



The LOON Crier

## Moon Lake Riparian Association Newsletter

#146

moonlake.org

Fall 2024

### From the President

Steve Sunderland



Greetings from Moon Lake:

As another summer season ends and winter knocks on the door, I take time to reflect on the year so far. The warm weather, well into October, has certainly been a pleasant surprise and the leaf color season was also particularly nice. I read an article recently rating the best places in the country to see the colors and Upper Michigan was #1!

Our lake appears to be going through another down cycle in water level. We now have many piers that sit abnormally high above the water, like mine, which highlights how far the water has dropped. I've seen many of these cycles over the years so we should all enjoy our beaches for now as the level will inevitably rise again in the future.

It was a summer without a loon chick on the lake but we did have many adult loons present so we didn't go without their wonderful songs.

We also had a couple moose sightings and bald eagles have been ever present. What a blessing to have such abundant and diverse wildlife on, near and above our lake.

The MLRA Board met a few times throughout the year to discuss board activities and I can report it was a mostly "quiet" summer although the board essentials such as finances and water quality testing certainly continued. The restart of the lake camera was a welcome sight and we thank Bob Turnquist for his persistence in identifying the needs for proper functioning. Please take a few moments to read the annual MLRA meeting minutes; we thank those who regularly attend and encourage everyone to mark their calendars (normally held 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August) when the date is communicated.

I hope you all had a fantastic summer season and our wishes from the whole MLRA board for a healthy and SNOWY winter!

Best Regards,  
Steve

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**MLRA Annual Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, August 3, 2024  
4:00-5:30 PM Land O Lakes VFW**

### Board Members Present:

- Steve Sunderland - President;
- Mike Reiels - VP
- Eric Zorr - Treasurer
- Peggy Zorr - Secretary
- Bob Turnquist - Lake Cam
- Steve LaPalio - Water Quality
- Unable to attend - Carol Youmans

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Meeting was called to order by President Steve Sunderland at shortly after 4:00 pm. Steve welcomed all to the meeting and introduced our guest, Yvonne Clark Watersmeet trustee.

**Treasurer's Report** was given by **Eric Zorr**. The balances in our MLRA accounts are as follows: Checking, \$3,074.59; Regular Savings \$2,611.93; and Invasive Species Savings \$5,026.25. Outgoing expenses so far for 2024: Web Domain Name \$79.96; Web Hosting \$215.00; Web Cam, \$380.53; Lake Science Supplies, \$145.00; and Hoffman Memorials \$50 and Web Camera software, \$30,00.

Expenses to be paid by August 31,2024: ISCCW, \$200.00; MI Lakes and Streams, \$100. A motion was made by Steve LaPalio, seconded by George Stephen and carried by a unanimous vote to raise our donation to the Watersmeet and Land O Lakes Fire Departments to \$200. Thank you, Eric for keeping our finances in order.

**Secretary's Report** was given as part of the treasurer's report. Current paid MLRA membership as of the end of the annual meeting is 29 of the 61 households currently on the lake.

**Water Quality Report** given by **Steve LaPalio**. His full report can be found in the next MLRA Newsletter. However, he did give some highlights...Water level in Loon Bay in the year 2000 was 2.5 feet. Current water level is 3 feet down from the high-water mark. Steve takes 3 measurements per year. They are Secchi Disk which measures water clarity; Phosphorus which dropped from last year, which is good; and Chlorophyll, which is low and that is a good trophic status to have.

Brown, rainbow, and splicer had been stocked in the lake starting in 1979. This year 95

Lake Trout were stocked. These were a breeding stock that averaged 28 inches in length. We will be part of this current stocking program until 2032.

**Finding snails? Bury or burn them. They are not good for the lake.**

Thank you, Steve, for your continued water quality measurements/reports.

The current **Loon Ranger, Steve Sunderland**, gave his report by first thanking Carol Youmans for her service as the last loon ranger. Next spring a canopy will be added to the loon's nest in hopes of deterring flying predators. Sadly, no baby loon this year.

A brief **Web Cam** update was given by **Bob Turnquist** stating the camera was reconnected and seems to be working. Steve Sunderland will send out an email so all can have the web cam's address.

The **Loon Crier**, our MLRA Newsletter, will be coming out again. Please send in anything you feel is interesting on the lake, pictures, stories, recipes, upcoming events. Thank you to Steve and Carleen once again for taking on this task.

