

FALL/WINTER 2017

Loon Lines

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT



*Another season on
Half Moon Lake
draws to a close*

Photo by Ellen Butler

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Letter from the Chair

by JOHN WEBER

FALL 2017

Fall is here, and another summer is behind us. As always, we trust that everyone was able to enjoy our lake with friends and family for every possible moment. The fall rituals are either in process or done; you know, take out docks, lifts, and boats, clean up leaves, store yard furniture and all the other assorted "dues" that are paid.

There are several items of interest that I would like to reiterate. At our annual meeting there was discussion of water quality and a phosphorus flyover, and a speaker to present some options about the goose population.

The HML board and the Conservancy board have begun to work with Barr Engineering to update reports and studies first begun in 1993. Barr Engineering has done our previous studies as well for other area lakes. The study will investigate and compare phosphorus load, water quality, plant study, and invasive species such as Asian milfoil, zebra mussels, and rusty crayfish (formerly called exotics). Obviously this will help to monitor what, if anything has changed, to allow us to continue to be the best stewards that we can. Also we are applying for, and expect to receive, a grant from the WI DNR Clean Lakes program to offset costs. At this time, no one is aware of any new issues or problems on Half Moon Lake, but it is essential to maintain our diligence.

Chad Alberg of the US Dept of Agriculture, Wildlife services, our meeting speaker, presented information about a "goose roundup", as well as some other techniques for controlling the population increase. His "handout" is enclosed separately which explains different techniques that could be tried. As most of you know, there is a significant goose population at our public beach. During the past summer, and for several years before, the beach has been closed for weeks at a time because of contamination from bacteria and E coli. Nearby farming, runoff, and goose excrement do contribute to the contamination. The HML board is negotiating to have a "roundup" done, hopefully in conjunction with another nearby Lake District (to help reduce costs). There is a fairly small window of opportunity, usually several weeks in early June, after goslings are hatched and adults are molting (cannot fly) to have this done. We are tentatively scheduled now, with finalization in Jan or Feb, 2018. Because of our understanding of legal issues, the Lake District can only do this on our public property (THE BEACH). Because the beach is also part of the township, as well as the Village of Milltown, those governing bodies need to grant a permit. If we do not receive the permits allowing this to proceed, a round up will not be allowed. We (the HML board of directors) do hope to have some volunteers to help. With more bodies "herding", this will be a lot more effective. Unfortunately, a date and time will be unknown for some time, as this depends on when those pesky geese decide to hatch and molt. I'm told that on other lakes in our area (for example Rice Lake) this roundup has been quite effective.

Anyway here is wishing everyone a good fall and winter. Safe travels, a good Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas, and a wonderful New Year.

Respectfully,

John N Weber, Chair



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Editor's Column

The summer of 2017 has drawn to a close, so I thought a beautiful sunset picture would be a fitting cover photo. This issue is slightly delayed because I've had back to back trips over the past few weeks: Washington, D.C. for training and sight seeing, Iowa for alumni volunteer training, and Taiwan, for a business trip with my husband. As always, while I enjoy seeing friends, the pace of the city, the restaurants, and the culture, it is always a big weight off my shoulders to return home to Polk County. Quiet, natural beauty, and peace and safety are quite addictive. The days are not as quiet right now, as people are busy sighting their guns in preparation for deer season the week of Thanksgiving, but soon the winter season will be upon us. I am a homebody during the winter, and don't see the lake often, but as the picture below shows, I get out occasionally. These are some of my city girlfriends marveling at an ice fishing hole during a girls weekend at our cabin a few years ago. They are always a little leary about walking on the ice, and examining the thickness of the ice through a fishing hole is always somewhat reassuring. Most of the time, I prefer to cozy up with some tea and a good book, but I hope everyone that enjoys such things gets out for some ice fishing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, skating, etc.

We have some new neighbors at the north end of Breezy Bay Road who bought what had been the Mark and Mary Morse cabin next to mine. Also Chad and Heidi Stenberg sold their home on 190th Ave. If you hear of any other sales, let me know. In the meantime, if you are a newcomer, welcome to Half Moon Lake. Please drop me a note - we'd love to publish a little introduction in our June issue.

