



The NORTH STAR

Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Date: December 2013
Corliss Tischer, Newsletter Editor

Chairman's Chat **By Tony Waisbrot**

We all know and appreciate what a valuable natural resource Alma and Moon Lakes are. As lake residents, we are all stakeholders in protecting and improving the lakes for everyone's enjoyment.

That's why the Alma - Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District was formed in 1980. Self-help monitoring has occurred since 1986 and water chemistry has been measured since 2001. A Lake Management Plan was developed over a number of years and is a necessity to have in order to apply for studies and grants for improvement projects.

However, in this article, I want to acknowledge the people resource on our lakes since it's the volunteer time and teamwork of our residents that make projects happen. For instance, the repairing and rebrushing of the 37 fish cribs on both Alma and Moon Lake took 4 six hour days with a crew of 5 people and 8 boats to work with a diver to install the brush after 4 people spent 15 hours cutting, gathering and collecting brush supplied by lake residents on both lakes. Those over 180 person hours it took to complete the project were provided cheerfully and effectively by Duane "Whitey" Harris, Ken Beier, Milt Klingsporn, Bernie Danielson and yours truly. Thanks also go to Bob Altmayer, Clyde Owens and Ron and Corliss Tischer for providing brush or a beachfront to load the trailered brush into boats, three of which were provided by Glenn Svetnika of Moon Beach Camp.

Thanks are also in order to Ann Seibel and Audrey Lehner and their neighborhood captains who organized the social events in July and August. Thanks also go to Mary Platner for tracking and recording the water levels on the lake. Your 7 member Lake District board continues to manage an organization that is looked up to by others as a model to emulate. Thanks go to Dave Zielinski, Treasurer, Dean Marquardt, Secretary, Corliss Tischer, Commissioner and Newsletter editor, Milt Klingsporn, Commissioner and Webmaster, Bill Bates, Town of St. Germain Representative and Kathleen Rushlow, Vilas Co. Representative.

I hope you will volunteer to join us or serve when called upon to continue to maintain and improve the natural and social environment in our Lake District. To paraphrase Aldo Leopold, "Conservation is a state of harmony between people and the natural resource."



Photo of two eagles was taken by Howard Earnst's son Don in Howard's yard on the south shore of Moon Lake.

Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Newsletter and Web Site.

How much do you know about your lake? The Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Commission (Moon Lake P & R District) would like to keep our members and property owners informed on what is happening on your lake by providing the Alma Lake – Moon Lake P & R District newsletter and Web Site: [www. www.almamoonlake.org](http://www.almamoonlake.org).

The Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection Rehabilitation District has a wonderful web site that is managed by Commissioner and Web Master Milt Klingsporn. The web site will give you current and historical information as well lake data. You can learn about Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection Rehabilitation District, the Management Plan, Water Levels, Ice, Moon Lake Data and Alma Lake Data. Find out what the Ordinary High Watermark is or learn more about invasive species. Meeting notices, meeting minutes and Commissioners information are also available. If you do have a problem or just have a questions you can contact us through the web site.

Our lakes are a great resource that provides hours of entertainment and relaxation. So that we can enjoy our lakes for years to come, the newsletter and web site will inform you on the health of the lakes, special interest, water quality, projects, meetings and special events.

Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District History

On January 15, 1980, the Vilas County Board approved the creation of the Alma Lake – Moon Lake District. The District was formed from the original Alma-Moon Lake Association that was created in 1970.

In 2002, the Town of Saint Germain created Wisconsin's first town lakes committee. The Town Lakes Committee was created to represent all the major lakes within the town. Over the last decade, many other towns in Wisconsin's Northwood's region have followed suit with the Town of Saint Germain and have created their own town lakes committees.

Keeping with their progressive tendencies, the Town of

Saint Germain, in 2004 launched a town-wide lake management-planning project. This project is aimed at assessing the plant communities of eight of the town's largest and most utilized lakes. The Town of Saint Germain Aquatic Plant Management Plan (Onterra 2006) was completed during the summer of 2006 and stood as the first town-wide management planning effort in Wisconsin. In 2009, the Town Lakes Committee again teamed with Onterra to reassess the town's lakes. The current project includes seven of the eight lakes originally studied by the town. See the Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District web site for addition information: www.almamoonlake.org.

2013 Walleye Fish Stocking

On June 27, 2013 at 10:00 am, Fisheries Technician Tom Lorenzen brought 1,927 Walleye fingerlings for Alma Lake and 4,340 for Moon Lake. All were 2 inches long and hatched from eggs from Lake Tomahawk. Clyde Owens and Tony Waisbrot assisted with stocking from Clyde's pier on Alma Lake and Howard Ernst's pier on Moon Lake. See picture below.

In 2012, Whitey Harris assisted DNR personnel in stocking 10" – 12" Musky, 65 in Moon Lake (half by resort and half by Moon Beach shoreline) and 28 stocked in Alma Lake by public landing shoreline.



Walleye Stocking on June 27, 2013

History About Our Water Level Indicator

On September 10 2008, Bill Rose of the USGS gave an update to Milt Klingsporn on seeking the mean sea level altitude of the reference point (cap on 1/2-inch pipe driven into the lakebed) off the property of Platner's on Moon Lake.

On September 27, 2001 the altitude of Little St. Germain Lake was 1613.33 ft above mean sea level, based on a reading of the staff gage on the dam at the outlet of the lake. On that day a level survey was taken from the water surface of Little St. Germain Lake to the water surface of Moon Lake and determined that the altitude of Moon Lake was 1615.70 ft. The measured distance from the cap on the 1/2-inch pipe driven into the lakebed near the Platner's was 1.44 ft. Hence, the altitude of the top of the cap on that day was $1615.70 - 1.44 = 1614.26$ ft above mean sea level. Lake ice usually disturbs the position of such reference points during winter. Such reference points often are plucked upward or driven deeper by lake ice. In order to get accurate stage data from measurements from underwater reference points, the altitude should be verified every spring after ice-out. The best way to do this is to establish and maintain at least three on-land reference points and every spring run a level circuit between these points and the in-lake reference point.

