

Moose Lake News

By Jim Onarheim

I must say on the day that I am writing this article it is hard for me to write it without the thoughts of my mother. Today marks the third year since she has passed away. She was always a big supporter of my Moose Lake News and looked forward to my articles every week. My mother, whose name was Lois Onarheim, lived in Eau Claire all of her life. Both my brother and sister live out of town so it was always up to me to help her any way that I could even though we were living in the Hayward area. My father has been gone for over thirty years, so my mother has been taking care of herself ever since his death. She has always been a very independent lady and a very sharp person mentally but had not had her driver's license for several years. When she passed away from a stroke, she was 95 years old. I was always very close to my mother, which made it extremely hard to lose her. On the 30th of March, every year, I always take a few minutes to think of her. She was a wonderful lady and loved our Resort on Moose Lake.

From warming homes to cooking food, fire can be a helpful tool. Fire also can be destructive like what happened in California during 2024. California had 605,868 emergency responses, which burned 1,050,012 acres which destroyed over two thousand structures. Even though these numbers seemed to be very high the Peshtigo Wisconsin wildland fire in 1871 killed over 1,200 people and burning more than 1,500,000. Acres. This fire was America's deadliest fire.

In Wisconsin spring is the most dangerous time for wildfires. After the snow melts and before plants, trees and grass turn green, fires can spread quickly. While spring is always much welcomed after Wisconsin's long winters, the season's warm, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect recipe for wildfires. Although wildfires can happen at about any time of the year, historically the DNR states that 60% of all annual wildfires in Wisconsin occur in March, April and May. In the state's southern tier, fire danger could begin as early as mid to late-February and eventually progress northward through the state.

Northern Wisconsin has had its share of Wildland fires destroying its share of structures and wildland. With debris burning, as the leading cause of Wisconsin's wildfires, burning of leaves brush can get away from someone very easily also. Weather is the single most crucial factor influencing how fires start and spread. Temperature, wind, humidity, and precipitation are the key weather components that determine the daily fire danger. Any outside burning requires a permit from the DNR.

Then you must watch the DNR website for changes if burning is allowed for that particular day. DNR burning permits do not apply within incorporated cities and villages or municipalities like the city of Hayward. These Cities often create their own burning permit requirements, and some townships may be more restrictive than state law and not allow any burning. It is up to you to check with your local municipality for their regulations, even if you have obtained a DNR burning permit. For a more detailed look, zoom-in to your location on the burning restrictions map.
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/restrictions.html>

While spring is Wisconsin's most critical fire season, wildfires can still happen in summer. Despite the elevated humidity and vegetation turning green, there is increased activity that may spark fires, such as equipment use, fireworks and camping. Fall has a shorter peak for fire danger but can still produce a dangerous environment for fires as the leaves fall, covering the ground with dry, dead, and loose material. Leaf burning and using fire pits to keep warm are also common in fall.

Composting is always your better option than burning. It is healthier & safer than burning debris on your property. Burning should always be your last option.

Our pool league met last Thursday at Christina's Y-Pines at 6 PM. We had five teams that joined in the competition. During the night Mike Williams and Bruce Vanfleet were showing how tough a team they were by coming into the last game of the evening undefeated. This game was against myself and my excellent partner Joan Linahon. Joan had control of the game by having the last few shots if she could make them. I had confidence in her. Joan and her husband Gary have their own pool table in their home. She is a skillful player. It came down to whoever could sink the eight ball or the very last ball. Joan was in control. She had a beautiful last shot that I may not have made. She put the eight ball right in the pocket and we won the game.

That win for us forced a playoff game between the losers Mike Williams and his partner Bruce Vanfleet and the other team that was hoping they would get beat to force this playoff game between Darryl Enk and Scott Gilkey. When it was all over Mike Williams and his partner did win the playoff game to take first place for the evening. Darryl and Scott took second place. Joan and I ended up in the middle of the pack for the night. Brad Daywitt and Gatland Gunn received the T.P. award.

Notice: Moose Lake Improvement Association Monthly Board of directors meeting will meet at 9 AM on April 3rd at Louie's Landing. All members are welcome.

Keep in mind I am looking for someone to share the duties of writing the Moose Lake News with me every other week. I have been doing the news for just over 16 years, and it is time for me to slow down. If you are interested, please give me a call. My number is listed below.

Birthday greetings this week are extended to Scott Gilkey on the 4th of April, Linda Seeger on the 6th Beth Miller and Amy Picchietti both have birthdays on the 8th of April. Our last birthday wish this week goes to Lou Grayson on the ninth of this month. Happy Birthday to all Moose Lakers. We have no anniversaries this week, but in case I missed it, have a wonderful anniversary.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy your week with moderate temperatures. Please send your items of interest to my e-mail address 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.