

WINTER/SPRING - 2019-2020

# Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



## *Patiently Waiting for Spring*

Photo by Ellen Butler

### WHAT'S INSIDE

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR .....	2
LOON REPORT .....	5
REPLANTING LOST TREES .....	7
2019 STORM RECAP .....	8

2

# Letter from the Chair

by BUD ERICKSEN

Hello Everyone,

In spite of our crazy world and the every day changes to our daily activities, the snow and ice will eventually melt, and we can start to return to Half Moon. Who knows with the approaching onslaught of Coronavirus, our cabins may be the safest place to hide as a family.

As this is my first "Loon Lines" column as Chairman of the Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District, my first order of business is to thank our two board members who left the board at the conclusion of last summer's annual meeting. They are John Weber and John Briegel. They both just completed three year terms on the board. John Briegel served as the Director of the Fishing Committee and John Weber was our Chairman. Both served with energy and enthusiasm to maintain Half Moon Lake as one of Wisconsin's best recreational areas. We owe them a sincere Thank You for their efforts

Returning to HML, this year carries a lot of unfinished business from last fall regarding damage caused by the tornado of July 19th. We have repairs to complete, painting to touch up hit areas, and landscaping to get our yards back in shape. The storm was felt at almost every home, and we all have our insurance carrier on speed dial. Another special thank you goes out to Mike Dau, as Milltown's Town Chair, he led the township in cleaning up the tree debris along the 120th and 124th Streets, Oscar Lane and Breezy Bay Road. The debris on 124th Street was so deep, the Town called out a snow plow to push aside tree limbs and branches to allow ambulance passage to get medical help to the homeowners at the end of 124th St.

We have two major topics that we as a Board will address in 2020. The first is to support the Town of Milltown in repairing the boat landing at the public beach area. The landing is owned by the town of Milltown and it is in need of repair. We will apply to the DNR for permits and grants to facilitate the repairs, and prepare alternate designs for pricing. The second major topic is to determine specific equipment and to evaluate options to purchase or lease a decontamination station at the main Boat Landing. The station would be able to decontaminate live wells and ballast tanks, and the exteriors of boats entering and exiting the lake. Remember, last year we average 40 boats per day entering and leaving Half Moon Lake. At the conclusion of the annual meeting last fall, the Board elected the following positions:

Chairperson: Bud Ericksen  
Treasurer: Ellen Butler  
Secretary: Bob Cutshall

We also welcome to new board members Jim Benike and Doug Ebeling

Our 2020 Annual Meeting will be July 18 at 10 a.m. at the Half Moon Lake Public Beach. I hope to see us all there.

Sincerely,

Bud Ericksen  
Chairman



## 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  
jimb@benike.com

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

Kim Butler, Newsletter Editor  
Home: 715-825-3926  
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

Photo above: from left to right: Bud Ericksen, Doug Ebeling, Bob Cutshall, Jim Benike , Ellen Butler

# ANNUAL "Slow Man" CONTEST

Jim Benike writes, "We almost forgot the annual "Slow Man" contest because of storm damage, but several young people reminded me.

We needed a bit of whimsy as we closed out the summer."

The winner was the S'More Man. Complete with a camp fire, all the fixings, lantern, and mosquito spray, he was ready for a tasty night on the lake. The winning team was : Makenzie and Thijs Turnquist; and Kamrin and Kiki Horejsi!! Other Slow Men entries were dressed in capes, as farmers, and birthday celebrants



**THE  
"WINNER"**






**POLK BURNETT  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**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.**

