

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

As of Sunday afternoon, April 19th there still was a small amount of ice still on Moose. The piece of ice that was the size a football field was located straight out from Louie's Landing. It was very close to breaking up so Joel Miller from Mystic Moose Resort thought he would help things out by running his flat bottom boat up on the ice float. It was only about 4- 5 inches thick, so it broke up very easily. Within a couple of hours all the ice chunks had disappeared. Thanks Joel.

I talked with Frank Leuschen last Sunday afternoon. Frank as most of you know is our Dam Keeper. I asked Frank about closing off the gates so the water levels on Moose Lake can start to rise. He said he was waiting for this last piece of ice to melt and then he would close the gates. I'm sure when he checks the lake for ice on Monday morning the (20th) he will see that the ice is gone. He may then start the process of filling our lake back to the summer level. In the past Frank normally had Moose Lake filled to full pool by the fishing opener. This year the fishing opener is Saturday May 2nd.

I have not had any time to check by the Pine Point bridge to see if the walleyes are spawning. In the past years this is the prime time for this to start happening. Water temperature amount of daylight alone with other factors tells these fish that now is the time to drop your eggs. Let's hope for a good hatch this spring.

Pat Feldner sent me a copy of 2 articles that were published in the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News recently. The first article was in the December 2019 edition and the second one that was run in the February 2020 edition about Moose Lake resident Mark Tamm. The article was submitted by Denise Zimmer.

In the article Denise refers to Mark as a local toy maker or Santa in Disguise. Mark loves making toys from wood. He is a fantastic craftsman and very talented. Many people say toy making is a lost craft, but the article said that Mark is determined to keep it alive. Mark apparently started making toys as a hobby, but it then grew into something bigger. Mark has made several toys for the Moose Lake Festival over the past many years.

Mark now makes outdoor benches, indoor benches, cribbage boards, musky cribbage boards and cedar chests. He also makes an array of wooden toys including trains, doll cradles, tanker trucks, logging trucks & construction trucks, that even have a working backhoe. Some of his most popular toys is the rocking moose, rocking horse or even a rocking lion. Yes, the small children can sit on these and rock until they are content. He uses many different types of wood. Cherry, walnut, oak, hickory, and pine. All toys are covered with a clear stain, to showcase the wood grain and a nontoxic finish.

Mark said this is a God-given gift that he has been doing for years. He said he loves making children happy. He also said this is a very special therapeutic gift and it is very rewarding. He loves making toys for the Moose Lake Festival each year. They are very popular each year with everyone.

Mark said in 1998 his hobby has turned into a small business. Word of mouth is his best advertising. Living just a very short distance from Moose Lake the Rocking Moose has to be the most popular item that he makes.

Mark takes requests and if you would like him to make any one of the items I have talked about you can reach him at 715-462-4883. One thing Mark asked, if people can wait until mid-summer to place any orders. He is in the middle of remodeling his garage and will not have any time until then. It appears that there is no limit to his talent. Mark says, "Each item is made with love" I think I will have to submit my order for next Christmas this coming July. Barb and I have 5 small grandchildren who would just love these toys as a gift.

There are no birthdays this week.

I may have duplicated these anniversary wishes from last week but anyway, Happy Anniversary to Daryl & Terra Neibauer 24th, Roger and Faye Winters 25th and Chad and Wendy Olson on the 27th of April. Happy anniversary to all.

Well that is all we have for this week. Remember if you have any news items please give me a call at 715-462-4448 or send it to me by e-mail at jonarheim@centurytel.net so I can include it in the column. Have a great week enjoy our beautiful spring like weather. Remember, Stay at Home and don't Roam. Stay safe!