memorial Day weekend had scared them off. However, a similar situation appears to have happened this spring. I had counted 14 bats in our bat house in early May. Usually, there would be about 50 of them by the first weekend in June, when the DNR conducts its annual statewide "pre-volency" count, but this year – again – they appear to have abandoned their roost. I have no idea why. I'll keep an eye out to see if they return again later this summer.

BEES (DAVE BALESTRI):

This spring Ryan Hunwardsen installed two bee hives on a remote corner of Ellen Butler's farm. This is a new hobby for Ryan. Getting started involved doing a lot of research, assembling the hives, purchasing the "starter bees" (including two queens) from a place up near Brainerd, transporting the bees to the hive, and installing an anti-bear fence. Ryan checks on the bees regularly; they are already producing larvae and honey. Very tasty honey, that is.



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT 2022 ANNUAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

Jan 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Revenues:

Tax Levy	32,803 (same as last year)
Lottery Credit	450
Interest	50
Total Revenues	33,303

Cost of Operations:

Administration	620
Info and Education	9,000 (biannual newsletter, annual meeting)
Lake Management	13,000 (Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) beach monitoring and ILIDS camera)

Capital Fund 10,000 (saving for Aquatic Invasive Species treatments, if needed)

Total Expenditures 32,620

2022 Operating Budget Tax Levy 32,803

Current Total Capital Fund- For AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) treatment 133,500

Cell: 715-491-0489

Art Anderson Realty

Bruce Muller
Broker/Owner Licensed In WI & MN

Honesty • Integrity

bmuller@artandersonrealty.com | 810 Hwy 35, P. O. Box 176
Web Site: artandersonrealty.com | Luck, WI 54853

FULL SERVICE MARINA CENTER

ON-SITE PARTS SALES • 44 YEARS IN BUSINESS

PONTOONS

Starting at \$19,999.00



CENTURION SS210

MSRP \$87,373.00 NOW \$69,300



30 FT. DOCKS

Starting at \$2,799.00



NEED NEW SANDALS OR A WAKE BOARD?

COME CHECK OUT OUR SHOWROOM FOR GREAT SELECTIONS ON
LIFE JACKETS • SURF & WAKE BOARDS • ROPES • SUP BOARDS

6,000 FT. SHOWROOM



MAUI MATS



REEF SANDALS



CHECK OUT OUR DISPLAY OF YETI COOLERS!



FULLY STOCKED MARINE STORE WITH ON-WATER GAS

SLUSHIES • ICE CREAM • PIZZA • POP • BEER • FISHING TACKLE



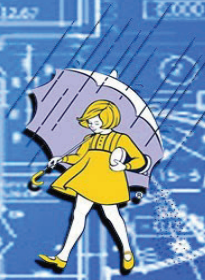
252 COUNTY ROAD I, BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810 | 715-485-3393



WWW.SUNNYSIDEMARINA.NET



The Power of Water Softening



MORTON SALT



Balsam Lake Hardware & Rental

715-485-3267 907 Frontage Rd

Mon-Fri 7am-6pm; Sat 8am-5pm; Sun 9am-2pm

Visit our Website www.balsamlakehardware.com

Facebook: Balsam Lake Hardware & Rental

\$2 OFF

with the purchase of any beverage

ANY SANDWICH OR ENTREE

LOGGER'S BAR & GRILL

Kids eat free everyday and breakfast served 7 days a week with 1/2 price breakfast menu Mon - Friday.

Disclaimer, no cash value and not valid with other offers.

715-483-2504

Top of the hill Hwy. 8, across from WalMart, behind BP Amoco, St. Croix Falls

DID YOU MISS OUT ON A 2021 SEA-DOO?



**DON'T MISS OUT
YET AGAIN!**

**NOW
TAKING
DEPOSITS!**



PRE-ORDER YOUR 2022 SEA-DOO NOW!