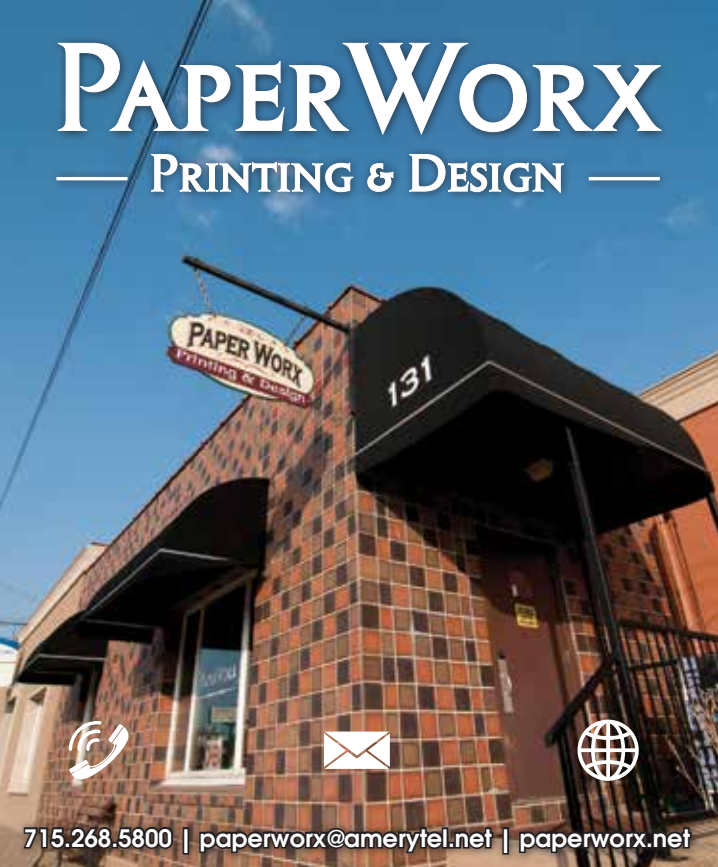





**BREEZY BAY MOTOR SPORTS LLC**  
1950 - 100th ST/CO RD I  
Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810



**715-857-2267**  
[www.breezybaymotorsports.com](http://www.breezybaymotorsports.com)

**PAPERWORX**  
— PRINTING & DESIGN —



715.268.5800 | [paperworx@amerytel.net](mailto:paperworx@amerytel.net) | [paperworx.net](http://paperworx.net)

[www.luckgolfcourse.com](http://www.luckgolfcourse.com)



**JOIN US FOR  
TACO TUESDAYS  
11 AM - 8 PM**

Hello Half Moon Neighbors,

Apologies that this issue is a bit late. I hope it serves as a needed distraction as we yearn for warm summer days at the lake. I am holed up at home as I write this, hoping that our National Emergency will pass by the time it warms up. The birds are coming back, and our feeder is like a busy airport. Robins are in the backyard, trumpeter swans are in the air. The loons, with their uncanny sense of ice-out, can't be far behind. The days are longer, and the sun is strong, and March 18 this year was our Vernal Equinox. One thing I've noticed around Polk County is the number of trees we lost in last summer's storms is very evident right now. Clean up continues, and will continue for quite some time.

In this issue we feature a look back at the 2019 storm, so if the memories are still too fresh, we suggest you avoid the center spread. But for many of us, we want a document of the destruction and a record we can show others. That is the purpose of this storm article. We know that many families lost so much - boats, sheds, windows, roofs, docks, automobiles, and more. But always remember that we saw a wonderful spirit of neighborliness and cooperation, from returning lost property, sharing food or candles, to helping with storm cleanup. The Town of Milltown, led by Town Chair Mike Dau did awesome work, as did the workers and volunteers for our Polk Burnett Electric Co-op and local law enforcement and county government. Polk County received help from the National Guard, and even merited a visit from WI Governor Evers, to assess the tornado that struck the next week on County Road I. Monies from the Federal Emergency Management System helped the government and the power company deal with clean up costs. Unity School was nice enough to open as a day shelter for food, showers, and electricity. Volunteers from around the country helped with clean up - my kids former gym teacher was on a volunteer crew next door

I personally was lucky - my cabin is on Breezy Bay Road, and we lost a 100 year old tree in our back yard that just grazed our house, and a neighbor's 100 year old evergreen just missed our dock and our boats. I was hunkered down in my basement, looking out at the green tinged sky. But we had lots of clean up and tree damage in our wooded areas. We later opted to remove any trees that looked like they might fall on our house in future storms. In the past, I hated to remove any grown tree, and I'd previously resisted when my husband brought it up in the past. But even though our damage was minimal, others in our family had much more, and we saw the destruction experienced by the east side of the lake, which bore the brunt of the storm. We could see the damage on Oscar Lane and 124th from across the lake. One of my kids never realized there were so many houses because they were previously hidden by trees. Like everyone, I know I was pretty nervous all summer long whenever it started raining.

If you need to replant trees, we have an article about that, as well as issues facing the Polk County Board that could affect lake residents. We'll see you this summer - please feel free to offer articles, tips and news suggestions. Plus, we always want your photos. Deadline for our next issue is June 15, 2020.

See you this Summer

*Kim Butler*  
Editor

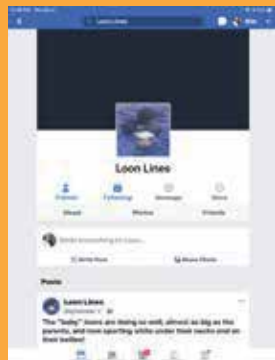


## Editor's Column

**On the Web**  
[www.halfmoonlake.net](http://www.halfmoonlake.net)



**On Facebook**  
search for then "Friend"  
Loon Lines



**Email** [halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com](mailto:halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com)  
Send address changes to: [jjweber2002@gmail.com](mailto:jjweber2002@gmail.com)

**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!

**Nextdoor App & Website** Go to [www.nextdoor.com](http://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.

4

The Half Moon Lake Annual Meeting had to be postponed till Labor Day Weekend, but we still got to enjoy delicious A&W Rootbeer, courtesy of the Walkers.



