

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

With the major cold front that moved in last week it really turned off the fish. Reports were very good prior to the weather change, but that is spring time weather in Wisconsin. Something we just must put up with.

In last week's article I said I was going to include a little history on Moose Lake for you. I found some information on Moose Lake which has no author, but my guess is that Ethel Richter had something to do with putting it together. I will use much of this along with other information that I have gathered. Well over 100 years ago the Moose Lake area was completely covered with large trees mostly White Pine.

Native Americans traveled through the area during their hunting and gathering trips. They traveled in their canoes up and down the area rivers. A Historical marker (located at the northern intersection of Moose Lake Road East and County Hwy S) designates the place of a great battle between the Chippewa and the Sioux Indian tribes. History has said that this battle was so intense that the river ran red with blood.

Around 1875 or so the logging industry began here. Lumber camps sprang up on the west fork of the Chippewa River and on the two Moose Rivers. Moose Lake at that time was just a small circular lake about 40 acres located near Pine Point. After the dam was built, it created the lake which we enjoy today. The original dam was quite large than the one we have today. Parts of this old dam can still be seen today when the water is low during the winter.

After the entire area was logged off the lumberman moved west of here searching for new trees to cut leaving a mess behind. There were large stumps and piles of slash everywhere. Slash is what is left over after the main trunk of the tree is harvested.

In 1904 Ole Robertson, who had logged in the area, purchased some of this land on Moose Lake and started a fishing camp which later became Pine Point Resort. People who stayed at the resort would row their wooden boats to the islands on the NE end of the lake and camped out. This was mostly the guys who would camp out for days finding new areas to fish. Eventually these people who were referred to as the Island People kept camping there until they had cabins built around 1912.

The first privately owned cabin that was built on one of the islands, was owned by Dave Sanders grandfather. His name was HO Meyer. The Island families that remain today celebrated their 100th anniversary in August of 2012.

Other resorts were started and flourished until the 1970's and early 1980's when most were subdivided and sold to individuals. There are only three resorts operating today, Louie's Landing, Mystic Moose Resort and Virgin Timber Resort.

Moose Lake is a special place. There are miles of shoreline and many bays for good fishing. You still see many stumps sticking above the water line which is a sign of what use to be here. In the beginning it was all forest lying in a shallow valley with two rivers flowing towards & meeting up with the West fork of the Chippewa in front of which is now called Louie's Landing.

The residents take pride in their lake and work to keep it as clean, quiet and as natural as possible. Good zoning regulations and the hard work of all property owners make it possible.

On Sunday April 28th a good friend of mine who I work with at the Sawyer County Ambulance, by the name of Rob Sparhawk took 20 Boy Scouts from Troup 56 and their parents shed hunting for Elk and Deer antlers. These kids belong to Boy Scout Troup 56 from the Bruce and Weyerhaeuser area. They met at 9:30AM at the Clam Lake Junction in Claim Lake. They learned about the history of the elk in the Clam Lake area. They also found out about the area that these elk now roam, which includes Clam Lake and a large area around Moose Lake.

The Boy Scouts and their parents hunted for sheds in 5 different areas around Clam Lake and around Moose Lake. They did see elk and deer but did not find any sheds. Rob has a Black Lab dog by the name of Sheldon, who is an excellent shed hunter. Sheldon has helped Rob find many sheds over the years. He has a good nose for this. Rod did round up enough sheds from friends and what he has recently found to reward each child with a shed either from an elk or a deer. The parents and the Scouts had a great time and received a very good education. They spent almost 6 hours in the woods that Sunday.

Remember the Moose Lake Festival envelope stuffing will be held at the Round Lake Town Hall Tuesday May 21st. We need helpers. Dinner will be served by the Firefighters.

Birthday wishes this week, go out to Alan Richter & Mary Dombeck both on May 16th & Mark Stuetgen on the 20th. Happy Birthday to all. Only one anniversary this week: Derek & Carla Sorenson will be celebrating on May 19th.

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>.