**Terms** have been **completed** for **Board Members** Mike Reiels, VP and Peggy Zorr, Secretary. Both have agreed to continue if voted in. And a replacement for board member Carol Youmans needs to be agreed upon. New Lake owner, Cindy Kick-Harris has agreed to be on the MLRA board, with the approval of the lake owners. A motion was made by Carleen Sunderland, seconded by George Stephen and carried by the group to re-elect Mike and Peggy and add Cindy to the MLRA board for a 2-year term.

**Election of officers** was then held with a motion from Sue Stephen, seconded by Brian Reiels and carried unanimitously. Cont. on Page 3

Sunderland, President; Mike Reiels, VP; Eric Zorr, Treasurer, and Peg Zorr, Secretary.

**Approval of dues** to remain at \$25 was motioned by Sue Stephen, seconded by Brian Reiels and carried unanimously. **Open Comments from MLRA Members**

Prudy Caudill wished to thank Joe LoMastro and Eric Zorr for their work on getting the Propane pricing and all the information sent out to those on the propane list.

Some conversation on the ambulance or lack thereof in the Watersmeet area was held. Within the last month a mutual aid agreement was made with Aspirus and Watersmeet. There was an emergency on our lake and Land O' Lakes never received a call even though they were staffed. Yvonne Clark added that the state law for Michigan and Wisconsin does not grant reciprocity.

If you happen to know anyone looking to buy on our lake Elaine Granat's home is for sale.

The Pine Aire Resort Motel [on the NE side of Moon Lake and trail access to boat landing!] would like to remind fellow association members to keep them in mind for overflow guests as they have remodeled their cabins [as well as the main house with gathering space to cook and entertain] and can accommodate your needs!

Northern Edge is still using the boat wash station before testing boats on the lake.

**Yvonne Clark shared Watersmeet Township news** with us. The arrival of high-speed internet has partially been successful. Watersmeet (the town of) has high speed internet from Highline. Michigan Broadband is planning to roll out high speed fiber optic which they claim will be cheaper than Highline. Yvonne and crew are still working on getting

better service for those of us on surrounding lakes.

There is a CODE RED emergency Notification service. Brochures were handed out at the meeting with the necessary information on it if one is interested in have that available.

A survey was taken and completed by 240 respondents on items which the public would be interested in having the planning commission work. A few of those items were a community garden, ambulance service for this part of the county, protecting property values, and short-term rentals.

Yvonne also reminds us all that the primary election was being held on August 6, and put her plug in for John Oliver, herself and Alan Issen.

After thanking Yvonne for sharing her time and views with us Steve also thanked all of those attending for coming to the meeting a **motion to adjourn** was made by Sue Stephen, Seconded by Mike Reiels and carried by all present.

Respectively submitted by

Peggy Zorr, MLRA Secretary

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**Loon Report**  
Steve Sunderland



Before next summer an eagle deterrent will be added to the floating loon nest in the west bay. Instead of a canopy, this deterrent will consist of a simple rope fence on one side of the nest. Eagles have been known on some lakes to steal loon eggs by swooping down and grabbing them. The fence will prevent this from occurring.

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## Loon Behavior Spotlight: Wing Rowing

When swimming, loons typically rely solely on their feet for propulsion; however, when they need to move more quickly, they may use their wings as paddles to help 'row' themselves across the water. This often occurs when loons perceive a threat, included when they are closely approached by humans or predators, or more commonly when they are in a territorial battle with another loon. Depending on the level of threat perceived, loons may continue wing rowing for great distances.

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## Water Quality:

Steve LaPalio



This summer's sampling of what's being found in Moon Lake! Let's continue our vigilance both on the water and shoreline so these kinds of things don't end up in the lake.

*...and thanks Steve for YOUR vigilance along with your handy reacher/grabber too!!*

**Update on the fish stocking program from the Michigan DNR:** The 2024 assignments have been made for the broodstock lake trout leaving the hatchery, Moon Lake didn't make the priority list this round. For next year, assuming broodstock lake trout are available either through our state hatchery or the federal system, we can raise Moon Lake up to be stocked again.

**2024 Water Quality Report**, click here:

[CLMP Annual Water Report](#)

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Quotable Quote:

**"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out until sundown, for going out I found, was really going in."**

**John Muir**

## The Season's Natural Art...



Have a wonderful Fall Season! See you around Moon Lake.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Steve and Carleen Sunderland*