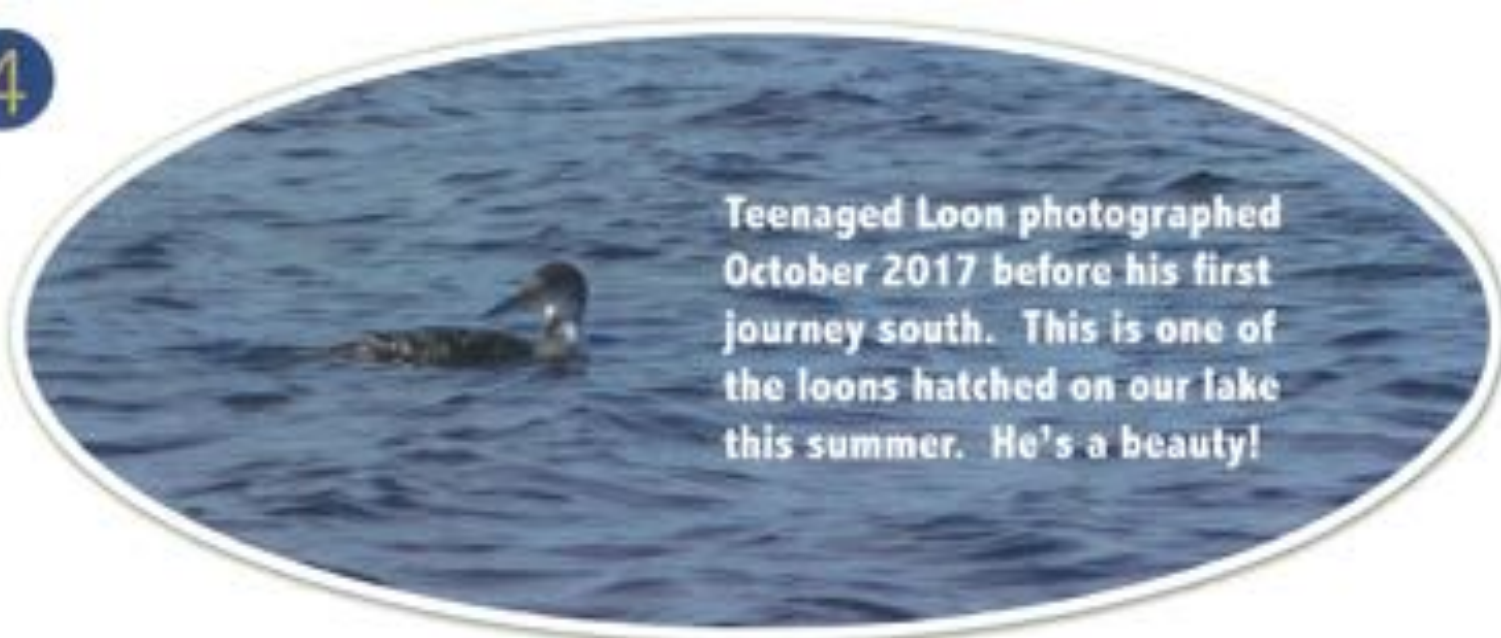
The days are shorter, and I can see the snowbirds are taking off or making plans to head to Arizona, Florida and beyond. Remember to take and submit photos wearing your Half Moon Lake gear. The lake is starting to freeze, and we've had several minor snowfalls.

I hope your summer was filled with fun, family and relaxing and that this winter holds more of the same. We'll see you on the lake in 2018.

Kim Butler
Editor

And please remember, this is your newsletter. Do you have some great photos of sunsets, nature, or your family having fun on the lake? Know a new neighbor, or have a question about a fish or animal or an idea for a story? Shoot me an email!





Teenaged Loon photographed October 2017 before his first journey south. This is one of the loons hatched on our lake this summer. He's a beauty!

LOON REPORT

Article and Photo by Pat Mechelke

Ice out on Half Moon Lake this year was early, the 30th of March. The first loon arrived on March 29th. On April 2nd, a territorial pair was seen on the north end of the lake. By the middle of April, we had two pairs of loons, one on each end of the lake and a floater loon looking for a home. The pair near the boat landing went on the nest on the 29th of April, very early for loons to lay eggs. The pair on the south end of the lake, nesting on the old loon platform for the second year in a row, began nesting on either the 5th or 6th of May. Last year, we only had two eggs hatch on the south end of the lake. The pair on the north end nested but for some unknown reason, did not hatch any chicks.