# FIND US ON THE WEB

For updates, pictures, and other great information, don't forget to visit our website at

[www.halfmoonlake.net](http://www.halfmoonlake.net)



## INDIANHEAD SUPPER CLUB

*Specializing in steaks, seafood and pasta.*

715-485-3359

107 Indianhead Shores  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810



**FIBER  
CONNECTIVITY  
IS HERE! WHAT  
SPEED DO YOU  
NEED?**

**It's Time to Experience the  
Whole Solution!**

Premium Broadband Support for your  
Network and Devices!



CONTACT US:  
T. 715.825.2171  
T. 715.472.2101  
[info@lakeland.ws](mailto:info@lakeland.ws)



**BREEZY BAY SELF STORAGE**  
Convenient to Half Moon Lake and Balsam Lake  
Rick Miller 612-242-2384



## HALF MOON LAKE RESORT

*Seasonal, housekeeping cabins*

### INDOOR STORAGE AVAILABLE!

*Boats – Pontoons - Cars*

715.825.3737

[halfmoonresort.weebly.com](http://halfmoonresort.weebly.com)

1261 County Rd. G  
Milltown, WI 54858



# CALL US TODAY! (800)TOUSLEY

Escape the everyday.  
Time to live the **SEA-DOO**® life.



SELLIN' FUN  
SINCE '71

1400 EAST COUNTY ROAD E  
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

Call us for more information or visit our website [www.tousleymotorsports.com](http://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.





# 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](http://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





# LOON REPORT

BY PAT MECHELKE  
Loon Ranger

## FALL 2019

We had two pairs of nesting loons on Half Moon Lake again this year. Two chicks hatched on the nesting sites on the north and south ends of the lake. For some unknown reason, we lost one of the chicks on the south end of the lake a couple of weeks after it hatched. As far as we know, the other three chicks made it through the summer and will be migrating to the Gulf of Mexico towards the end of October or early November depending on the weather. Due to the windy, inclement weather this fall we were unable to get out on the lake to track them as regularly as usual. We did spot two of the juveniles on October 23rd. We didn't spot the third chick but it may have already left the lake earlier in October.

Their parents, the two territorial pairs of nesting loons, left Half Moon Lake around the second week of September. From here, they fly to Lake Michigan where they will spend two to four weeks fattening up for their flight to the Gulf. Traveling at speeds of up to 65 mph, loons fly down to the Gulf of Mexico in several long distance spurts of 350 to 600 miles. The chicks are apparently hardwired to follow their parents a couple of months later.

This is the first year since we've been monitoring the loons that we can verify that one of the loon pairs laid eggs twice. Initially, we observed two eggs in the nest on the south end of the lake but the loons abandoned the nest for a period of time. Several weeks later, the loons returned to the nest, two chicks were hatched and a third egg remained unhatched. It is not unusual

for loons to lay eggs two or even three times if their nest is disturbed, flooded, or the eggs are eaten by a predator.

We may actually see our juvenile loons sometime in the future as banding studies have shown that loons typically return not only to similar bodies of water but also to lakes close to where they were hatched. Typically male loons return to within seven miles and female loons return to within fifteen miles of the lakes where they were born. It's believed this may be due to imprinting that occurs within the first few weeks of their lives.

Half Moon Lake is fortunate to have two pairs of territorial loons nearly every year. Let's continue to do all we can to protect and enjoy these marvelous birds. Have a great winter; if you have any questions regarding loons, please feel free to e-mail me at [tmechelke@gmail.com](mailto:tmechelke@gmail.com).



Loons using the Breezy Bay nesting platform  
Photos by Pat Mechelke



## TIME TO REPLANT

by Jim Benike

"That's an expensive way to get a better lake view." Said the man as he motored by in his pontoon. I was surveying our lakeshore looking at the downed and damaged trees, our upside down pontoon and the big oak resting across the cabin roof. A similar experience for many people last July.

A few days later I started counting growth rings on some of the trees. The oak across our roof was 75 years old. Only a small sapling ten feet from the cabin 70 years ago. The oak that blocked the road was 135 years old. Other people lost giant pines and maples that were older.

Photos by Jim Benike



**WHAT TO REPLANT?** The land looks bare. First, don't plant an invasive specie like buckthorn or amur maple. Check out the Wisconsin DNR website for invasive species. Look at what's in stock at local nurseries as well as trees that grow well in the area. Check the soil type, do they like dry or damp soil? In the oak, maple, and birch families several trees require different soil types.