At the June 15, 2013 annual meeting, Mary Platner reported that the Lake water level is up 1-foot and 2-inches from last fall. Specific information on water levels can be found at the Alma-Moon Web Site www.almamoonlake.org.

Crib Brushing

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to Clyde Owens, Ken Beier, Whitey Harris, Bernie Danielson, Milt Klingsporn, Tony Waisbrot, Glen Svetnika of Moon Beach and Bill Nichols of Timber Bay Scuba for all their hard work for brushing the cribs on Moon and Alma Lakes. A thank you also goes to Renee Verfuert for giving us permission to stage brush on her shore.

Moon Lake crib brushing was completed in 2012 and Alma crib brushing took place on September 12th and 17th, 2013. Bill Nichols, the diver, of Timber Bay Scuba had to rebuild one crib and 7 cribs were brushed.

All the cribs were empty and large so they took a lot of brush. It took Ken, Whitey, Bernie, Milt and Tony two days to gather and transported to the shore all the brush that was needed. As much brush as possibly was loaded into 3 Moon Beach Camp boats and transported to each crib site.

A total of 25 cribs were repaired, rebuilt and brushed on Moon Lake and 12 brushed on Alma Lake.



2013 Alma Lake Brushing



2012 Moon Lake Brushing

What Is In Your Water? **Vilas County Well Water Testing** **Program**

Vilas County offers well water testing for bacteria and nitrates, which should be done yearly. This can be done right through the Public Health Department. The Department can provide a kit to you to take the sample at a cost \$12.00 per sample.

According to the WDNR most private wells have clean and safe water, but that wells can become contaminated. Contaminates usually cannot be seen, tasted or smelled thus it is important to test your well yearly to make sure your water is safe for consumption.

For additional information on well testing please go to the Vilas County Public Health Web Site at vilaspublichealth.com/groundwater.html or the WDNR Web Site at dnr.wi.gov/topic/DrinkingWater/documents/pubs/TestsForWell.pdf.

Moon Lake's Newest Babies

This year Moon Lake was a nursery to a loon chick and two eaglets. The west side of Moon Lake was the nursery for a loon chick and the east side eagle's nest had two eaglets raised in it. It was truly a wonderful opportunity to observe these birds mature and go about their everyday life.

Through the dedication and watchful eye of Loon Ranger Teri Beier and her husband Ken along with DNR research scientist Dr. Mike Meyer the loon chick was saved from an embedded fishing lure.

On Labor Day weekend when the loon chick was observed having a fishing lure embedded on its body, Ken and Teri were concerned for the welfare of the chick so they contacted Mike Meyer who gave up his own personal time on Saturday night to assist Ken and Teri Beier in rescuing the loon chick. Equipped with a boat, lights and net they located the loon chick and removed the fishing lure which saved the life of the chick.



Picture taken on July 2, 2013



Picture taken on September 1, 2013

Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Socials

Ann Seibel and Audrey Lehner coordinated several socials this year that were well attended by our members. The food was great and it is always a great time meeting and getting caught up with our neighbors.

Breakfast Social was held at 3 C's Coffee Cup Café on July 13, 2013.

The Chicken BBQ was at the New Twilight Bar & Grill on August 17, 2013.

Thank you to Ann Seibel, 3 C's Coffee Cup Café, and the New Twilight Bar & Grill for making our events special and fun.

“No Wake” Laws

Alma Lake and Moon Lake have wake restrictions per Town of St. Germain Ordinance NO. SG-1999-6-1.

Alma Lake is a “No Wake” lake and Moon Lake restricts wakes from 5 P.M. -10 A.M.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lake District is the preservation of Alma/Moon lakes natural beauty and quiet environment for the future generations. The focus will be to maintain the highest water quality and protect the natural shoreline through proactive participation in the protection of aquatic contamination and watershed erosion supporting both fish and wildlife habitat. Communication of the activities to all Lake District members and the solicitation of their involvement and cooperation will be primary in the conducting this mission. All Lake District sponsored activities will always be performed under the direction of current federal, state, and local regulations.

2013- 2014 Alma Lake -Moon Lake District Commissioners:

Tony Waisbrot (term of 2015) – Chairman,
twaisbrot@frontier.com

Dean Marquardt (term of 2016) –Secretary,
deanm599@att.net

Dave Zielinski (term of 2016) –Treasurer,
davezeel@frontier.com

Milt Klingsporn (term of 2015)-Commissioner,
mklings@frontier.com

Corliss Tischer (term of 2014)-Commissioner,
corliss.tischer@gmail.com

Bill Bates -Town of St Germain Representative,
williambates@frontier.com

Kathleen Rushlow-Vilas Co Representative,
kathleen.rushlow@yahoo.com

Town of St. Germain and Area Information

Town of St. Germain Web Site:
www.townofstgermain.org/

St. Germain Recycling and Garbage Disposal Hours:

Summer: Memorial Day thru Labor Day open:
Wed/Sat 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sun 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Winter: Wednesday after Labor Day thru Sunday prior to Memorial Day open:
Wed 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sat 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Vilas County Web Site: www.co.vilas.wi.us/

Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club Web Site:
www.boboen.com/

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

With the Holidays fast approaching, May everyone have a Very Special Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.



Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and
Rehabilitation District
P.O. Box 145
St. Germain, WI 54558



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