

Moose Lake News

by Jim Onarheim

Thirteen years ago, I was introduced to Kevin Bushnick at the Chicago Musky show by Musky guide Larry Ramsell of Hayward. Kevin was founder and developer of the Youth Conservation Alliance (YCA) which at that time was located in Chicago. This is an organization that supports several youth programs throughout northern Illinois and Wisconsin. At the time Kevin and I met the organization focused a lot on musky programs. They were looking for a location to hold a youth musky tournament. With the excellent history that Hayward has on musky fishing Larry wanted to bring the organization to Hayward to hold their annual event. Larry, living within walking distance of Moose Lake and of course Moose Lake and being a good numbers lake for musky, he could not recommend a better Lake. My wife Barb and I owned Mystic Moose Resort at the time and were extremely interested in hosting a youth event for this type of organization. So, after being introduced to each other a long-time relationship began between Kevin and me.

We started our first Youth Musky Hunt with sixteen kids participating. The number of participants grew every year. The year before COVID hit we had seventy-three kids in the event. After a couple of years without an event Kevin and his Board of directors, of whom I 'am a member, decided to start an event on Round Lake which allowed the kids to fish for a variety of fish. This way the participants were not limited to just musky. The event was held on Father's Day weekend, Friday, and Saturday for the past few years. I should also say that last September was our 10th annual Youth Musky Hunt took place on Moose Lake. As of now, that may have been the final event on Moose Lake.

This past weekend the YCA held its youth fishing event Father's Day Weekend at the Grand Pines Resort and Motel located on Little round Lake. There were approximately fifty young people fishing with professional guides or just fishing with their parents and family. Everyone had fun competing for beautiful trophies that were given out for the monster Bass, Norther Pike, Walleye, Musky, Crappie / Panfish. There were many First, second and third place winners depending on the fish category.

Besides fishing, Board member Michelle Groves, certified Biologist, has worked with these young kids to educate them about the biology pertaining to our area lakes. During the YCA event if there is enough time, they discuss the connections between water, land, and fish. Making connections and discussing how scientists determine a healthy ecosystem versus a nonhealthy system. One way is by catching fish, they are bio-indicators, especially musky. Michelle said we can see how healthy the water is by doing chemical testing. The kids would get water samples at various spots on the lake, then come back to do testing. She said she has the kids check for dissolved oxygen and pH levels. They then mark the data on a lake map. It would be nice to try and do this each year so you can make a comparison.

Michelle also said we can see trends in the water quality which coincides with the ash we catch in the air. A pH at 7 is neutral lower than that can be acidic. Alkaline water has a pH above 8. Michelle said if they have time, they also discuss why some lakes are stained or like Moose Lake look like root beer. It is explained to them that the color in Moose Lake is tannic acid. It does not hurt you but has a name that would mislead you. The kids love being young scientists. She tells them to look for other healthy indicators like eagle's loons and other wildlife that depends on the lake to survive. Michelle says it is fun for them to get educated on the lakes and learn about the ecosystem and how they can help protect and

enjoy it. The event got over at 8:30 PM with a lot of happy children from 5 years of age to 16 years of age. Many of these children walked out with a trophy for their fishing efforts for that weekend.

Moose Lake Improvement Association monthly meeting. Minutes of June 5, 2025. Meeting was called to order by President McDonald at Louie's Landing at 9:00. Board members absent, were Gilkey, Eisenbacher and Christianson. All the others were present. Doc Grayson was recognized as a guest present. Hostetler moved to adopt the agenda as mailed with flexibility, seconded by Haak - unanimously approved. Linahon moved to approve the May Board Minutes as written, seconded by Williams - unanimously approved. TREASURER'S REPORT: Kuchta reported that the bank balance at the start of May was \$11,633 and with deposits for annual dues and donations and after expenses for the month mainly for Fireworks display at Louie's Landing and lumber costs for the dock repairs undertaken by MLIA there was a balance at the end of the month of \$11,933. MEMBERSHIP

REPORT: 134 members have paid their annual dues with 7 notices being returned as undeliverable. 250 annual notices were mailed to current members. Old business: Nomination committee, McDonald and Tom Kohler anticipate having proposed board members finalized within the next week. Annual Meeting Agenda: McDonald went over the proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting.

New business: Moose Lake Survey: Hostetler summarized the lake survey recently conducted by the Wisconsin DNR. The Board was interested in discussing with DNR options for increasing walleye size in Moose Lake. Gary Hostetler will talk with Max Wolter of DNR and report back to the Board.

Membership Blast: McDonald identified items to be included in an email blast to members leading up to the annual meeting on July 5th. Annual Meeting Preparation: Doc Grayson led the discussion on the chairs and tables set up for the annual meeting. Several board members will be coordinating those efforts including Gary Linahon and Tom Koehler along with Grayson. Other Committee reports:

Town of Round Lake Liaison: Strandlund advised the Board that the Moose Lake Road project is still moving forward, with an estimated start date in 2027. Fire Department Liaison: Feldner reported that Moose Lake residents have done a great job during the recent dry period with no issues reported. He also advised that unused and no longer needed Fire Department equipment will be sold at the upcoming Fire Fest on August 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned with a Motion made by Dean Broberg, seconded by Kuchta until July 5th at Louie's Landing.

Birthday wishes this week are extended to Bill Nielsen on the 19th, Don Rossiter on the 22nd, Marilyn Sanders and Carly Toder both on the 24th. Sean Kelley on the 16th, Barb Betz on June 20th. Mark Dahlstrom on the 27th. There is one anniversary this week. Wishes are extended to Terry and Linda Splettstoeszer on the 18th of June. Happy birthday and anniversary to all of you.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy your week with comfortable temperatures and some forecasted moisture. Please send your items of interest to my new 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.