SELLIN' FUN FOR
50 YEARS
TOUSLEY
motorsports

1400 EAST COUNTY ROAD E
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110
(800) TOUSLEY // (651) 483-8296
www.tousleymotorsports.com


SEA-DOO®

B.E.S.T. Extended Service Terms ©2019 Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP). All rights reserved. ®, ™ and the BRP logo are trademarks of BRP or its affiliates. In the U.S.A., products are distributed by BRP US Inc. Offers valid in U.S.A. only from October 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. The terms and conditions may vary depending on your state and these offers are subject to termination or change at any time without notice. Offer may not be assigned, traded, sold or combined with any other offer unless expressly stated herein. Other conditions may apply. Void where prohibited by law. †Get 3-YEAR COVERAGE on select 2020 models. Eligible units are select new and unused 2020 Sea-Doo watercraft models. The buyer of an eligible model will receive a 12-month BRP Limited Warranty plus an up to 24-month B.E.S.T. Coverage. Florida residents receive 36 months BRP Limited Warranty. Subject to the exclusions, limitations of liabilities and all other terms and conditions of BRP's standard limited warranty contract, including without limitation the exclusions of damages caused by abuse, abnormal use or neglect. B.E.S.T. service contract is subject to a \$50 deductible on each repair. For complete details, please see the BRP limited warranty and the B.E.S.T. contract at an authorized BRP dealer. ††Rebate of up to \$750 on select 2019 models. Eligible units are select new and unused 2019 Sea-Doo models. Rebate amount depends on the model purchased. While quantities last. †Starting at \$5,499: 2020 Sea-Doo SPARK® models start at \$5,499. This Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) excludes taxes, delivery and registration fees. The price paid may vary depending on available rebates and promotions, as well as other fees and credit qualifications, if requested by the consumer. Some models depicted may include optional equipment. Carefully read the operator's guide and safety instructions. Observe applicable laws and regulations. Always wear appropriate protective clothing, including a personal flotation device and wetsuit bottoms. Riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix. See your authorized BRP dealer for details and visit sea-doo.com.



Want to
save energy
and money
at your
lake home?

Download Free SmartHub App

Track your electricity use 
Pay your electric bill
View & report power outages

polkburnett.com
800-421-0283



PLUS, SIGN UP FOR OUTAGE TEXTS TO KNOW
IF THE POWER GOES OUT AT YOUR LAKE HOME.



FARM TABLE
FOUNDATION

Our parking lot is behind our restaurant & we've an entrance on the south side of our building, off of our patio. **THANK YOU** for supporting us during road construction!



Present this coupon for this offer:
**BUY ONE DRINK
GET ONE FOR \$1**

This coupon is valid for our drinks on tap: wine, beer, rootbeer, & kombucha.

 Dine-in only. No cash value.
Expires 9/1/21. Not valid during Happy Hour.

Join us: DINE-IN; enjoy our patio; order takeout; cocktails to go; or take + bake meals for home; shop for provisions in our market!



Catch one of our classes: from cooking, gardening, & foraging, to conservation, mindfulness, & more!

FARM TABLE FOUNDATION
110 Keller Ave. N., Amery, WI
715.268.4500 • farmtablefoundation.org



PAPERWORX
PRINTING & DESIGN —



715.268.5800 | paperworx@amerytel.net | paperworx.net





Business Advertisers

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Bruce Muller - Art Anderson Realty . .	23
Balsam Lake Hardware & Rental . . .	25
Farm Table	27
Half Moon Lake Resort	11
Indianhead Supper Club	11
Interfaith Caregivers	28
Loggers Bar & Grill	25
Luck Golf Course	27
Nichole Reed Edina Realty	21
PaperWorx	27
Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative . . .	27
Pro-Lawn	17
St Croix Regional Medical Center . . .	18
Sunnyside Marina	24
Tousley Motor Sports	26
Unity Clinic	19

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

On behalf of all Half Moon Lake Residents,
thank you for your generous advertising support
for our 4th of July celebration.

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION AND
REHABILITATION BOARD AND
4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE

PLEASE LET THESE BUSINESSES
KNOW YOU SAW THEIR AD IN OUR
NEWSLETTER!

Advertise...

and support the lake fireworks fund!



"Summer Day" Photo by Lisa Goolsby



P.O. Box 118 • Balsam Lake, WI 54810



Got an Hour? Volunteer!

Call Interfaith Caregivers

715-483-8500



Choose:

- Local rides
- Visits and phone calls
- Rides for dialysis/cancer
- Respite for caregivers
- Shopping and errands
- Light housekeeping
- Minor home repairs
- Reading and Mail
- Seasonal yard work

Provide volunteer services for seniors and disabled adults