Make sure your new trees and shrubs work for you. A shade tree at the Southwest corner of your cabin will keep your cabin cooler in the summer. Maybe an arborvitae or two will block your new window view of the cabin next door rather than buying new window blinds.

Apple trees grow well. Pick trees with varying fruit maturities. If you close your cabin after Labor Day pick an early maturity. If you stay longer pick several fruit maturities. There is nothing like picking an apple from your own tree whether your an adult or kid. Remember to install a 6 foot diameter wire fence around the tree or you just bought some expensive deer food.

This is sugar maple country. In the future a grove of sugar maples can provide someone with homemade maple syrup.

Planting trees are for future generations to enjoy. Think about how big the tree will grow. Do you want acorns pelting your roof? Some pines grow tall quickly but others are slower growing and don't reach great heights. Remember you don't want pine sap on your vehicles or patio furniture. Consider a tamarack, (American Larch), as they are beautiful in the fall when they lose their needles and they stay relatively small.

In the future you don't want someone to say, " Why did Great grandpa plant this tree here? Its getting sap all over my solar powered car."





# 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**



**KEEF 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**

# 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. I
- 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](http://www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling)



**Bruce Muller**  
*Broker/Owner*

Cell: 1.715.491.0489

Office: 1.715.472.2215

Email: [bmuller@artandersonrealty.com](mailto:bmuller@artandersonrealty.com)

## Give me a call for a FREE Market Analysis.

I live on Half Moon Lake and have lived in this area my whole life, so I know the lake and the beauty it holds!

Art Anderson Realty is the longest successful Real Estate Company in Polk County, in existence since 1967 for a reason!

**I WOULD BE HAPPY TO REPRESENT YOU  
IN BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY.**

**No Broker Administrative Fees**

**Licensed in WI and MN**



# CHOOSE THE RIGHT TREE FOR YOUR LOCATION

Remember Half Moon Lake is in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 3, but some people risk planting a Zone 4 tree in sheltered areas. The Wisconsin DNR, at [DNR.WI.GOV](http://DNR.WI.GOV) has a list of bulk tree seedlings they offer for sale. While it is too late to order this year, the list contains trees that are hardy for this area. The Minnesota and Wisconsin University Extension Services and Master Gardener Programs are all excellent resources for trees that will do well on our lake. Here are descriptions of the 4 trees Jim recommends.



## TAMARACK

(*Larix laricina* is the most common species)

TAMARACK grows from 50-75 feet tall. Tamaracks are a conifer, not an evergreen, so they lose their needles each fall, which first turn a lovely shade of gold. They like moist, but well drained loamy soils along swamps and lakes. It has a shallow root system. It is not tolerant of shade when mature.



## SUGAR MAPLES

(*Acer saccharin*)

SUGAR MAPLE was selected as the WI State Tree by school children in 1893. They are known for their brilliant orange red colors in fall and cooling shade in summer. They also produce the best sap for making maple syrup. They are the most shade tolerant of major forest species found in WI, and grow to 100 feet.



## ARBORVITAE

(*Thuja*)

ARBORVITAE are a narrow, pyramid shaped evergreen that grows relatively quickly. "Emerald Green" is a popular cultivar that grows about 15 feet tall, and likes full sun to light shade. It is not completely deer resistant, and may need to be wrapped in burlap up to 8 feet.



## APPLE

(*Malus*)

APPLE trees need to be planted in pairs to fruit, but they do not need to be the same species. Lodi and Zestar are some early, Zone 3 cultivars, and McIntosh, Cortland and Empire are some mid season Zone 3 Cultivars. Height range from dwarf trees that reach 10-20 feet, to standard trees that may grow to over 30 feet tall. They like full sun

## July 19, 2019

Storm alters the landscape forever around Half Moon Lake. Major clean up and rebuilding efforts dominate the remainder of the summer

By Kim Butler



Photo by Kim Butler

ON FRIDAY JULY 19, just about supper time, torrential rain, straight-line winds, and possible F0 or F1 tornadoes caused millions of dollars of damage across Half Moon Lake and Polk County. As we crouched in our basements or bathrooms, 100 year old and larger trees snapped like toothpicks, docks and lifts were crumpled, boats were flipped upside down, and smaller items like outdoor furniture were sent flying into the lake, neighbor's yards, and beyond. Some people noticed an eerie green color to the sky, and the waves on the lake switched directions multiple times. We came out of our shelters to find roads and driveways blocked, roofs smashed, and electric lines everywhere, resulting in power outages for 9,000 electric co-op members across Polk-Burnett's service territory.

Widespread straight line winds came in from the west/northwest which were estimated at 90 mph, with a measured gust of 84 mph being officially recorded in Cushing. Many longtime residents noted this was the worst storm Half Moon lake has ever experienced.

