

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

This spring many people have been seeing several bears in the wild. In last weeks Sawyer County Record there was a good story with photos of a Mother nursing her twin cub bears. This past week on the morning of June 7th I was getting ready to leave for ambulance duty in Winter. My wife and I saw a mother and her two cubs in our back yard. It may have been the same bears that were in last weeks paper. We live not to far from Bob Schmidt the person who took the photos that were in the paper last week. Our bear that morning was nursing her cubs while resting up against a large oak tree. Yes, we did get some photos of her nursing her cubs. The photos did not turn the best because we took them through a patio screen door.

The best photos were those that my wife Barb took about 15 minutes later. The cubs were lying on a large branch that extended out over our back yard. The mother bear sent her cubs up the tree for safety and then she left our yard to find some food. We normally have bird feeders out all the time in the summer, but we started taking them in at night since June 2nd when we had an experience that we will not forget.

On Sunday evening June 2nd about 11 PM we had a very large bear that roams our neighbor hood that we call Chester, come into our back yard. He weighs approximately 500 lbs. On that Sunday evening my wife saw Chester eyeing up one of our bird feeders in the back of our house. She made some noise and he walked toward the woods and disappeared.

Several minutes later I felt the coast was clear so I walked out to get the bird feeder so I could bring it into the garage. I removed the feeder from the hook that it was hanging on and looked up, I was eye to eye with Chester the 500 lb.+ black bear wo was 20 yards away from me. He stood up on his hind legs and just stared at me. He was not afraid of me at all. I was a little intimidated by him though. I think he wanted that bird block that I had just removed. I slowly moved backward toward the garage door and let him be by himself. He walked around our back yard for about another 5-10 minutes and then wondered off. I stayed in the house the remainder of the evening. It was an experience that I will never forget.

We will be sending out many reminders for the Moose Lake Festival in the weeks to come. We need lots of help. If could please ask you to go to www.mooselakefest.org, then hit the tab "HELP BEFORE FEST DAY" to volunteer I would appreciate it. You can sign up for setup on July 31, August 1, and August 2 and for takedown on Sunday, August 4. To volunteer for the day of the fest, August 3, hit the tab "HELP ON FEST DAY". It's easy to sign up. We encourage everyone to volunteer. Even If you live in the town of Hunter, we can use your help.

The Round Lake Fire Department Contracts Fire Protection to the Town of Hunter. This means, the Round Lake Fire Department is your Fire Department also. We serve the town of Hunter and the Town of Round Lake equally with the initial response. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Lou Grayson at 715-462-9538. As always, we need lots of people to help in many areas in order to have a successful and fun Moose Lake Festival.

Donations for the Moose Lake Festival's White Elephant Sale may be dropped off at the Town of Round Lake Recycling Center on County Road A on Wednesdays and Saturdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and

noon, beginning on June 8. Please do not leave items when the facility is closed. Items not accepted include large appliances, clothing, luggage, Styrofoam coolers, televisions, computers or electronic equipment, phones, upholstered furniture, mattresses, tires, cribs, strollers, car seats, or any electrical equipment unless it is in working condition. Please, no junk, broken, or dirty items! If you have any questions, please contact Lou Grayson at 715-462-9538.

Remember the Moose Lake Festival will be held on Saturday, August 3, from noon until 6 p.m. on the beautiful shores of Moose Lake in front of Louie's Landing. This fun-filled annual event benefits the Town of Round Lake Fire Department and the Chequamegon Lions Club.

The fish are very active so try to get out and enjoy our wonderful weather. Walleyes and panfish are what people have been catching. A few muskies here and there also but I have received any reports of any real large fish being caught.

Only one birthday this week. Happy Birthday to Bill Nielson on June 19th. Happy Anniversary to Ed & Eileen McKinney on the 14th.

Well that is all we have for this week. Remember if you have any news items please give me a call or send it to me by e-mail, 715-462-4448 or jonarheim@centurytel.net so I can include it in the column. Have a great week & Stay safe!

For information on the Town of Round Lake Government go to their website at <http://www.townofroundlakewi.org>. For Moose Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) information, view their website at <https://mliahaywardwi.org>.