

## Moose Lake News by

Jim Onarheim

The first day of spring is not until March 20<sup>th</sup> but this past week has felt as though it may have arrived just a little early. Let's hope that our warmer weather may be here to stay. One thing that has arrived is daylight savings time. This past Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> we were to spring ahead one hour with our clocks. The nice thing now is that most of our clocks are built to do this automatically. For those clocks that don't move ahead automatically I hope everyone remembered to move them ahead, so you were not late for church or work on Sunday.

Moose Lake has started to show signs of some open water along some of the shoreline. It is just enough of a warning that we must start being careful around our lakes. Every lake is a little different so be prepared for changing conditions. I did see ice fisherman out on Lake Chetek in 8 different locations in southern Sawyer County last Friday when I was driving in that area. Keep in mind normally the shorelines that have southern exposure will start to have open water first. Be careful if you are still trying to get out to do some ice fishing.

On Tuesday evening February 17<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin DNR Firefighter Brody Fisher along with a representative from the United States Forest Service Department of Agriculture (U.S.F.S.) out of Park Falls office conducted an evening of Wildland Fire Fighting training at the Town of Round Lake Fire Station. Round Lake Fire Dept. invited the Spider Lake Fire Dept. for this joint Wild Land Firefighting training. Every spring we go over some very important issues and train with the Wisconsin DNR Forestry Ranger and the U.S.F.S. The U.S. Forest Service has been managing wildland fires on National Forests and Grasslands for more than 100 years. But the Forest Service doesn't – and can't – do it alone. Instead, the agency works closely with other federal, tribal, state, and local partners.

This is more important than ever because over the last few decades, the wildland fire management environment has profoundly changed. Longer fire seasons: bigger fires and more acres burned on average each year; more extreme fire behavior; and wildfire suppression operations in the wildland urban interface (WUI) have become the norm.

With the large forest that most of us live in, someday we may possibly be faced with a very large forest fire. As we all know this could happen this spring if dry weather conditions were to increase. In the spring, we can have very low humidity and always a possibility of low moisture. The combination of these two items, along with the dead dry grass that becomes exposed, after the snow leaves can increase the fire danger rapidly.

If anyone has any outside burning that needs to be done, now is the time to do that. Don't wait until our snow is gone, that is the worst time to burn, especially if you have a large amount of brush to burn. Remember if a fire was to get away from you, you are completely responsible for all damage, and the cost of extinguishing it even if we must call in air support. It is not worth it, don't take any chances! The following are some fire safety tips that may help you.

When the snow cover is gone, you must obtain a burning permit. Clear tall grass from around propane tanks. Clear around flammable materials for at least 10 feet. Store wood piles at least 30 feet from buildings. All outside fires must be always attended. Have a garden hose charged and close by. Have rakes and shovels close by when burning. Don't burn on dry windy days. Clean your roof of leaves, pine needles and other flammable material. Control vegetation by having a fuel break of at least 30 feet wide around structures. Have a plan, for adequate access and escape plan. All roads should be at least 16 feet wide, so this allows good access for Fire Trucks. Roads that have a dead end should have a minimum of a 60-foot turn-around radius. All Fire Numbers should be visible from the roadway. We will have more tips in the weeks to come. For more information call or contact: U.S.F.S. 715-634-4821 or Brody Fisher WI DNR 715-634-9658 Ex. 3506 or Firewise Website: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

The following websites will give you additional ideas of how to protect your waterfront property. WI DNR Shoreland Management Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/> WI DNR Firewise Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/firewise/> WI DNR Alternatives to Open Burning: <http://dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ob/alternatives.htm> Remember, Smokey Bear has been reminding residents for 82 years, that ONLY YOU can prevent Wildfires.

Pool Results from Feb. 26, 2026 First place was awarded to Mike Williams and Jack Brown. Second place was won by Bruce Vanfleet and Darryl Enk. The TP award went to Dane Resh and Jim Onarheim It was a small turnout that week, but we did enjoy ourselves. One-week later March 5<sup>th</sup> it was a different story. We had a larger group of players. First place was awarded to Mike Williams and me Jim Onarheim. Second place is Darryl Enk and Bill Stednitz. The TP award this week was given to Mark Bunton and Brad Daywitt. Anyone that would like to play pool is welcome. 6 PM every Thursday evening at Christina's Y Pines.

NOTICE: Moose Lake, Town of Round Lake and all area residents, Robin's Nest Restaurant is now back open on Saturday's and Sunday's. Chris is healed up enough after his accident of slipping on the ice back in January. He is now hopping along in the kitchen to help get some work done.

Happy Birthday this week too, Tom Off and Larry Fullington both have birthdays on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. Effie Debias on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Joan Tamm on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Even though he is not on the lake anymore I must wish old time Moose Lake fishing guide Larry Ramsell a Happy Birthday. He is going to be 84 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. Larry started his musky carrier on Moose Lake many years ago. Randy Ross and Laura Gilkey will celebrate both of their birthdays on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Fire Chief Mike Schmidt will have his birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sally Myers her birthday is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Happy Birthday to everyone, even those that we may have missed in our announcements. There are no anniversaries this week.

Stay safe and warm everyone and enjoy your week. Please send your items of interest to my e-mail address at [emta984@gmail.com](mailto:emta984@gmail.com) or call my landline at 715-462-4448 or my cell at 715-577-8880. Moose Lake Improvement association website is <http://mliahaywardwi.org> The Town of Round Lake Web site is <https://www.townofroundlakewi.org> and the Round Lake Fire Department website is <https://townofroundlakefire-rescue.org>. JO