Here in Polk County, Half Moon Lake had major damage all around the lake, but especially on Oscar Lane, 120th St., and 124th Street. Breezy Bay Road was hard hit too. Other areas around the county were also affected, including east of Luck, Milltown and Balsam Lake and north of Amery and Turtle Lake, especially the areas around White Ash, Pipe, Long, Big Round, Blake, Horseshoe and Staples lakes. Polk-Burnett Electric started working to get the power lines back up immediately. By 6 a.m.

the next morning, just 12 hours after the lights went out, all transmission lines, substations and 5,000 members were back on. By Sunday morning, power for 6,500 members had been restored. And by the end of that week, the lights were back on for almost all 9,000 co-op members, except a handful that needed additional repairs due to significant property damage.

Our local electric workers were assisted by crews from 11 neighboring cooperatives and three contractors with expertise in tree clearing, underground and overhead power line construction. More than 100 people were working in the field and a dozen more were coordinating restoration efforts and outage communications, including Facebook updates, in their Centuria office.

In addition to utility workers, Mike Dau and other town and village employees, plus the Polk County Highway Department, got to work. Tree Services schedules filled up overnight, and soon arborists were flocking here from neighboring states. On Saturday, Polk County Government declared a State of Emergency. This would allow them to apply for FEMA Funds, which were approved in late August to recover some costs of clean up. Damage was so extreme, the National Guard was called in by the governor to help with debris cleanup. The HML Annual meeting had to be postponed till Labor Day Weekend. This storm forever changed some parts of the lake, but Half Moon Lake cabin and home owners spent much of 2019 cleaning up, and 2020 promises more work getting back to normal.



# Where in the World is Half Moon Lake?

When you travel the world, wear your Half Moon Lake logo wear. Then send pictures to Loon Lines at [halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com](mailto:halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com) and you will be featured in an upcoming Loon Lines newsletter.



*Ellen Butler hiking in Sedona, AZ*



## 5TH GENERATION HALF MOON LAKE BABY

ARCHER NICHOLAS KNIGHTON, son of Andrew and Anna Knighton, grandson of Ellen Butler, and first great-grandchild of David J. and Mary Martha Butler was born March 10, during the global pandemic, at 7'9", 21.5#.

The new family is healthy and sheltering in place in Chicago, IL. Archer is also welcomed by his great uncle and aunt, David W. and Kim Butler, and his first cousins twice removed, Pat and Mike McMahon, and the McMahon and Campbell clan.





# Urgent care

## Open 7 days a week

When care can't wait, urgent care offers treatment with or without an appointment. Open 7 days a week.

[amerymedicalcenter.org](http://amerymedicalcenter.org) | 715-268-8000







Lifts and docks were looked like broken Tinker Toy models after the storm. Photo by Chuck Knapp



Thousands of trees were lost across Wisconsin. Cleanup will take years. Photo by Chuck Knapp



Mature shade trees, once a beloved part of our landscapes, caused much destruction as they came crashing down. Photos by Gary Schwartz and the Schwartz family.



The vintage Half Moon Lake Resort sign remained intact, but 100+ year old trees were flattened by the straight line winds.



Formerly known as Kent Hrbeck's House, this classic lodge suffered chaos and destruction in the front yard.

Photos by Gary Schwatz and the Schwartz Family





Docks were crumpled and bent by the storm's powerful winds.



The July 19 storm was classified a Derecho by the National Service, a weather event that includes “wide spread, long-lived wind storms associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms.”

During the height of the storm, the sky changed to an eerie green.

Photo by Kim Butler





LOCATED RIGHT IN  
**DOWNTOWN AMERY**

At Farm Table Restaurant, we work to bring Wisconsin produce and proteins direct to consumers. Our menu is updated seasonally to reflect what is coming in off the land.



BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR MENU AND  
CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES

