



SUMMER - 2020

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



Summer is Here!

Sunset Fishing on Half Moon Lake - Photo by Kim Butler

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Letter from the Chair

by BUD ERICKSEN

Hello Everyone,

I'm sure we all thought that after the Tornado of July 2019, it would be a long time before something of that magnitude would impact our lives. None of us saw COVID - 19, or the death of George Floyd coming. But they have impacted our lives and our time at Half Moon Lake. With time away from work, or working at home, several HML residents have taken up residence at the Lake. After sun down I've noticed more lights on as people escape the metropolitan area. I have also noticed several tornado related projects started and completed in the time since ice-out. I've seen the earliest lake activities that I can remember. Memorial Day weekend was super active on the lake as the weatherman cooperated with us for a change. Hopefully the 4th of July and Labor Day will see similarly great weather.

Summer activities at HML are underway. The buoys at the rock piles by Tamarack Bay are out, the Slalom Course is out and being used, and fishing seems to be more active than usual. The Mayflies just hatched, and there are two baby Loons on the North end of the lake (see Pat's article - there are more!) On top of this, Half Moon Lake is as clean as ever. Clean Boats/Clean Water inspections at the main boat landing began on June 1, thus our number one line of defense to protect our lake is operational.

We have been working on getting the permits and the design of a new Boat Landing, and we have hit an immediate snag!! The DNR reports that our docks for the landing do not meet ADA Handicap accessibility requirements. Consequently we will have to revise the docks as part of our submission. The docks have to be six feet wide and have a railing on one side similar to those at the swimming beach. Therefore we will continue to prepare our request for permits and grants from the DNR. The Board is currently pursuing information and meeting with manufacturers of Boat Cleaning Stations to obtain quotes on rental and/or lease of a machine for use at the landing.

We have received a request from Bone Lake asking if we have a reduced wake ordinance in place. We responded by saying "no, we don't have a problem as the wake boarders police themselves and stay in the middle of the lake". So a pat on the back to the wake boarders as they have the situation in control.

Ellen Butler prepared a postcard to identify the 4th of July activities, and this schedule of events was mailed out recently, and we hope it is hanging on your refrigerator. Remember only Water Guns and Super Soakers at the end of the Parade. The DNR does not allow water balloons. Look to see you at the parade.

Another item the Board has discussed in length, is the Annual Meeting and how we work around it with the COVID-19 still active. First, we are required to have a meeting as set out in our Bi-Laws. So we could not cancel the meeting. The meeting must take place between May 22 and September 8 of each year. The option to delay the meeting was discussed and it was decided that the delay would not be a benefit as the COVID-19 virus will still be active for the near future. We decided that the best action was to hold the meeting but practice good COVID-19 precautions, i.e. wear a face mask, maintain 6' social distancing, and use good sanitary procedures.

The Board will have hand sanitizer and masks at the registration table for those that don't have their own. We will provide bag lunches for all. Please RSVP by 7/14 for how many bag lunches your family would like so we order the correct number. Let us know at ellenbutler1912@gmail.com. We trust that you all will understand our thinking and if you are uncomfortable, we understand that not all will attend.

Thank you,
Bud Ericksen, Chairman



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

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Hello Half Moon Neighbors,

I hope everyone is healthy and doing well. It's been a wild spring and summer. Covid 19 cases remain low in Polk County, but after holding steady at just 6 confirmed cases through the spring, they jumped into the 50's in the 4 weeks since Memorial Day. Please continue to be safe when you are out in public. Some Polk County residents don't feel the need to wear a mask, but many other residents are still staying close to home, following safety measures like wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and sanitizing and washing hands frequently, and following CDC and Polk County Health Department guidelines to avoid unnecessary travel and being in groups. www.polkcountyhealthdepartment.org



Editor's Column

Across the county, parades, small town celebrations like Balsam Lake's Freedom Fest, Centuria's Memory Days, and Milltown's Fishermen's Party have been cancelled, or rescheduled and shortened. Even the Polk County Fair cancelled their 4 day event at the end of July which was a big disappointment to many young people who spend the year raising livestock or preparing projects for 4H competitions. One factor in the Fair Board's decision to cancel was that the traveling Rides and Concession company cancelled all their county fair appearances early this spring, which seems very prudent. Local restaurants and bars are reopening, and those with outdoor patios are especially popular. The economic impact of "Safer at Home" measures has been tough for small businesses. Please "shop local" now more than ever, and maybe add some take-out from a favorite restaurant to your weekend.

LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

BALSAM LAKE'S Farmers Market continues each Friday from 3-5 pm in the parking lot of Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church on west Main St.

ST. CROIX FALLS Farmers Market, which is popular with many local small organic farms is open 10-1 in the St. Croix Falls Library parking lot on the south end of their Main Street, 230 S. Washington Ave. (Hwy. 87)

AMERY also has a nice Farmer's Market on Mondays from 3-6 and again on Saturdays from 9-12 at the Soo Line Pavilion on Keller Avenue in Amery.

As always, the summer sun shines, the loons call at night, the herons fish, and the walleye bite (we hope.)

Enjoy your summer and stay safe.

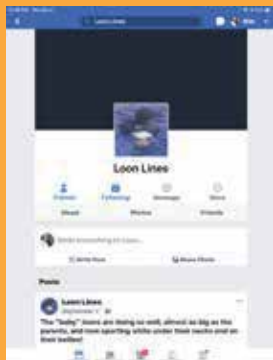
Kim Butler

Editor

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

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. 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.



The July 18th Half Moon Lake Annual Meeting and Picnic will again feature delicious A&W root beer courtesy of the Walkers!



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LOON REPORT

BY PAT MECHELKE
Loon Ranger

Spring 2020 Loon Report

Ice out on Half Moon Lake occurred on April 7th this year. On that same day, loons returned to our lake. We observed one pair of territorial loons floating on the north end of the lake and a second pair arrived on the south end of the lake a few days later. Both pairs went on their respective nests on May 7th. About a week later, we observed two eggs in the nest on the north end of the lake but it was swarming with black flies and the loons were nowhere near by. A species of black fly, *Simulium annulus*, prefers loons as hosts and swarms around the birds and their eggs. Many times these flies cause loons to abandon their nests. Fortunately, however, our pair returned to their eggs. The usual incubation time for eggs to hatch is 28 days. During this time, the male and female share the duty of keeping the eggs warm. About June 1, two chicks hatched at the north end nesting site.

The pair on the south end of the lake did not use our artificial loon nesting platform this year but instead attempted to nest on a floating mass of grass. Their first nesting attempt failed, most likely it was washed out by rain and waves. Sometime during the last week of May, the pair renested, once again on a floating mass of grass, and on May 31, two chicks successfully hatched.

If all four chicks survive, it will be the first time Half Moon Lake has had four loon chicks survive in the sixteen summers we've been on the lake. Once again we want to remind everyone to be on the lookout for our loons and to protect them by staying at least 200 feet away, especially with jet skis and power boats. With a little luck we'll be able to enjoy watching these four chicks grow to adulthood throughout the summer. Any questions regarding loon behavior may be directed to us at tmechelke@gmail.com. Pat Mechelke – Half Moon Lake Loon Ranger



"The Breakfast Club"
Adult Loons gather in a group
on Half Moon Lake in June.
Photo by Kim Butler"



One of Half Moon Lake's 2020 loon families.
Photo by Pat Mechelke

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
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Remembering Sue Schneider

In Loving Memory

One of Half Moon Lake's original "Loon Ladies" Sue Schneider lost her battle with cancer in December of 2019. Sue was a smiling, friendly presence on the lake with her husband Chris. Sue and Sheila Waldoch started selling Half Moon Lake apparel and logo themed merchandise around the lake on their pontoon and at the Annual Meeting, and called themselves the "Loon Ladies". They transferred the business to the current "Loon Ladies" several years ago. We reached out to the other original "Loon Lady" Sheila Waldoch, a childhood friend who introduced the Schneiders to Half Moon Lake.

"Back in the 60's Sue and I became friends and were close ever since. Her family owned Timm's Marina on Forest Lake and my family had a farm, so we had lots of fun. The memories I have with her are many and cherished. Sue had a sparkle in her eyes and a bounce to her step, which led us in many directions. One summer about 30 years ago, during one of the Schneider visits to Half Moon, they bought their cabin. It was a celebration and I am so thankful we had the lake to share! As some of you may know, we were the "Loon Ladies" on Half Moon, peddling our logo merchandise around the lake. I drove and she sold. We made quite a pair, the two of us. I miss her more than anyone can imagine."

FOM SUE'S OBITUARY

"Suzanne Marie Schneider, 67, went to the Lord on December 15, 2019, after a rich and beautiful life full of love. Sue was born in Forest Lake, Minnesota, the daughter of Ortrude and Howard Timm and one of 5 children. She grew up working at her family's marina, an experience which would instill in her both the value of a dollar and a Midwestern work ethic (also a love of cheese dip and loons). Her relationship with her family would be her greatest legacy.

