



The NORTH STAR

Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Date: December 2014

Corliss Tischer, Newsletter Editor

Chairman's Chat

By Tony Waisbrot

Harvard University's president, Lawrence Summers, has been quoted as saying, "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car."

This, of course, reminds us that a person who owns something has a strong incentive to take care of it and so there is the need for a feeling of ownership to help people act with conservation in mind. But what if there's no total ownership and you're responsible for only some small aspect, such as the car you helped build or the property you own on a lake? We all know that whole cars drive and that whole lakes thrive, survive or deteriorate depending on the care that is taken by the riparian owners surrounding the lake.

So, how can people be encouraged to take care of things they don't own and how does one come to a sense of ownership of something in common such as lakes and public lands?

We also know that ownership doesn't automatically lead to care. Sometimes ownership creates an attitude of being able to do what one wants and no one can interfere or an attitude of superiority that my little corner is more important than all the others. So we don't want to be just renters who don't take a sense of ownership and we don't want to assert an ownership that just grabs onto their own property and growls at others not considering the impact on anybody or anything else.

In previous columns, I've noted all the lake residents who have participated in projects and served on the board of commissioners to improve and care for our lakes. They gave freely of their time, energy and talents to honor the whole, all of its parts and processes. Until all of us, who are lake residents, participate in taking care of our lakes, we're still just renting the car.

Loon Rescue Award

Alma – Moon Lake P & R District President Tony Waisbrot and District Loon Ranger Terrie Beier presented an award to commend Dr. Mike Meyer, DNR research scientist, in his assistance in rescuing a loon chick with an embedded fishing lure in its leg. He along with Ken and Terrie Beier, ventured out by boat after sunset, using spotlights and a net to capture the chick. No infection was noted and the fishing lure was safely removed by Dr. Meyer.

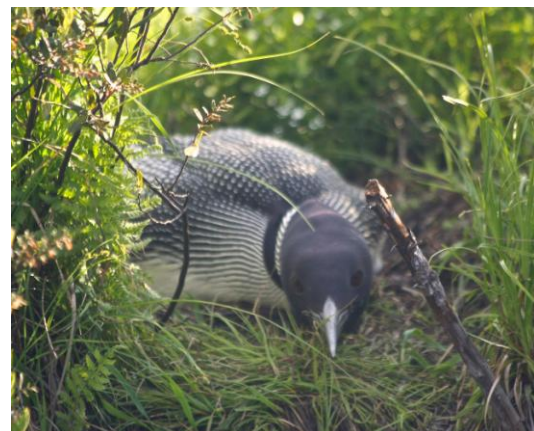


Photo taken by Ann Waisbrot on June 10, 2014

St. Germain and Vilas County Residential Zoning Restricts Property Rentals.

The Town of St. Germain Ordinance has Alma and Moon Lake single residence properties zoned as a Lakeshore Residential District, which states that home rentals are not a permitted use or conditional use. Town of St. Germain Ordinance Section 1.32, Lakeshore Residential District, states the purpose of this classification is to maintain the lake shoreline areas with single family residences. For further information or questions please contact Tim Ebert at 715-542-3155 or email him at stgtownshop@hotmail.com.

The Vilas County Zoning Code has Alma and Moon Lake single residence properties zoned as a Single-Family Residential District (R-1), which does not allow transient lodging. Vilas County defines transient lodging as a commercial lodging establishment that allows rental of sleeping quarters or dwelling units for periods of less than a one month. Vilas County Zoning Code section 4.1, Single-Family Residential District (R-1), states the purpose of the Single Family Residential District is to create areas for low density residential use and prohibit the intrusion of uses incompatible with the quiet and comfort of such areas. Vilas County amended its zoning ordinance and land-use plan in 2010 to specifically allow weekly rentals by creating the residential lodging (RL) district where transient lodging is defined. Vilas County Circuit Judge Neal A. Nielsen III states that by permitting less than 30-day rentals in the RL district implies it is prohibited in the R1 district. For further information you can contact Vilas County or view their website: <http://www.co.vilas.wi.us/dept/Zoning%20Forms/generalzoningordinance.pdf> or view the zoning map at: <http://vcgis.co.vilas.wi.us/vcom>

What is a Lake District?

As you know, the property owners around Alma and Moon Lake belong to the Alma – Moon Protection and Rehabilitation District. But did you ever wonder what that means and what a lake district is? *People of the Lakes: A guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations* publication states that a district is a specialized unit of government that is to maintain, protect and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the lake environment.

The Moon Lake P & R District was formed in 1980. All property owners within the district share in the cost of the management activities, such as the rebrushing of the cribs last year, through your property tax bill. Residents who live in the district and all property owners have a vote in the affairs of the district, which is done at our annual meeting for the election of commissioners, approval of the budget, and approval of contracts or projects costing over \$10,000. An example of contracts or projects could be to purchase or sell land, disburse money, take out loans, accept grants, develop and perform surveys or studies, manage aquatic plants, control erosion, and monitor water quality.

The Lake District is run by a board consisting of 5 elected Commissioners and a Representative is appointed by Vilas County and Town of St. Germain. One elected commissioner must be a resident unless no resident is willing to serve and the others must be either residents or property owners in the district. Commissioners have a range of responsibilities and functions. They can manage fiscal issues, work with local and state government and agency officials, develop goals and plans, do research and perform surveys for the protection and rehabilitation of the lake.

For further information on lake districts check out the following websites: People of the Lakes:

A guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations and University of Wisconsin Stevens Point:

www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/districts/default.aspx.