**[WWW.FARMTABLEFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.FARMTABLEFOUNDATION.ORG)**

715.268.4500 | 110 KELLER AVE. N. AMERY, WISCONSIN 54001

## Wisconsin native herbaceous flowering plants

Common name	Scientific name	Bloom time	Typical height	Light	Soil moisture
Spotted geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Early spring to summer	1–2'	Sun to shade	Average
Cream wild indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	Spring	1–2'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
Wild lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Spring	2'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
Common spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Spring to summer	2–3'	Sun to part shade	Dry to wet
Anise hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Summer	1–3'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
White wild indigo	<i>Baptisia leucantha(alba)</i>	Summer	3–5'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
Purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Summer	2–3'	Sun	Average to dry
Pale purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Summer	2–4'	Sun	Average to dry
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Summer	2–4'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
Prairie spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>	Summer	1–2'	Sun	Average to dry
Culver's root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Summer	3–6'	Sun to shade	Dry to wet
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Summer to fall	2–3'	Sun	Average to dry
Spotted Joe-Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Summer to fall	3–7'	Sun	Average to wet
Purple Joe-Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Summer to fall	4–6'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
Woodland sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Summer to fall	2–5'	Sun to part shade	Dry
Prairie sunflower	<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>	Summer to fall	3–4'	Sun	Dry
Prairie blazing star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Summer to fall	2–4'	Sun	Average to wet
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Summer to fall	2–4'	Sun to part shade	Average to wet
Spotted beebalm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Summer to fall	2–3'	Sun	Dry
Riddell's goldenrod	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	Summer to late fall	2–4'	Sun	Wet
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Summer to late fall	2–5'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
Rough blazing star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Fall to late fall	2–4'	Sun	Average to dry
Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Fall to late fall	3–5'	Sun	Average to dry
Smooth blue aster	<i>Symphyotrichum (Aster) laeve</i>	Fall to late fall	4'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
New England aster	<i>Symphyotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae</i>	Fall to late fall	1–7'	Sun to part shade	Average





This house easily had the most trees fall on and across its yard as any other on the lake. Clean up continued all summer.



This charming cabin survived almost a century of weather, but the 7/19 storm damaged her.



The east side of the lake bore the brunt of the storm.



Damage was so extensive that cleanup will continue into 2020.



The weekend after our storm, another tornado touched down farther north on County Rd. I, destroying much of a farm.





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
- Lawn care Services
- Mowing
- Fall / Spring Cleanup
- Winter Services



**Retail**

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

[www.balsamlakeprolawn.com](http://www.balsamlakeprolawn.com)





Wild native bees also contribute substantially to fruit and vegetable pollination, especially when farmers provide ample habitat nearby for nesting and foraging and employ farming practices that benefit pollinators. Home gardeners can have all of their pollination needs supplied by wild native bees, although if there are honeybee hives located nearby, they may contribute to pollination as well.

## Bee diversity and life cycles

When most people hear the term bee, they envision a honeybee or a bumblebee. In actuality, there are approximately 400 verified species of bees in Wisconsin and likely more that have not yet been identified. These include various species of miner bees, mason bees, leafcutter bees, and sweat bees, among many

others. Honeybees and most bumblebees live in a large social group with one queen, a worker caste of non-reproductive females, and, at various times in the life cycle, males. The vast majority of bees, however, are solitary with each individual bee making her own nest and providing for her offspring.



Mining bee (*Andrena* sp.) on cherry blossom

## Attracting and supporting native pollinators

Most people are aware of the recent decline in honeybee populations. However, some of our native bee populations are also declining. Cultivating flowering plants, providing nesting sites, and eliminating or greatly reducing pesticide use will benefit bee populations.

## Cultivating flowering plants

Maintain flowering plants to provide food and nesting habitat for pollinators, as well as birds and other wildlife. Consider converting part of your lawn to habitat for pollinators. Listed below are commercially available, flowering, native plants that are especially good sources of food for bees. Provide a diversity of plants that will bloom from early spring, to feed early emerging bees, until late fall when some bees such as bumblebee queens are preparing to overwinter. Have at least 2–3 plant species flowering at any given time.

## Wisconsin native trees and shrubs

Common name	Scientific name	Bloom time	Typical height	Light	Soil moisture
Pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	Early spring	10–25'	Sun	Average to wet
Downy serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Spring	15–25'	Sun to part shade	Average to wet
Plum and cherry trees	<i>Prunus</i> spp.	Spring	Varies	Sun to part shade	Average
Lowbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Spring	1'	Sun	Average to dry
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Spring	6–12'	Sun	Average
Leadplant	<i>Amarpha canescens</i>	Summer	1–3'	Sun	Average to dry
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Summer	3'	Sun to part shade	Average to dry
Carolina rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Summer	1–4'	Sun	Average to dry
Swamp rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Summer	6'	Sun	Wet
White meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Summer	3–5'	Sun	Average to wet
American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Summer	75–130'	Sun to shade	Average
Steeplebush	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Summer to fall	2–4'	Sun to part shade	Average to wet



# Supporting native bees:

## Our essential pollinators



Sweat bee (*Halictus sp.*) on rattlesnake master

### Fruit and vegetable pollination

Approximately 75% of the world's major food crops require or benefit from animal pollination. This includes many of the fruits and vegetables grown in Wisconsin gardens, such as strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, currants, plums, apples, sweet cherries, pears, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes. For other crops such as carrots, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and many herbs, pollinators are beneficial solely for seed production.

