

## Moose Lake News

By Jim Onarheim

Beautiful winter weather here in Hayward USA at the start of the Winter Olympics which I'm watching now from Milano Cortina d' Ampezzo Italy. The start of the Olympics was on Friday evening the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. What a beautiful site. I love to volunteer for events like the American Birkebeiner Ski race every year and the one-time Para Olympics which I did work for at Cable in 2015. This prompted me to apply for a medical team at the World Olympics. I got as far as a phone interview from Denver Colorado. I missed the cut off date by a couple of days because of a lack of communication perhaps on my part. The process was interesting and I would love to do it again because I now know what must be done to perhaps get close to being accepted. But because of my age, I best not. Enjoy the Olympics, they always have been great.

On Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> the Moose Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) met at Louies for their monthly Board of Directors meeting. The guest speaker that day was Max Wolter Fish Biologist from the Wisconsin DNR. The board was interested in how Moose Lake was doing as far as our fish population. Especially our fish population when it comes to pan fish. Crappies and bluegill. Max gave the group a handout that had information on black crappie, bluegill, smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike and muskellunge. This information came from netting surveys that the DNR did last spring on Moose Lake. The survey is done every three to four years. Max said that his netting team does not get too aggressive trying to get a lot of numbers on panfish because of the type of structure that we have in Moose Lake. We have a lot of stumps, piles of rocks, and other things that could damage their equipment on their netting boat. They do spend a lot more time in deeper water which is where the other fish locate themselves. These are Walleye, bass, Musky and Northern Pike.

The board was very interested in the crappie because of the popularity of this fish in Moose Lake. Max Stated that they captured 8 per net with the quality size being at 8 inches and the preferred size being 10 inches. There were just a few being in the 14-inch size. One thing that Max stressed, that crappies don't spawn every year. There are a lot of factors that enter into the spawn of crappies. and fish in general to have a successful year class. He said sometimes crappies may go, many years without having a spawn. He then also said there may be a year where there is a very good spawn. Max said crappies grow at a slower rate. A ten-inch crappie may be 7,8,9 or maybe 10 years old. Then the 14-inch crappie is going to be older yet. It takes a while for crappies to get to that size. Bluegills are not as popular in Moose Lake because of the type of structure we have in the lake. The netting team did net several nice 8-inch size fish but not a lot of them. I personally feel this is why it is very important to do catch and release as much as possible with our panfish population if we want to increase the population.

Someone asked a question about northern pike in Moose Lake. Some people did not know that Moose had Northern pike in it. Max said that Moose has had Northerns in it for several years. Not as many as some other lakes but anglers are now catching more today than years ago. They netted several northerns in that 14-inch size during their netting survey that they did this past spring.

One excellent thing that Max brought up was our pan fish regulation that was put into place two years ago. He said for us to know what a regulation is doing or to see the effect of that regulation it normally takes about 8 years. It does not happen in one to two years. We must be patient. Max also said to have a good panfish population we need to have a good predator population to keep things in check. We do have a good walleye population which is a predator to panfish. He said if we did not have a good predator population the panfish would keep reproducing but we would not be happy with the size of our panfish. Max stated that we do have a very restricted regulation, but our lake is one of the top five crappie lakes in our area.

Another question that was asked by a board member was if we wanted to take on a project, what type of project would be approved by Max. Tree drops are one. Private property perhaps is what we would have to target because the US Forest Service feels we have enough wood in our lake. They said they would not be interested in allowing us to do Tree Drops on their property. Shallow water brush piles would be another project that would work. In the weeks to come I'm sure the board will come up with a few projects that they will want to take on next summer. The information that Max provided was very informative and all present enjoyed his presentation.

Pool League last Thursday at Christina's Y Pines was another enjoyable evening for everyone present. We did not have a large group like always but those present had fun and we got done very early just in time to play a few extra pool games for the fun of it. First place was won by Dane Resh and Mike Williams. Second place went to Bruce Vanfleet and Jeff Williams. The T.P. award I and my partner Darryl Enk took that one home.

Birthday greetings this week go to Mark Tamm on the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month, Jeff Staggs and Jim Weidling on the 13<sup>th</sup>, John Hozvot and Tera Neibauer on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Adeline Henchel on the 15<sup>th</sup>, John Myhre on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Rose Frisch and Erica Riley both have birthdays on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Bill Enders on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Barb Nielsen on the 21<sup>st</sup> and Taylor Rose Adams on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Feb. Happy birthday to all of you. Happy Anniversary to the following couples, Dave and Joan Runice on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, Steve and Karen Blodgett on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. Happy anniversary to both couples.

Stay safe and warm everyone and enjoy your week. Please send your items of interest to my e-mail address at 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.