You may wonder what my duties are as your loon ranger. We are registered with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute's Loon Watch Program at Northland College. Early in the spring, I receive forms that I am to fill out weekly in regards to how many loons are on the lake, when they nest, how many chicks hatch and survive, and when they arrive and leave our lake. This monitoring form is returned to them by mid-November thus providing a clearer picture of not only loon reproductive success but also population trends in Wisconsin. Additional duties include educating cabin owners about our loons and how we can protect them by getting the lead out, staying approximately 200 feet away from the loons during the summer, etc. I find that I have done a good job of the latter as I was yelled at twice last summer by cabin owners about getting too close to the loons while monitoring them in my kayak. Good job folks.

It may interest some of you as to how loons mate. Loons become sexually mature at the age of three and attempt to claim a breeding territory at approximately the age of five. The male loon selects the nest site. Loons normally nest in quiet, hidden spots, typically in a sheltered bay where the nest site is protected from predators by water. Loons have difficulty walking on land so nests must be built very close to the water. The male and female build the nest together over the course of about a week by making a mound out of dead plant materials such as the marsh grasses that grow along the lake's edge. One of the loons then crawls on top of the mound and shapes the interior of the nest to the contours of its body. The finished nest is about 22 inches wide and looks like a clump of dead grasses. Loons usually lay 1-2 eggs and take turns incubating them for 28-30 days. Both parents aggressively defend their nest and young.

The number one reason loon nests fail in Wisconsin is predation. The prime predators are eagles, raccoons, gulls, crows, weasels, and skunks. Nest flooding due to wave action and wakes from power boats and personal watercraft can also cause nest failures, and ingestion of lead sinkers continues to be a major health problem for our loons. All of us should be aware of our actions so that we do not prevent our precious loons from becoming a family. Let's all work together to make certain that Half Moon Lake continues to support nesting pairs of loons that we and future generations can enjoy.

Pat Mechelke – Loon Ranger

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Half Moon Lake Conservancy



Long time stewards of Half Moon Lake Florian Lauer, David Butler and Gordy Mommsen. Conservancy Board members since the group was founded in 2003. David and Gordy have also served as Presidents of the Lake District in the past for many years.