### Pollinators

Pollinators in Wisconsin are comprised mostly of insects such as bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles, and ants, as well as hummingbirds. Bees are the most important pollinators for many plant species and feed almost exclusively on pollen and nectar. The non-native honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) is the most commonly used managed bee for pollination of large acreage crop plants, primarily because it is easily reared and transported and lives in perennial colonies that can attain a size of 50,000 or more at their peak. The blue orchard bee, also referred to as the mason orchard bee (*Osmia lignaria*), is a native managed pollinator for orchards. Just 250 of these bees, as opposed to 20,000 honeybees, will pollinate an acre of apple trees.



Rusty-patched bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) with pollen collected from purple prairie clover



Small carpenter bee (*Ceratina sp.*) nectaring on alpine strawberry blossom





Photo by Ellen Butler

# Keeping Polk County's Lakes and Rivers healthy, and helping Lake Districts to serve their members

By Kim Butler

Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers, PCALR, a local group of waterfront homeowners, Lake Association and Lake P & R District members, along with staff of the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department, is gearing up with summer plans, but, like all organizations, has everything on hold right now. Their first meeting is scheduled for April 15, and Katelin Anderson from the County's Land & Water Resources Department will explain the process of getting grants for lake projects. The meeting will be "virtual". If you are interested in joining PCLAR or participating in the ZOOM meeting, email Chair Karen Engelbretson of Bone Lake at [president@pcalr.org](mailto:president@pcalr.org)

PCLAR also monitors the Polk County Environmental Services Committee of the Polk County Board, to keep up on issues that might affect shoreland property owners. Since last summer, the Board has been dealing with the issue of large scale animal farms, also known as Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) or factory farms. At issue was an Iowa company that wanted to locate a 26,000 hog farm in Burnett County, with satellite operations for a farrowing facility possibly located in Polk County. A citizen opposition group formed, and pushed the Burnett County Board to enact a 1 year moratorium on permits for all CAFOs. A few months later, after numerous meetings and public comment, Polk County Board put in place a 6 month moratorium on Swine (only) CAFOs to study the issue, and that moratorium has been extended on a month to month basis for another 6 months.

By state definition, a CAFO is a farm with over 1,000 "animal units." An "animal unit" is a 1,000 pound weight measurement, so a single adult beef cow is 1 animal unit, a dairy cow is 7/10s of an A.U., and 250 pigs make up one animal unit. Neighbors in Polk and Burnett are concerned with potential pollution and manure run off from the large farm into streams, lakes, rivers, and eventually the St. Croix River. Other concerns include potential contamination of drinking water and air quality, flies and insects as pests and carriers of diseases, and a potential drop in property values,

as well as concern about how the dead animals would be handled. Conversely, local farmers, who have been a backbone of the region's economy, felt that CAFOs were already highly, and safely regulated by the State of WI, and potential County Resolutions were perceived as "anti-agriculture." Farmers are already struggling in a difficult farm economy, and additional restrictions could add to the pressure they are under. The Polk County Board has the difficult task of balancing the interests of farmers with those of homeowners, cabin owners, and other residents. In addition, the state regulates how much the County can do about certain issues. Several CAFO farms currently exist in Polk County, which are owned by local families. During the meetings, it was acknowledged that locally owned family farms are good stewards of the land, since they themselves live there, raise their children there, and have strong community ties. Problems have arisen in neighboring counties when a farm was owned by a "bad actor" who had repeated manure spills, or by large foreign or out of state farms. Concerns about disease that is ravaging Chinese pig farms has driven a market for U.S. raised pork. Fears about the disease spreading is resulting in Iowa farming operations seeking to set up out of state farms that are safe "islands" away from the disease. For now, the county continues to study the issue.

This fall, revisions to the Shoreland Protection Zoning laws regarding short term rentals were enacted. These regulations apply to lakeshore rentals typically offered over services like VRBO and AirBNB. A full copy is available at [co.polk.wi.us](http://co.polk.wi.us) and current and future landlords should familiarize themselves with the new regulations.

The Environmental Services Committee continues to work on a decision about changing the Stower-7 Lakes trail, a walking, biking, and Silent Sports trail, to allow snowmobile usage in winter, and equestrian usage. The trail is a 14 mile old railroad bed with a limestone surface that runs between Amery and ends near Dresser, and is one of the few, if not only, year round multi use Silent Sports trails in the County. Snowmobilers are eager to use it to improve access to Amery from other trails. Equestrian trails are currently limited to Governor Knowles State Forest in the northeastern section of the county, and a portion of the multi use (incl. motorized vehicles) Cattail State Trail between Amery and Almeda.