Wisconsin State Statue covering lake districts: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/33.pdf>

Invasive Species in our Lakes

We hear about invasive aquatic species invading our lakes, but do we really understand the impact these species have on our lakes. The Aquatic Invasive Species Education Handbook, www.uwex.edu/erc/AquaInvHandbook.html, describes invasive species as non-native plants and animals present in an ecosystem beyond their native range that become invasive. These invasive species threaten native species and interfere with commercial, agricultural and recreational activities.

Invasive Species in our Lakes cont'd

The Alma –Moon Protection and Rehabilitation District wants to protect the recreational activities of our lakes so we want to be proactive in ensuring that our lakes are free of damaging invasive species. Invasive plants and animals can damage the health and fish populations within our lakes. First we need to know how our lakes could be infected. Here is a list of several ways that our lakes could become infected.

- Aquatic species attaching to our boats, trailers, and equipment and being transported from one lake to the next.
- Aquatic species being transported in bait buckets and live wells.
- Aquatic species can also be transported from lake to lake by birds and fish.



So what can we do to prevent invasive species from entering our lakes?

1. Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment before leaving the water access;
2. Drain water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the water access;
3. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash;
4. Spray/rinse boats and recreational equipment with high pressure and/or hot tap water (> 104° F), especially if moored for more than a day, or dry boats and equipment thoroughly for at least 5 days

There are also Federal and State laws and regulations and organizations that outline steps to curb and prevent invasive species from entering our waterways. The National Invasive Species Information Center through the United States Department of Agriculture website, www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/laws/wi.shtml, will provide state specific laws and regulations, state specific links and information for the prevention, control, or eradication of invasive species. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also has a website; <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives> and <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/prevention.html> that provide educational outreach, strategic planning and active management projects. The Wisconsin Lakes non-profit organization, www.wisconsinlakes.org, which is the only statewide non-profit organization working to protect and enhance the quality of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes, works to protect and preserve our lakes. Each of these websites provides extensive information on invasive species and how we can keep our lakes free of invasive species.

2014 Lake Updates

Musky Stocking: WDNR stocked 10" to 11" Musky in Alma and Moon Lakes, 14 in Alma Lake and 32 in Moon Lake.

Water Level: According to personal observations the water levels are approximately 2 feet higher than last year.

Loons and Eagles: Unfortunately, the eagles don't appear to be using the nest this year and our loon was a late hatch at the end of June.



Albino fawn seen on Shields Road
Picture taken by Ann Waisbrot on August 18, 2014



Newly hatched turtle on Moon Lake
Picture taken by Ann Waisbrot on June 9, 2014

Let 'em go and Let 'em grow

On June 10, 2014, the lake fishery committee consisting of Clyde Owens, Ken Beier, Duane Harris and Tony Waisbrot met with Vilas County's fishery manager for the DNR, Steve Gilbert who indicated the water in our lakes is just a step above distilled water so it takes a walleye about 6 yrs to reach 15 inches.

As a consequence the fishery committee is recommending that we not only adhere to regulations of releasing all walleye under 15 inches, but also practice catch and release on the walleye above 15 inches until our walleye population increases. The walleye population on many lakes has crashed in recent years. If you would like to keep some fish for yourself or guests, it is recommended you keep only one walleye per person between 15 and 20 inches and release any walleye over 20 inches since those are the larger female walleye who can produce the eggs for spawning for future fish to catch.

Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Socials

Ann Seibel and Audrey Lehner again did a wonderful job coordinating several socials this year that were well attended by our members. The socials always are a great time for meeting new neighbors, getting caught up on what's happening on the lakes, and of course enjoying great food. A lunch social was at Knocker's on July 12, 2014 and the Chicken BBQ was at the New Twilight Bar & Grill on August 16, 2014

A big thank you goes to Ann Seibel, Audrey Lehner, Knocker's and the New Twilight Bar & Grill for making our socials a great time.

Town of St. Germain and Area Information

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

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

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

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

Save the date: Celebrating 35 years as a Lake District and Annual Meeting

Come help us celebrate our 35th Anniversary at our annual Alma-Moon Lake P&R District meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at Moon Beach. Our guest speaker will be Wildlife research Scientist Michael W. Meyer Ph.D. of the WDNR Bureau of Science Services.

Registration will be from 12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m. and a dutch treat lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. during which time Dr. Meyer will present a program reviewing the progress of the Shoreline improvement project at Moon Beach Camp and its resultant improvement in lake water quality and other ecological benefits.

District Commissioners

Tony Waisbrot (term of 2015) – Chairman, twaisbrot@frontier.com
Dean Marquardt (term of 2016) –Secretary, deanrm599@att.net
Dave Zielinski (term of 2016) –Treasurer, davezee1@frontier.com
Milt Klingsporn (term of 2015)-Commissioner, mklings@frontier.com
Corliss Tischer (term of 2017)-Commissioner, corliss.tischer@gmail.com
John Vojta -Town of St Germain Representative,
john_vojta@hotmail.com
Kim Simac-Vilas Co Representative, kisima@co.vilas.wi.us

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 of this mission. All Lake District sponsored activities will always be performed under the direction of current federal, state, and local regulations.

Future Newsletters

In order to cut down on costs and save on postage, we would like to start sending our newsletters electronically to your email. If you would like to receive future newsletters via email, please send a message to Commissioner Corliss Tischer at corliss.tischer@gmail.com. We will also have the newsletters posted on our website for everyone to view.

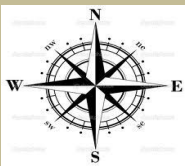
Meet your Commissioners



From left to right: Dean Marquardt, Corliss Tischer, Dave Zielinski, Milt Klingsporn, and Tony Waisbrot



Alma Lake – Moon Lake Protection and
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