Her last days may have been a battle with cancer, but they were such a small part of who she was and the impact she had on others. Sue had an extraordinary gift for making friends. People she met on a ski lift, an airport lobby, or a restaurant booth became lifelong friends—people she showed up for and who, in the end, time and time again showed up for Sue. She could make these friends because she was nothing but herself with no self-consciousness, no sense of greatness or smallness, just entirely and utterly Sue. She could ask for a discount anywhere (and usually get it), convince people without kids to buy toys and people who hated pizza to buy pizza. Her unbridled authenticity meant that she also couldn't hide her feelings when faced with something (and rarely someone) she didn't like (lord help those who served salmon to Sue). And while this should have been off-putting, with Sue it was endearing because there was not an ounce of disingenuousness in her.

Sue had an adventurer's spirit, always ready to jump on an airplane at the last moment. She moved to California when she was 20 with no real plan, just a sense of wanting to see the world and begin this crazy life. This was where she met her great love, her partner of 40+ years, Chris Schneider. Together, the two of them built a marriage and a family that Sue loved and protected fiercely. Her three boys, Jeff, Andy, and Joey were the most important thing in her life and with each boy she threw herself into their passions making sure they had all possible opportunities to be whatever they wanted to be. Later, when that family expanded to daughters in law and grandkids Jackson, Beau, Josie, Jefferson, Sophie, and Tatum, Sue's extraordinary love multiplied. Sue showed up—for baptisms, babysitting, school events, selling homes and moving across the country and the world. She dug irrigation trenches, staged homes, and sold pizzas. Never for herself. Sue didn't care about her own successes. It was always for others, for the people she loved with every ounce of herself.

She did all this with such an infectious sense of joy and just pure fun. As a good Minnesotan, she understood the importance of chips and dip and pontoon boats decorated for July 4th. She loved matching family shirts and holiday decorations. She loved elf costumes and limo rides to see Christmas lights and getting a good bargain. She loved throwing and attending parties—themed parties, just because parties, parties to celebrate others (always with the famous onion dip). She loved movies and popcorn and lazy lake days.

Sue leaves an extraordinarily legacy of love behind, her husband Chris Schneider, her sons Jeff, Andy, and Joey, her grandkids Jackson, Beau, Josie, Jefferson, Sophie, and Tatum as well as her siblings Ed Timm, Jerry Timm, Audrey Schultz, and Luanne Gasper. She left us all too soon, but we are so grateful for the time we had. Her love lives through her family and her friends. Her spirit will live on in the love she and Chris built into the Schneider Half Moon Lake cabin. We will all know when we hear the loons that Sue is looking down from heaven telling us she loves us, don't forget the onion dip, and put the flowers out on the dock. She will never be forgotten and will always be loved."

Our condolences to Chris and the Schneider family as well as Sue's many friends around the lake.



"Loon Ladies" Sue Schneider & Sheila Waldoch. Photo courtesy of Sheila Waldoch



Sue and Chris Schneider and their sons. Photo courtesy of Sheila Waldoch

Upcoming Events on Half Moon Lake

4TH OF JULY EVENTS AND TIMES

- Saturday, July 4th Happy 244th Birthday to our beloved USA!**
10:00 a.m **T-SHIRT TIE DYE AT PUBLIC BEACH**
Each person bring one white cotton t-shirt. Please check the website (halfmoonlake.net) for possible cancellation due to Covid-19.
- 2:00 p.m..... BOAT PARADE**
Decorated boat parade around the lake. Gather in south end to begin.
- Before Fireworks.. MOVIE - "Onward" - Public Beach**
We will not serve snacks this year. Bring blankets, chairs, and bug spray. Hosted by Milltown Library.
- Dusk FIREWORKS - Public Beach**
Watch from the beach, your boat or dock.
- Saturday, July 4th 4:30 p.m. SAILBOAT RACE**
Open to all sailors - Meet at Rosie's point (Kolbjornsen's cabin), sail north around ski course, then south around flag, then north to Rosie's point.

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting:
 Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. at the public beach. *Free bag lunch at noon for you and your families. Yoder's ice cream and Walker's A&W root beer will also be served!*

Learn to Water Ski Day

...or Barefoot...or Wakeboard...or Kneeboard...or Show Ski Pyramids
 ...or anything else on Water

In honor of Warren Smallidge, Sr. "Mr. Water Ski" on Half Moon for many years.