# Restoring a Lakeshore with Native Plants

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTS ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES AND  
HUMMINGBIRDS TO LAKESHORE RESTORATION PROJECT

A POLLINATOR GARDEN MAY EVEN REDUCE MOSQUITOS

By Lori C. Adler,

Reprinted from the Northwoods Star Journal

“I want a view of the lake.” This is what Dan Butkus, Director of Wisconsin Lakes, remembers his dad saying about the summer home on Squash Lake his parents purchased 60 years ago. Butkus grew up on this lake, noting “It’s the lake I learned to swim on.” In the early days, there were trees and grasses filled with birds and other creatures, but not long after purchasing the summer home, his dad made changes so there could be a better view of the lake. No regulations were in place at that time, and so the senior Butkus cleared the trees all the way to the lake. There was almost 200 feet of shoreline, all in lawn.

Even at a young age, Butkus said, he didn’t like the change and as he got older, he thought about returning to a more natural setting someday. After Butkus and his sister inherited the property, they stopped mowing the grass, but while that grew, trees and shrubs did not. Nothing else was coming back. They needed some serious lakeshore restoration plans and began working with a local landscaper.

Changes to the property began in 2015 when the siblings received a Wisconsin Healthy Lakes grant. The grant funded the first terrestrial healthy lakes project in the area and created a 350-square foot garden along the lakeshore. The entire garden is within a 30-foot viewing corridor created so there is still a nice view of the lake. That area, along with another 30 feet of new planting was done the first year, with the rest of the lakeshore planted in 60-foot sections in consecutive years, one section in 2016 and the final section in 2017.



*Incorporating pollinator-friendly plants into lakeshore restoration is easily accomplished. The pollinator garden in the viewing corridor of Dan Butkus’ summer home in Northern Wisconsin is beautiful and helps stop runoff of soil and contaminants into his lake . Photos by Dan Butkus*



The restoration is done with all native plants. Deer fencing was needed for the first couple years after each planting, but once established, the entire lakeshore is completely maintenance free. The plantings have brought back insects, dragonflies, and songbirds. Butkus and his family find the new view much more interesting. “Visually, it is more appealing to us,” he explained, adding that it’s nice to have more to look at than just the lake.

Most of the native plants used in the restoration of the property do attract pollinators, including hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. He also noted that the variety of plants means “something’s blooming all the time,” and enjoys the black-eyed Susans, lupines, and native bee balms that are flourishing along the lakeshore. Dan has also noticed a decrease in the mosquito population at his home, which is due to the return of birds and beneficial insects.

Yet, with all these positive comments, Butkus said people are often afraid to incorporate native plantings in their yards, thinking it will look unkempt or messy; however, he and his family prefer the “wild garden” as opposed to a manicured look, remarking, “You can do something natural, and it can still be pretty.”

Lakeshore restoration is often used to control erosion, and vegetation is one way to help stabilize the shore. The use of native plants is an important part of any lakeshore restoration project (and often required), and incorporating pollinator-friendly plants into the project plan may now help with securing a grant as well. Depending upon the agency, adding pollinator-friendly plantings can increase the point value given to your project. It is this value which is used to selecting grant winners.

For more information on lakeshore restoration, contact the Polk County Land and Water Resources office at 715-485-8699



*Pollinating insects, as well as dragonflies and songbirds, have all returned to Dan’s property once the lakeshore restoration plantings started to bloom. Planting a natural shoreline doesn’t just help with water quality and create a pretty view. It also provides much-needed habitat for pollinating insects like bees, a crucial part of a healthy environment in general. Photo by Dan Butkus*

**“You can do something natural, and it can still be pretty.”**

# Business Advertisers

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Amery Hospital & Clinic . . . . .	20
Bruce Muller - Art Anderson Realty . . . . .	22
Balsam Lake Hardware & Rental . . . . .	24
Breezy Bay Motorsports . . . . .	26
Breezy Bay Self Storage . . . . .	4
Farm Table . . . . .	19
Halfmoon Lake Resort. . . . .	4
Indianhead Supper Club. . . . .	4
Interfaith Caregivers . . . . .	28
Lakeland Communications . . . . .	4
Loggers Bar & Grill . . . . .	24
Luck Golf Course . . . . .	26
PaperWorx . . . . .	26
Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative. . . . .	26
Pro-Lawn . . . . .	12
Sunnyside Marina . . . . .	23
Tousley Motor Sports . . . . .	25



Photo by Ellen Butler



P.O. Box 118 • Balsam Lake, WI 54810

# 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!

*If you own a lake home on Half Moon Lake and also own a business,  
we have an advertising opportunity for you! An ad in the  
Half Moon Lake newsletter not only lets your neighbors know about  
your business, but all the proceeds from these ads go towards  
the yearly Fireworks fund! Contact Sally Klevgard or Kim Butler .*



**Got an Hour? Volunteer!**  
**Call Interfaith Caregivers**  
**715-825-9500**



**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**