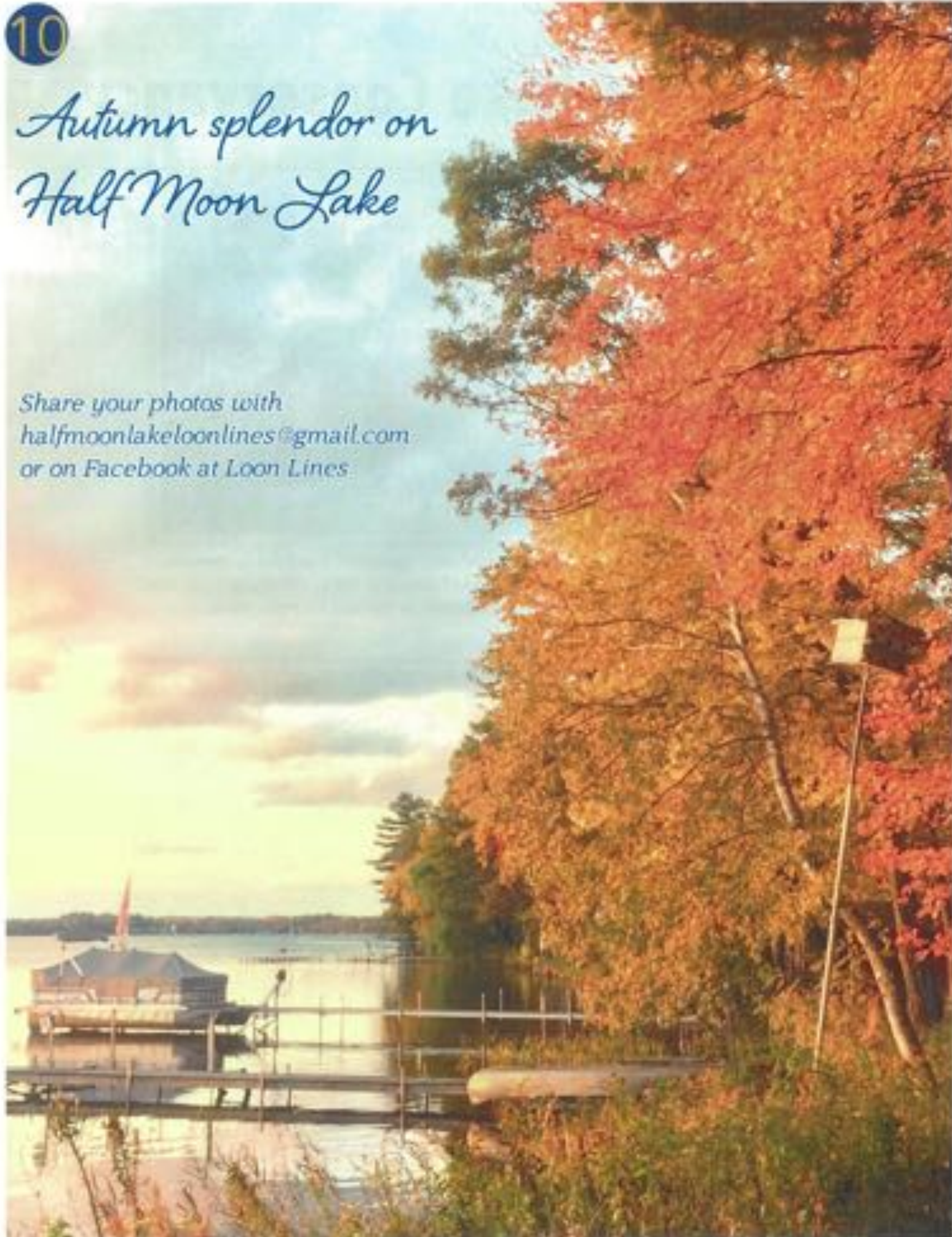
2018 HALF MOON LAKE CONSERVANCY BOARD

L to R: Dr. Eric Johnson, Harlen Hegdal, Sheila Waldoch, Florian Lauer, David Butler, Gordy Mommsen, John Weber, Ellen Butler. Not pictured: Herb Baldwin

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Autumn splendor on Half Moon Lake

*Share your photos with
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Where in the World is Half Moon Lake?

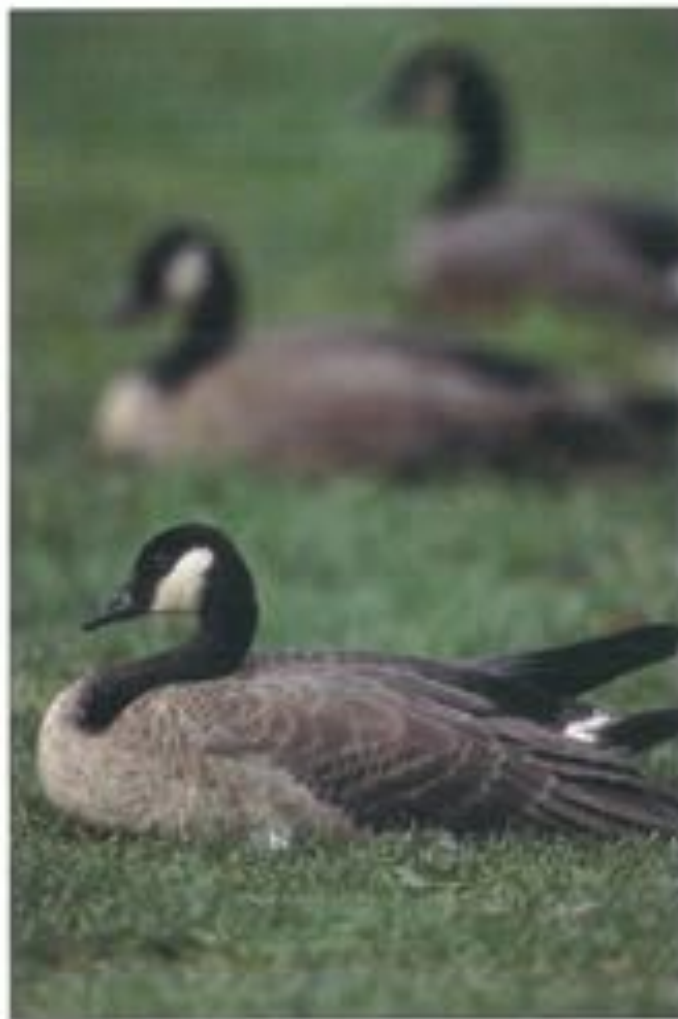
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featured in an upcoming Loon Lines newsletter.