What? Want to learn how to Water Ski or anything else you can do on water, come on down and we will help get you going. If you or your kids would like to learn a water sport, we would like to teach you!

Equipment, Boats and Instruction provided.

When? Saturday, Aug 1 @ 11:00

Where? South end of lake, in front of Dan Hale's old house

Contact with questions: Warren Smallidge wsmall@frontiernet.net

**Annual Meeting Agenda For
Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Saturday July 18, 2020 10:00am**

1. Call to order
2. Confirm legal posting and Quorum
3. Ask for Motion to approve Agenda
4. Welcome Address
5. Guest Speaker
6. Secretary's Report of 2019 Annual Meeting/motion to approve.
7. Nomination of Candidates for open Board position, hand out ballots.
8. Presentation of audit report
9. Treasurers Report/motion to approve.
10. Committee Reports
 - a. Boat Landing Bob Cutshall
 - b. Invasive Plants Jim Benike
 - c. Fishing Doug Ebling
 - d. 4th July Ellen Butler
 - e. Loon Lines Kim Butler
 - f. Milltown Chair Mike Dau
 - g. CWCB Doug Ebling
11. Presentation of 2021 Proposed Budget
12. Report on Election results.
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Date and Location of next Annual Meeting
16. Adjourn

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20 In Loving Memory

Mike "Tex" Long



Our condolences are also with Heather Long and family. Mike "Tex" Long, a cabin owner on the southwest end of the lake, also passed this year. Mike, 63, passed away peacefully on Jan. 29, 2020, at the East Bank Campus of the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis after a battle with leukemia.

A native of Texas, Mike moved to St. Paul in 1971 and graduated from Highland Park Senior High School. He studied journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1978. After working at newspapers in Barron and Chippewa Falls, WI, he returned to St. Paul and was a photographer for the Highland Villager and Grand Gazette newspapers. He also worked at Edwards Properties and at the props department at the Minnesota Opera, where he retired in 2016. Mike married Heather Edwards in 1979. In addition to his wife, he is survived by five children: Kelsey Gunn (Neil) of St. Paul; Taylor Long of St. Paul; Derek Long (Eder de Paula) of Queens, N.Y.; Jayme Long of St. Paul and Harper Long of Chicago; five grandchildren: Felix, Hazel, Finnley, Alyth and Lorna; and nieces and nephews.

Mike had many friends from all facets of his life and career. His family would like to express their appreciation to them and other family members and to the University of Minnesota Hospital staff.

Memorials may be made to UMF -- Memorial Fund No. 0012747, University of Minnesota Foundation, P.O. Box 860266, Minneapolis, MN 55486-0266 (on check memo line, write "Leukemia Research").

Glenn A. Puncochar



Our sympathies to Darlene Puncochar and family on the north end of lake, on County Road G. Glenn was the father of Curt and Scott. Glenn A. Puncochar "Punch" Age 87, passed away on May 2 from myelo-dysplastic syndrome at JA Wedum Residential Hospice in Brooklyn Park. Glenn was born February 10, 1933 in Aberdeen SD, son of Frank and Myrle Puncochar. He graduated from Miller High School in 1952. He earned his BS degree in Engineering from South Dakota State University in 1955. Glenn married Darlene Davis in 1956. They were married 63 years and had 2 sons. He worked at Honeywell for 37 years traveling internationally. Glenn was a longtime volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He enjoyed singing in the choir, sailing, biking and being a masterful fixer of all things. They had vacation homes in Colorado and Florida where his family enjoyed many memory-filled vacations. Preceded in death by his mother, father and his only brother, Robert. Glenn is survived by his wife Darlene, son Curtis (Susan) and Scott (Mary). Grandchildren: Torrey, Morgan, Jack and Davis, plus many nieces and nephews. Memorials preferred to SDSU in his honor.



Peter R. Rupp

Our sympathies to the Rupp Family. Peter and Pat owned a cabin on the north end of HML on Co. Road G.

PETER R. R. RUPP, 86, went to be with his Lord March 13, 2020, at Peterson Hospital in Kerrville, Texas. He was born September, 21, 1933, in Ramsey County, Minnesota, to Walter George and Dorothy Lorraine Rupp. He married Patricia Wies on October 28, 1977 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

He was baptized in June of 1953 at the Naval Air Station near Memphis, Tennessee. He served in the Navy from 1952 to 1956. He worked many years as a tool and die maker, and quality control supervisor. He attended Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College and received his associate degree in supervisory management.

