

Moose Lake News for Sawyer County Record for July 24, 2019

by Jan Stapleton

The Moose Lake area roadsides are alive with monarch butterflies this year. I wrote a note to the Town of Round Lake thanking them for not mowing Whaley drive for the past few summers. It's a robust environment for three different types of milkweed which are necessary food for monarch caterpillars, as well as other pollinator plants for the butterflies. We are delighted to report that the milkweed population has continued to increase over the past few years on Whaley Drive, particularly since the Super Storm of September 2014 opened up the area and the town stopped mowing it. We now see dozens and dozens of monarchs that have laid eggs on the milkweed, grown as caterpillars, gone into pupa (chrysalis), and hatched as new monarch butterflies. The second-generation monarchs have laid eggs that are now hatching into little caterpillars. There will be another cycle of eggs/caterpillars/chrysalis/butterflies before they are ready to migrate to Mexico for the winter. Keeping Whaley Drive and other roads in their natural state through the spring and summer ensures that the milkweed and other pollinator flowers and weeds will be there for our monarch friends.

The Town of Round Lake board has informed us that all secondary roads in the town will not be mowed until after Labor Day to allow the milkweed and monarchs to continue to thrive. Get out there and enjoy the abundance and beauty of these butterflies before they head south for the winter.

The milkweed plants were bent and beaten a bit by the two strong storms we had last week. While the worst of the area weather missed Moose Lake, a couple inches of rain was recorded during the storm Friday night. Trees and power lines were downed, most notably on Pine Point Road by Mystic Moose Resort. Some were without power overnight. Should we expect a population explosion on Moose Lake in nine months?

Anticipation builds for the Moose Lake Festival at Louie's Landing on Saturday, August 3. If you haven't signed up to volunteer yet, you can do so by going to the fest's website at www.mooselakefest.org. Use the pulldown tabs at the top of the page to find spots to help before, during, and after the event. Lots of great volunteer slots are still available. If you have any questions about the fest, contact Lou Grayson at 715-462-9538.

A couple new bucket items for the fest are in. Steve Braddish handcrafted and donated a 7' medium action bait casting rod with Winn grips and custom marbling decorative wrap. A custom MHX Muskie rod, 7' 10" medium-heavy action, with cork handle and hand-tied Fuji guides was crafted and donated by Joe Lewandowski.

The White Elephant Sale at the Moose Lake Festival will be bigger than ever this year! You still have time to drop off your gently used treasures at the Town of Round Lake Recycling Center on Saturday, July 27 between 8 a.m. and noon. That's the last date that your donations can be accepted. Some amazing items have been donated

including a 17' Grumman canoe, 12' Surfwind sailboat, 14' aluminum Crestliner boat, 7' wooden toboggan, 14" Craftsman chop saw, 10-ton manual wood splitter, antique logger's saw, wood stove (to be viewed at the recycling center), lots of grills, bikes, tools, antiques, fishing and sporting gear, indoor and outdoor furniture, and the list goes on and on. And there's more than enough reading material and jigsaw puzzles for your trip south this winter!

Birdhouse building and decorating is very popular with the kids at the fest. The activity is from noon to 3 p.m. and is open to kids ages 5 to 12. Youngsters who want to build and decorate birdhouses should register asap after the fest opens at noon as the number of houses is limited.

Sweet Snook Sanders is coordinating the pie auction again this year. If you haven't promised to bake a pie, or some other type of baked goods, please call Snook at 715-462-3917. No items requiring refrigeration, please.

Tune in to WRLS 92.3 on Monday morning, July 29 at 9:10 a.m. for the Lifestyles North radio show when a couple of your favorite Moose Lakers will promote the fest. Invite your friends and even your enemies to join you at the fest. Many wise old sages say that the best way to make a new friend or convert an enemy is to buy them a piece of pie at the Moose Lake Festival! Pie equals peace around Moose Lake.

Jim and Frank at the Town of Round Lake Recycling Center on County Road A remind us that the recyclables that you drop off must be clean and in an open box or container. Recyclables cannot be disposed of in garbage bags. For a list of recyclable items, see the town website.

Happy birthday wishes for the coming weeks to Joyce Zubrod on July 25th, Ron Ross on the 29th, Don Friedrich on the 30th, and Ender Graham on the 31st. Gil and Betty Krohn will celebrate their wedding anniversary on July 28th.

Have a peaceful week. Peace and pie.

For information on the Town of Round Lake government, check the website at townofroundlakewi.org. For Moose Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) information, view the website at MLIAhaywardwi.org.

Send your items of interest to Jim Onarheim at 715-462-4448 or jonarheim@centurytel.net.