HML Board Chairman John Weber with his wife, Jane, (sporting an HML shirt), their daughter Lynn and her husband Dave, and granddaughter Natalie, off the shore of Kauai, Hawaii.

Goose Management Tips and Information

Resident Canada Goose Management in Wisconsin



Resident Canada Geese

The population of resident Canada geese in Wisconsin has dramatically increased over the last 25 years. This phenomenal growth has been recorded throughout the United States as well as internationally. This is partially due to the development of large open mowed grassy areas that humans have created and the protection that they provide. Resident Canada geese are large, very adaptable, long lived, productive, and protective of nests and young. These traits often lead to conflicts with citizens.

Conflicts

As the population increases, so do the incidents of human conflict. High concentrations of resident Canada geese can lead to landscape damage, decreased water quality, disruption of recreational activities and decreased aesthetics from abundant droppings. However, there are solutions to these problems for landowners and local governments. In Wisconsin, the management strategy for these geese is twofold: 1) Manage the overall population through hunter harvest and 2) Address property or community specific problems with professionally guided integrated management.



Management Decision

The decision and cost to manage the local Canada goose situation lies with local leaders in accordance with State and/or Federal rules.



PUB WPM-474-2007



Integrated Management Plan

It is recommended that an integrated plan, utilizing multiple techniques, be implemented to successfully resolve conflicts with resident Canada geese.

Techniques to consider include:

Habitat modification. Habitat modification is altering the characteristics of the site so that geese do not find it attractive. This can be achieved by allowing grass to grow or planting buffer strips of native grasses or shrubs around water bodies to block the geese's clear view of potential predators, making them feel uncomfortable.

Fence barriers. Fences can prevent geese from conveniently walking from water to grass areas. Many different cost effective varieties, from mesh fencing to monofilament lines, can work well at disrupting access to feeding or loafing areas.

Scare devices. It is legal to harass Canada geese without a state or federal permit as long as the geese are not touched and adults are not kept away from their nests with eggs. These techniques are designed to make the geese uncomfortable and encourage them to find friendlier habitat. Trained dogs, auditory calls, predator effigies, mylar flagging, pyrotechnics and human harassment can be a critical part of an integrated plan.

Repellants. Chemical repellents can be applied to grassy areas where geese are accustomed to feeding. Typical goose repellents coat the grass with products that the geese find distasteful. They often associate the repellent's slight discoloration of the treated areas with the bad taste and avoid feeding in the area. Landowners should contact the Wisconsin DNR before using repellents because a permit may be needed.

Population management. Population management is achieved by either reducing the recruitment and/or increasing the mortality of the local population. This can be done several ways. Where possible, hunters harvesting geese during the early September hunt can be effective at reducing local populations and establishing that the area is no longer a safe refuge for the geese. However, local ordinances may have to be altered to allow hunting in developed areas. In order to manage the local population outside of the established hunting season, either by reducing nesting success or removal of adult and juvenile birds, a State and/or Federal permit is



necessary to conduct these activities in Wisconsin. Nesting success can be reduced by obtaining a nest destruction permit. This will allow the permit holder to oil, addle or destroy a nest with eggs. Destroying alone may cause the geese to attempt re-nesting. Nests without eggs may be destroyed without a permit. The removal of adults and juvenile geese or "round-up" is conducted in mid-June to early July during the molting process when geese are flightless. Prior to removing geese the population must be sampled for environmental contaminants. Captured birds are processed and made available to local food pantries for human consumption.

Important things to consider

Consider the timing of your actions. Goose behavior and damage changes throughout the year.

Reduce the available food and eliminate the ability of geese to walk from the water to loafing areas.

Solicit public involvement. While some people enjoy observing geese others would rather have them removed. Consider all opinions to avoid negative reactions.

Be aware of laws and regulations. These change over time.

Consider reducing geese, not eliminating them. Most successful plans aim to reduce goose numbers to a level tolerable to all stakeholders.

Be proactive. Many people wait until the problem is out of control before seeking help.





Thanks to the Walkers for their donation of delicious A&W root beer to the Annual Meeting and Picnic.

