

Moose Lake News

Results from Pool League last Thursday had Dean Broberg & Roger Winters finishing in First Place. Second place was taken by Tom Koehler and Brad Daywitt. The TP award went to Joan Linahon and Ron Neitzel. It was a great time for everyone. Keep in mind if you are interested in having some fun on a cool winter night, please join us. Pool League is open to anyone who would like to play. It cost only \$3.00. It is a fun time for everyone. Pool League meets every Thursday at Louie's. Start time is 6:30 PM.

I just spoke to Joel Miller from Mystic Moose Resort about a fishing report. He informed me that things have been slow with not too many people being on the lake. I did get a report from Keith Schafer who is a part time resident on Moose Lake. He was out on Saturday fishing for a good share of the day with a friend of his. Keith reported to me that they caught several fish. They released several smaller ones and harvested 6 crappies 1 nice perch and one keeper walleye. They did have to work for these fish by being on the lake for most of the day.

The Moose Lake Improvement Association met last Thursday morning February 4th at Louie's Landing. There were several items discussed with one of the most interesting subjects being the repair of the shelter and dock that is located up the Little Moose River. President Koehler brought up two options to revitalize the picnic site. He outlined the pros and cons of doing the project during the winter with finishing it in spring. The second option was to push the project back to late summer, finishing it after drawdown. The decision was made to replace the dock next fall after drawdown and proceed with the balance of the work this spring and summer.

The next item on the agenda was replacement of Osprey nesting platforms. Osprey Nesting platforms are in tall trees, away from the lake, so boaters do not scare the birds from their nest. We have lost the two nests that we have had in the past due to weather and deterioration. The MLIA board must get permission first from the National Forest Service before going forward with this project.

To help you understand a little more about the Osprey I did some research from the National Wildlife Federation. This bird is also known as the fish hawk. Ospreys are raptors that are adapted for fishing. The birds have long legs and large feet with specialized barbs on the pads, hooked talons, and a reversible outer toe. This allows them to easily grasp fish with two toes pointing to the front and two pointing to the rear. Ospreys have an oily waterproof coating on their wings and can close their nostrils when they plunge into the water.

The Osprey also has a slender body and long wings that are bent at the "wrist." Their strong wings give them extra lift to fly up and out of the water with a heavy fish. Once they catch a fish, they consume it using a black bill with a sharp hook. Ospreys are brown on the back and white on the chest. The undersides of their wings are white with a dark patch at the wrists. Ospreys have yellow eyes and white heads with a distinctive black eye stripe that sets them apart from eagles, for which they are commonly mistaken. The female differs from the male in having a more defined "necklace" of brown feathers across her throat. One of the larger birds of prey, but smaller than a bald eagle, ospreys have an average wingspan of five feet. They are 21 to 23 inches long and usually weigh between three to four pounds. The female is larger than the male. Due to their diet, they nest near water, along rivers, lakes, wetlands, and coastal marshes. They frequently nest on telephone poles, pilings, channel markers, and other man-

made structures in or near the water. Fish represent about 99 percent of their diet. Ospreys are highly successful hunters, catching fish on at least one-quarter or more of their dives. After an osprey catches a fish, it arranges its feet to turn the fish, so it faces head-first. This reduces aerodynamic drag, making the fish easier to carry as the osprey flies off to its nest or another perch to eat the fish. Hopefully by spring we will have some new Osprey nests on Moose Lake. Keep your eyes open this summer for the Osprey.

This week we wish a Happy Birthday to Mark Tamm on the 11th of February. Vika Richter on the 13th, Tera Neibauer (Fenske) on the 14th, Adeline Henschel on the 15th & John Myhre of February 16th Happy Birthday to all. There are two anniversaries this week. best wishes go out to David and Joan Runice on the 13th & Steve and Karen Blodgett (Arnett) on February 14th.

That is all we have for another week. Keep warm and safe. If you have any news please pass it along to me. jonarheim@centurytel.net or 715-462-4448