He attended the Lay School of Ministry and taught bible study, filled in as preacher, loved visiting shut-ins, studying God's word, singing, carving, fixing things and traveling. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Dale Rupp.

He is survived by his, wife, Patricia Rupp, his children, Susan Rupp, Michael Rupp, John Rupp, Karen Rupp, Tim Rupp and Amy Rupp, his stepchildren, Martin Wies and Amy Ralidak(Scott), four grandchildren, four step grandchildren, five great grandchildren and two step great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews, friends and relatives.

HMLPRD 2021 ANNUAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATION: JAN 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

Revenues:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Tax Levy | 32,803 |
| Lottery Credit | 450 |
| Interest | 50 |
| Total Revenues | 33,303 |

Cost of Operations:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Administration | 650 |
| Info and Education- Biannual newsletter, annual meeting | 8,600 |
| Lake Management- Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) beach monitoring and ILIDS (internet landing installed device sensor) camera | 14,000 |
| Capital Fund- saving for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) treatments, etc. if needed | 10,000 |
| Total Expenditures | 33,250 |
| 2021 Operating Budget Tax Levy - | 32,803 |
| Capital Fund as of June 27, 2020- | 112,027.14 |

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting:
Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. at the public beach. Free picnic lunch for everyone at noon!

Who Can Vote at the July 18 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.

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Minutes - Annual Meeting - August 31, 2019

1. John Weber called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held at the pavilion at the public beach on the lake.
2. Board members present:
3. Chair - John Weber; Vice Chair - Bud Ericksen; Treasurer - Ellen Butler; Secretary - Bob Cutshall; Fisheries - John Briegal; Milltown Twp. Chair - Mike Dau
4. Meeting minutes - A motion was made by Bud Ericksen to approve the minutes from last year's meeting that was held on July 21, 2018. The motion was seconded by Dan Leh and approved unanimously.
5. Board Nominations - John Weber submitted the names of two individuals who have been nominated to fill the open board seats being vacated by John Weber and John Briegal. The individuals are Jim Benike and Doug Ebling. There were no additional nominations from the meeting attendees. John Briegal made a motion to close the nominations that was seconded by Dan Leh. Ballots were distributed and Jim and Doug were elected to three year terms on the board.
6. Audit Report - Ellen Butler submitted the audit report. It was noted by one resident that the levy amount on the report didn't look correct. Ellen will look into this and make any necessary changes.
7. Treasurer's Report - Ellen also submitted the treasurer's report. Pam Belair made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Pete Ruff and approved unanimously.
8. Clean Boats/Clean Waters - Dan Leh gave an overview of the program and thanked Jack and Garrett for their service to the district in inspecting boats coming into and going out of the lake. Dan stated that, on the average, 40 boats per day go in and out of the lake.
9. Water clarity - Dave Balestri was not at the meeting but communicated to ?? that the secchi disk readings were 16' (which is good and consistent with past measurements). John Weber stated that we would resume phosphorous measurements in the lake next year.
10. Loon Report - Doug Ebling gave the loon report.
11. Fishing Report - John Briegal gave the fishing report. The DNR will be stocking the lake again this fall with walleye fingerlings at a rate of 10 per acre.
12. County Supervisor - Chris Nelson was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.
13. Milltown Township Report - Mike Dau, the township chair, gave the report.
 - A. Much of the township's activities over the past six weeks have been focused on cleaning up the storm debris from the July 19th windstorm. Mike stated that the township has borrowed \$100,000 to use for cleanup with the hopes that they will be reimbursed by FEMA. Mike requests that residents take "before and after" photographs of storm clean up and submit them along with volunteer clean up hours to the township clerk. There is a FEMA form online to do this on the township's website. Mike also indicated that the township cannot remove storm debris from private property, just from the public right of way.
 - B. Mike also mentioned that Polk County is working on an ordinance that would regulate rental property within the county.
 - C. Polk County will also be installing new culverts in the Breezy Bay area next spring.
 - D. Mike also noted that there are numerous public access easements around the lake and that the county has surveyed one of them in the southeast corner of the lake.
 - E. A request was made for the township to install a tornado warning siren at the public beach. Mike stated that the township would not do this because these systems cost about \$150,000 to install.
14. Loon Lines - Kim Butler is the editor and gave a report.
 - A. Please send storm damage photos to her. She also likes to include human and general interest stories in the newsletter (new home owner profiles, how to deal with invasive plants, etc.).
 - B. Kim also mentioned that an Iowa company was seeking a permit to construct a 26,000 animal hog CAFO in the area. Polk County has placed a six month moratorium on these types of facilities so that they can further study the matter.
15. HML Website - Joe Lonsky gave the report. The district's website is www.halfmoonlake.net.
16. 4th of July Celebration - Ellen Butler gave the report on this. We spend approximately \$4,000 per year on fireworks, most of which is paid for by advertising revenue in our newsletter. We need a volunteer to coordinate these activities for next year. Please let Ellen know if you are interested.
17. 2020 Budget - The board is requesting a 10% increase in our annual levy (new amount will \$32,803). John Weber stated that the levy has not been increased for over six years. Dan Leh made a motion to increase the levy by 10%. The motion was seconded by ?? The motion was approved unanimously.
18. Old Business
 - A. Goose problem - John Weber secured permits this year to deal with the goose problem (fecal matter in the water and along the shoreline). However, there were almost no geese on the lake this year, so nothing was done. John will renew the permit for next year. We will need a volunteer to head up this activity in the future.
 - B. Repairs to the Boat Launch - The boat launch is in need of replacement. It is owned by Milltown Township. The district will assist the township with permits and securing grants for this but can act only in a support role.
 - C. Barr Engineering Lake Study - The lake study indicated the presence of yellow flag iris (an invasive plant). The district will begin to deal with this problem in 2020. No action will be taken on the curly leaf pondweed (as advised by the Wisconsin DNR).
19. New Business
 - A. Decontamination Station - John Weber stated that the board will be evaluating the purchase or lease of a decontamination station that would be located at the public landing. The purpose of this equipment is primarily to decontaminate live wells and ballast tanks in boats entering the lake. Steve Minn made a motion that the board be authorized to spend up to \$5,000 for a consultant to help us evaluate this type of equipment and up to \$25,000 to purchase or lease the equipment. The motion was seconded by ?? and passed unanimously.
 - B. 2020 Annual Meeting - Next year's annual meeting will be held at the public beach on Saturday, July 18, 2020
20. Adjourn the Meeting - Steve Minn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.
21. The motion was seconded by ?? and unanimously passed.
22. Submitted by, Bob Cutshall, Secretary