SAVE THE DATE

2018 Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting and Picnic

10 AM • JULY 21, 2018

Half Moon Lake Beach

*From the Archives
A 1975 article
featuring
HML's Jim
Smith,
who's still
promoting
water sports
and safety
on our lake*



CHILLY WATER-SKING - After conducting the final class in the boating safety course he was teaching for 30 area youngsters, Jim Smith went into the chilly waters of Half Moon Lake on the evening of May 12 to demonstrate his water-skiing skills for his students. He is pictured above

on trick skis and below on a slalom ski.

Smith is the safety chairman of the Wisconsin Water Ski Federation and a rated boat driver with the American Water Ski Association. He hopes to qualify for the August 13-24 National Water Ski Tournament which will be held at Tomahawk this year.



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**Renowned artist
Terry Redlin enjoying
the outdoors**

Terry Redlin By Kim Butler

There are some artists whose names you might not know, but their paintings are familiar. You might even have one of their works in your house or cabin. Terry Redlin is just such an artist, a prolific painter of nature and country life in the midwest. A South Dakota native, Redlin worked in St. Paul and lived in Hastings, MN. But this summer, we learned that Terry Redlin also owned a cabin on the north side of Half Moon Lake for ten years in the 1970's and painted scenes around Half Moon Lake and the Apple River which have been admired by fans the world over.

Redlin painted hundreds of works, and was named U.S. Art Magazine's Most Popular U.S. Artist years eight years in a row. He was a winner of the prestigious Minnesota Duck Stamp Competition, the Minnesota Trout Stamp Competition, and Ducks Unlimited's Artist of the Year. But before these accolades, Terry sketched designs for the backs of playing cards at Brown & Bigelow in St. Paul, and later, was employed as a designer and then art director at Webb Publishing, also in St. Paul. Terry Redlin grew up in and around Watertown,



Wildlife artist Terry Redlin was influenced by nature he observed in the forests north of Half Moon Lake.



Redlin in his studio, painting the outdoor landscapes he loved

S.D., and was the kind of kid who was always outside, or, when he had to be inside, like on a school day, he was often found staring out the window. His dream was to be a forest ranger, but a motorcycle accident resulted in the loss of his leg. He then turned to art, and received a scholarship to art school in St. Paul.

According to his son, Charles Redlin, Terry bought a lot with a cabin foundation, a well, and septic and set to getting a cabin built on the property. He chose the site because it was affordable and a convenient drive to Hastings. Redlin loved being outdoors and felt cooped up in Hastings, plus he had a deep need to live by water. The senior Redlin was also a very energetic person, and worked hard on the cabin. The family joke is that "the Ultimate Terry Redlin Original" sits on the shore of Half Moon Lake. Charles has seen the cabin in recent years, which he remembers as #50 in County



The wetlands around Half Moon Lake provided a nice habitat for a woodcock in Terry Redlin's 1979 painting, "The Loner."

Road G on the north west side of the lake and says it hasn't changed much since he and his family lived there. His dad chose the north side of the lake so he could see the amazing sunsets that Half Moon lake residents still cherish.

