

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

Moose Lake has about 3 feet to go before it is at full pool as of this past Monday, (27th). It is taking a little longer because of the lack of moisture. We normally get plenty of rain to help fill the lake, but this year it has been very dry.

Hazard Buoy placement this year is behind schedule because of low water levels and the COVID-19. We are hoping to get some of the buoys in by the end of the week if not all. We also would like to thank the two new families that donated for the replacement of two new Hazard Buoys that we needed to purchase. Jeff & Jen Seifriz & the Fastner family. Thank you for your donation.

The Moose Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors, the Moose Lake Festival committee and Jack Brown from Louie's Landing & Joel Miller from Mystic Moose Resort have asked me to post the following three notifications:

The Moose Lake Festival committee met to discuss logistics for the 2020 festival. During the discussion it became apparent that this year's festival should be cancelled. The bulk of the festival work occurs in the months of May and June. That work includes advance publicity, processing and sanitizing white elephant donations, securing volunteers and soliciting sponsor support. With the uncertainty of the ever changing Covid-19 restrictions, the committee feels that it cannot successfully put, these festival logistics in place.

A second concern is sponsor support. Many of our local businesses have been forced to close or modify how they do business. Many area part time residents have also felt the pinch at home with some people being laid off from their job. The committee feels to ask area business and residents for prizes and /or monetary donations may be perceived as insensitive. Instead, the festival committee feels we all should support them and each other, until the stay at home restriction is adjusted. Hopefully, things will somewhat get back to normal by mid-summer.

As much as it is fun to host the Moose Lake Festival, during these uncertain times it is best if we look forward to celebrating in 2021.

MLIA Annual Meeting: The Moose Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors has voted to cancel the MLIA Annual Meeting scheduled for July 4th. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the State of Wisconsin has issued a "Safer at Home" directive which has been extended through the month of May. The Board anticipates that the social distancing and group size limitations associated with that directive will be in place for at least a couple of months after the "Safer at Home" directive is lifted.

The logistics of having an Annual Meeting while respecting the social distancing and group size limitations forced the Boards decision to cancel this year's meeting. Membership renewal and Board of Directors elections will be addressed in a mailing being sent out in early May.

Fireworks: This past week, Jack Brown has been trying to get in touch with the Fireworks contractor that we work with each year for our 4th of July Fireworks show. Jack and Joel Miller of Mystic Moose Resort feel the Fireworks should also be canceled for this year. They did sign a contract, but no deposit has been paid. The man that I started to work with several years ago is very understanding and I am sure, he will understand and agree with our decision.

It is incredibly sad to cancel all these wonderful events, but it is for the wellbeing and safety of our Moose Lake residents and just Staying Safe.

The walleyes have been running this past two weeks under the Pine Point Rd. bridge. Joel Miller was on the bridge the other night looking for walleyes that were still spawning with Dave Wells and Dave's son Brad. Joel pointed out to Dave and Brad the many small walleye fry swimming next to the shoreline under the bridge. This is an incredibly positive sign, that we are having exceptionally good reproduction of walleyes in Moose Lake. Moose has always been a natural reproduction lake.

I have also talked with a few people that have told me the walleyes musky and suckers are running up the spillways on some of the area dams. At this time of the year it is extremely exciting to watch these fish do their thing. It can be very educational also.

Keep in mind that the DNR has suspended ALL burning permits & outside burning until further notice. The DNR is taking this proactive measure, to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites. This prohibits all burning of debris in barrels, debris piles on the ground, and burning grass and wooded areas. Annual burning permits in DNR protection areas are prohibited at this time. Campfires, although not recommended, are allowed for cooking and warming purposes. Spring in Wisconsin has the highest fire risk, with debris burning the No. 1 cause of wildfires.

Next week we will talk about how Wildfire Smoke Worsens COVID-19 Risk & by Putting Firefighters in Extra Danger. Therefore, it is so important now to prevent wildfires because of the double impact that it will have on us & firefighters by inhaling wood smoke and COVID-19 being around us.

Birthday greetings this week go out to John Figlewicz on May 2nd, Bob Bratrud May 2nd, Julie Oldenburg May 3rd, Bethany Seeger May 5th. There are no anniversaries this week.

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 the warm temperatures. Stay safe!