Brad Olson, and is an amendment to the Polk County Comprehensive Land Use Ordinance. The Amendment adds a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow large scale hog factory farms in Polk County. Some residents think this amendment falls short of protections for our lakes and rivers, water quality, air quality, and the county's quiet, rural way of life. Here is a link to the proposed ordinance. https://www.co.polk.wi.us/proposed_ordinances

Pork producers envision an industry in our region—the biggest plan has 30 plants: 5 farrowing plants, each feeding 5 finishing plants. Landowners have already been approached to sell. That's tens of thousands of hogs, their manure, and odor in our beautiful lake country.

If you are unfamiliar with CAFOs' effects on local residents, one recent documentary, Right to Harm is a compelling free video available to watch at <https://righttoharm.film>. With last year's outbreaks of swine fever in China, and recent news about a possible new Swine Flu pandemic that could originate in China, many people are worried about the risk of large scale hog farming in the United States. Covid 19 outbreaks at meat processing plants have necessitated the disposal of millions of hogs in Iowa because of a lack of market. Local residents created the website, Know CAFOs at <https://know-cafos.org>. Both of these resources detail the potential threat factory farms can be to air and water quality and public health.

The Olson/Nelson Amendment targets A-20 districts in zoned towns, however the goal is to include all agriculturally zoned land in any Town (Town in WI is the same as a Township in other areas.) Un-zoned Towns are open to factory farm development: Towns of Georgetown, Clam Falls, Lorain, Laketown and Sterling are risking water quality, air quality, and lakeshore property values when these huge plants come to town. Our entire area is potentially impacted by odor and pollution unless stronger protections are written.

The Olson/Nelson amendment weaknesses: Communities with agricultural zoning or no county zoning are targeted for hog factory development; Hog factories built in county-zoned ag zones can keep an infinite number of hogs and their waste just 200 feet from a property line; Corpse and placenta waste has no setback requirements; Hog factories may be sited just 1200 feet from a lake or river; No one in Polk County is protected from hydrogen sulfide and ammonia air pollution—odor that travels for miles; Performance bonds are not required, meaning taxpayers will have to pay to clean up polluted land and water; Application fees are restricted to around \$700, which doesn't begin to cover the county's cost.

Hog factories cannot be excluded from Polk County, but better protections can be written that make it more difficult for them to be profitable here. Performance bonds and prohibitive permit fees may also be illegal. Both Trade Lake and the Town of Eureka passed effective ordinances, based on a Bayfield County ordinance passed five years ago.