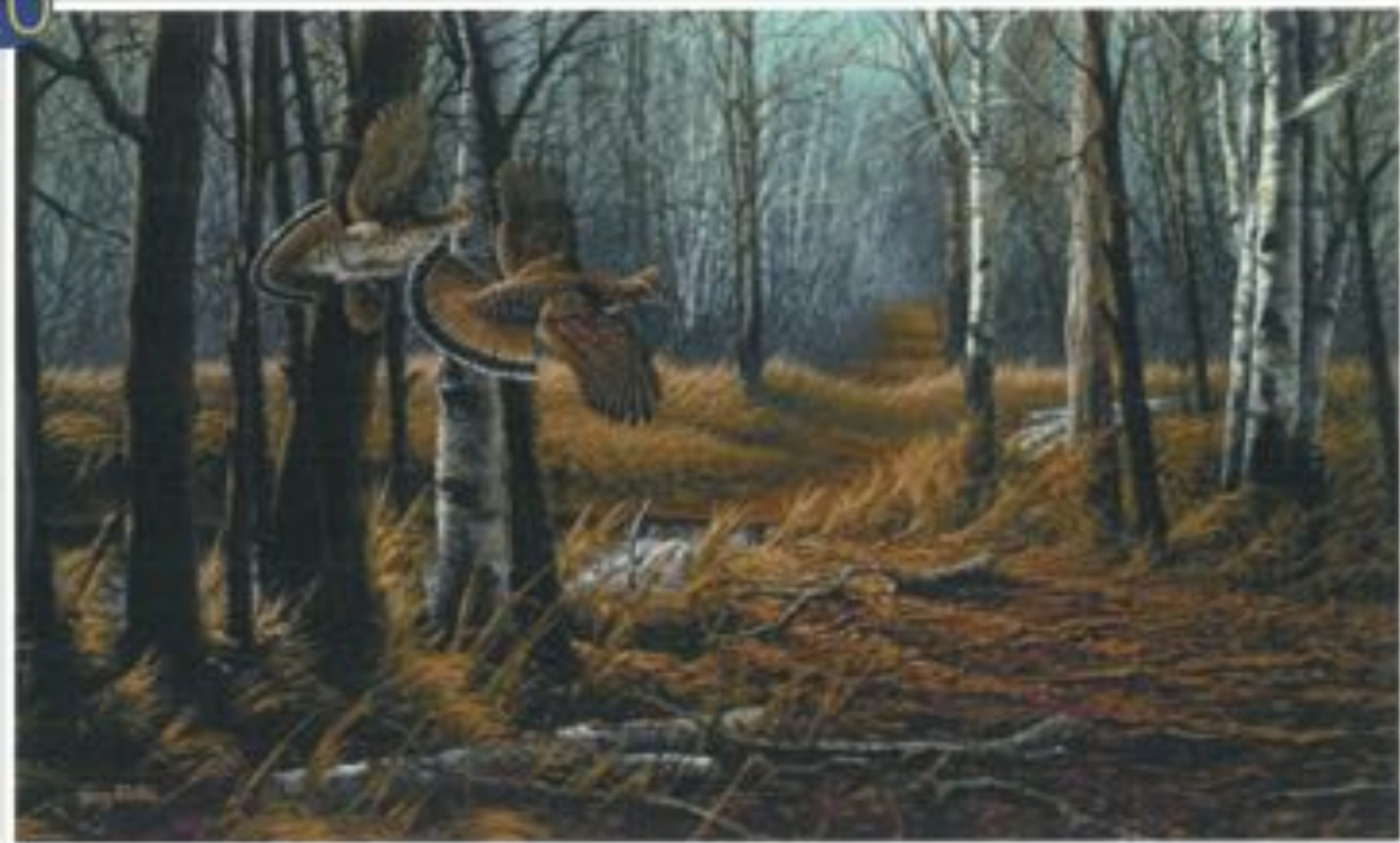
Charles was 9 when his dad bought the lot in 1971 and 19 when the family sold the cabin about a decade later, so he has many fond memories of summers on Half Moon. While Terry was busy building the cabin, Charles turned to fishing, and later motor biking on the trails behind the Half Moon Lake Resort, also on County Road G. He says his family also used to take long walks together back on those same trails, deep into the woods, excursions which lasted all afternoon. His dad, an avid photographer, would capture images of ponds and forest scenes that would later inspire his paintings. Charles remembers excellent bass and walleye fishing, and "phenomenal" crappie fishing.

Like many kids who grew up on Half Moon Lake, Charles has a special place in his heart for the Half Moon Lake Store, which sat at the intersection of G and GG on the north east side of the lake. Charles described it as the "happening place to be" and remembers riding over on his motor bike to meet up with friends. He recalled enjoying ice cream sandwiches, and buying pop, bait, and gas there, and when I mentioned my own husband's memories of their penny candy, he chuckled knowingly. A local legend Charles recollected is a story about a UFO being sighted directly above the store in the late 1970s.

Charles remembers stories his neighbor Babe Olsen told of the famed floating peat bogs of Half Moon Lake, large pieces of the bogs on Tamarack Bay that would break free and float down the lake. Some were so large, they could take out someone's dock, and apparently they had a pungent stench, so no one wanted a bog washed up against their lake shore. Charles didn't fully



"Autumn Run" by artist Terry Redlin was inspired by his walks in the woods north of the Half Moon Lake Resort.