Please encourage the Polk County Board to protect our county's water-rich resources from pollution.

WHAT YOU CAN DO. Time is short, and due to COVID-19 restrictions, some new public comment methods are in place. The Environmental Services Committee will vote on July 8 to present this ordinance to the full County Board for approval on July 21. Please make sure they hear from you first.

Visit the County website at <https://www.co.polk.wi.us> for county board agendas and minutes and Board of Supervisor contact information. You can also find links to the meetings being held via webinar.

These are the four ways you can make sure that county politicians hear your opinion:

July 1: Record a 3-minute video comment at the Polk County Government Center between 2-8 p.m. It can be as simple as "Hi my name is John Doe and I own a cabin on Half Moon Lake. I do not support factory farms in this area and I want stronger protections than this proposal amendment makes."

By July 7 – Email in written comments to Lisa Ross, Polk County Clerk at lisa.ross@co.polk.wi.us

July 8: Testify in person to the Environmental Services Committee at the Polk County Government Center at 10 a.m.



Local residents are concerned about possible air, water and land pollution from large scale swine farms that want to locate in Polk County. These farms also affect nearby property values.



An 11,000 hog farm and manure ponds in Southern Wisconsin. Photo by Eric Daily of the LaCrosse Tribune.

Factory Hogs Could Threaten Polk County Land, Water, and Air, Decreasing Lake Home Values

By Kim Butler, with information from St.Croix360.com and KnowCAFOS.org.

Large scale hog farms, also known as Factory Farms or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) have been trying to move into Polk and Burnett County for the past year. An Iowa company wanted to raise 26,000 pigs on 1 property in the Trade Lake area of Burnett County, with satellite operations for farrowing in Laketown township in Polk County. Polk County passed a moratorium on permits for new swine farms for 6 months, with an added month to month extension, so county staff could research and present findings to the Environmental Services Committee of the Polk County Board of Supervisors. Local residents are concerned about the potential risk to lakes, rivers, and drinking water, as well as property values, and land, water, and air pollution.

In Wisconsin, 2 state agencies regulate farms (including large scale farming operations or CAFO's) the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. However, permitting starts on a county level. The Polk County Board has heard from concerned residents and frustrated and worried local farmers for the past 10 months. Local farmers are concerned that new laws could make it more difficult to expand their dairy farms in an already difficult economic climate. Since locally owned dairy farms are not the issue, the moratorium was passed to only include swine farms. While it is against the law for the county to put an outright ban on Large Scale Farms, zoning laws can be passed that make it difficult or expensive for these types of factory agriculture businesses to set up shop in our area.

One resolution was offered in January of 2020, but many residents spoke out, saying that the proposed ordinance did not do enough to protect area lakes, the St. Croix River watershed, and to insure against land, water, and air pollution. Disease, flies, odor, manure management, and carcass management are some of the issues that come with factory farms. While hog farms would be prohibited from locating right next to a lake, they could locate 1,200 feet or just a quarter mile from the shores of Half Moon Lake.

The current resolution is authored by District 4 (which includes Half Moon Lake) Supervisor Chris Nelson and District 1 Supervisor



Inside one large scale hog farm operation.

2019 Half Moon Lake Boat Parade

11



WINNER
THE JOHNSON/GLASSMANS



2ND PLACE
"BUBBLES"

Lake Tidbits

FISHING

The correct information about DNR walleye fingerling stocking is that 1,000 were stocked in the fall of 2019, and will be stocked every other year, with 2021 being the next scheduled stock. .

BREEZY BAY ROAD REPAIR

The Harder Creek culvert on north Breezy Bay Road near the Christofferson's house is going to be replaced by Polk County this summer. This will require closing the north end of the road for one day. Residents will be notified in advance.

NEW HALF MOON LAKE CABIN OWNERS

Help us get to know you. Please send a photo of you and your spouse/family and a few lines introducing yourself and family, where you spend the rest of your time, and what brought you to Half Moon Lake. We look forward to getting to know you.

halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com



FOGGY MORNING ON HALF MOON LAKE
PHOTO BY KIM BUTLER

Remembering the Loon Lady.

Suzanne Schneider
1952-2019



When you hear the loons call this summer, it will be a little of Sue, calling us. Thanks for being her friend.

She will be dearly missed, and she loved Half Moon.