A pair of grouse takes advantage of a clearing made by early loggers. Redlin's website notes that this work was from an actual scene near his Half Moon Lake cabin.

believe Babe's stories, till he himself went exploring back in the bay and found pieces of land and trees chained and cabled together. Lake residents would tow the floating bogs back up to Tamarack bay with their motor boats, and then attach them back to solid ground or neighboring trees.

Friends that Charles remembers include Greg Benson from Bone Lake, some guys named Mitch and Punk, and nearby neighbors the Benowitzes, the Thatchers, the Ericksons, and of course, Babe Olsen and his tales of floating bogs.

Ironically, it was Terry Redlin's success that caused him to sell the Half Moon Lake cabin. After he started selling his first prints locally in Hastings for as little as \$10.00 a piece, a painting of his was featured on *The Farmer Magazine*, and his career took off. Redlin quit his job at Webb Publishing to focus full time on his painting career. There was no time for lazy days at the lake. But the lake lived on in his memories. Charles explained that his dad often painted buildings or scenes from memory, and put them in locations that he felt were more appropriate, a sort of composite painting. Hence, some paintings look similar to the old Half Moon Lake Store, but in Redlin's world, the store sits right on the shores of a pond. While Redlin began with a focus on nature and wildlife, his later works included nostalgic visions of American Rural life, in series like "American Memories," "The Country Doctor," and "America the Beautiful."

Charles listed the paintings included with this article as being inspired by Half Moon Lake. His dad later returned to Watertown and founded the Redlin Art Center in 1997, which features his iconic



One can't help but wonder if this painting, "Welcome to Paradise" was in some way influenced by the old Half Moon Lake store, which used to have gas pumps.

works and attracts over a 100,000 visitors annually from all over. The 52,000 square foot museum features 160 original works, a re-creation of a lakeside cabin, and a beautiful conservation park. Redlin wanted to give back to the state that helped him go to art school years earlier. Terry Redlin retired in 2007, and passed away in April of 2016, after a nine year struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Charles and his sister Kim still hold Half Moon Lake close to their hearts. He noted that the lake probably comes up in family conversation once a week. Half Moon Lake residents know what a special place the lake is, and now memories of the lake live on in Terry Redlin's works.

For more information on Terry Redlin and to view his many paintings, visit Redlinart.com

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This article came about because Charles Redlin, Terry's son, contacted Sheila Waldoch through the internet about getting a copy of David J. Butler's History of Half Moon Lake book. Sheila passed the request along to David, and then she recognized the name, being a fan of Redlin's paintings. Somehow, I got involved with these emails, and was excited to focus story on such a beloved painter and his time at our lake.

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.

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Cooking at the Cabin

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Fruit & Cookie Pizza

I think dessert and chocolate are synonymous; why bother with dessert if there is no chocolate involved? This recipe is an exception for me. Some 20 years ago, I attended a pig roast and pot luck on the east side of the lake. This fruit and cookie pizza that someone brought to the potluck was delicious. I found a couple similar recipes and have made it every summer since then. My daughter loved to decorate it when she was younger, and it has become a tradition at our family Independence Day dinner, and other large family gatherings. You can use peaches, kiwi, and whatever berries are in season.

FRUIT & COOKIE PIZZA

Adapted from Bon Appetit Magazine:

1 18-ounce roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough.
1 8-ounce package cream cheese, room temperature
1 7-ounce jar marshmallow crepe
Sliced fruit: Approximately 3.5 cups of strawberries,
bite sized pieces of peaches or nectarines,
raspberries, blueberries, or blackberries.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Butter a 10x15" jelly roll pan or a 12" round pizza pan. Cut cookie dough into fourths, lay out in pan, and using clean wet fingers, press dough evenly into pan to form crust. Bake until deep golden brown, about 15 minutes. Cool completely.

Beat cream cheese in medium bowl until smooth. Beat in marshmallow creme. (Optional: mix in 2t. Lemon zest) Spread over cooled crust. You can cover and refrigerate for 45 minutes or so.

Top with fruit in whatever pattern strike your fancy. You can drizzle with warm caramel sauce or brush with 1/4 cup melted apple jelly, but I think this is unnecessary.



TRUDI WILL BE BACK WITH HER DELICIOUS RECIPES
AND HELPFUL TIPS IN OUR SPRING ISSUE.



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"Famous Artist Terry Redlin enjoyed summers on Half Moon Lake in the 1970's"

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