Don and Sheila Waldoch

Trudi's Rhubarb Crisp

from her Hastings neighbor

CRUMBS

Mix until crumbly:

- 1-1/2 cups sifted flour
- 1-1/3 cups oatmeal (uncooked)
- 3/4 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1-1/2 cups brown sugar
- 3/4 cup melted butter

Press half the crumbs in a 9x13" pan.
Cover with 6 cups of diced rhubarb.

Combine in a saucepan:

- 1-1/2 cups of sugar
- 3 Tbs. of cornstarch
- 1-1/2 cups of water
- 1-1/2 tsp. of vanilla.

Cook until thick and clear and pour over the rhubarb in the pan.

Top with remaining crumbs and bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 hour.



BE SAFE. WEAR A MASK.

Lemon Joy Dishwashing liquid squirted in the corners of a boat lift canopy will keep the birds from nesting.



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Be a Safe Boater and a Good Neighbor

BOATING

Wisconsin Law requires Slow-No Wake speed within 100 feet of the shore, docks, rafts, swimmers, and other vessels. Many HML residents voluntarily extend this to 200 feet out of courtesy and safety. Personal Watercraft, i.e. Jet Skis, must maintain a Slow-No Wake 200 feet away from shore, and 100 feet from any dock, boat, water skier or swimmer. When at speed, stay further away from docks, other boats, and fishermen.

Watch for downed skiers and swimmers. Please do water activities in the middle of the lake.

Please keep jet skis and other boats out of the Slalom course. If you'd like to learn the correct way to navigate the slalom course, ask one of the Mastercraft owners: Alex Trapp, Warren Smallidge, Dan Hale, or Rick Miller. If you knock a ski buoy off, please put it on one of their docks.

Please make sure your guests know the basic boating safety regulations. <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>. Also make sure they understand the need to check for invasive species before entering or leaving the lake.

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all boat operators complete a safety course. You can do this online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/outdoorskills/onlineed.html> Classes are sometimes available in the area. Contact the DNR for more info.

All children under 13 must wear a personal floatation device when on board any vessel.

A spotter in a boat is no longer needed for water activities like water skiing, tubing, etc, but towing on a jet ski still requires a spotter.

Add a solar light to your swim raft for safety at night.

Be courteous of others, and if you see something wrong, please speak courteously to the offender. Long time lake residents prefer that we police ourselves, and keep the sheriff's calls to a minimum. Experienced HML boaters are also a good source of information on where the big rocks are located, so asking advice might save you expensive lower unit repairs

FIREWORKS

While the sale of fireworks is legal in WI, a permit is required to set some off. Contact Stephanie Larsen at the Town for a permit. This is a link to the form. http://www.milltowntownship.com/_docs/Milltown-Town-Fireworks-permit-ver-042720.pdf



The following do NOT need a permit: Sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs, caps, noisemakers, confetti poppers with less than ¼ grain of explosive mixture, and novelty devices that spin or move on the ground.

However, possessing or using any other fireworks, including, for example, firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars, in Wisconsin without a valid permit is illegal. (Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3).) Fines can be up to \$1,000.

While some folks enjoy fireworks, others do not. If you chose to set off fireworks, please be respectful of your neighbors and wrap up your celebration at a reasonable time. 11 p.m. or midnight should give you ample time for fun. Remember, your neighbors want to sleep and the noise frightens babies, pets, and people with PTSD including some veterans. Conversely, some people have a lot of fun with fireworks, especially around the 4th July, so try to grin and bear the occasional loud celebration. However, if you are being unduly disturbed by fireworks, call the Polk County Sheriff at 715-485-8300

NIGHT TIME LIGHTS

Insects are drawn to light quite literally, like a moth to a flame. But new research shows swapping your outdoor lights for warm-colored LED lights attracts fewer insects than compact fluorescent lights, halogen globes, incandescent lights or yellow "bug lights." Also, warm LED lights scatter less intense light into the atmosphere than blue LED lights, reducing light pollution and its effects. Source: <https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2016/webprogram/Paper17736.html>

While Safety Lights are desired by some residents for security, other neighbors are bothered by the glare. Polk-Burnett Electric has available a fully shielded globe that eliminates side glare. This changes the direction of the light and casts the light down, the same as a recessed "spot" light of a home. If you desire this shield and request it before initial installation, an additional fee of \$40 will apply. After installation, the fee to install or remove this shield is \$100 and must be requested by the party that makes the monthly payment.



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Photo by Ellen Butler



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Fall Loon Lines Edition

Deadline October 15, 2020

Please send photos, news, articles, etc. to

halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com