

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

I was talking with one of our Moose Lake residents last Thursday evening. He told me that he was driving back towards Moose Lake Thursday afternoon from western Wisconsin when he noticed a car after car with Minnesota License plates heading this direction. That is kind of bittersweet. It is good to see the tourists coming to Wisconsin and possibly to Hayward, but is it going to be safe with all the people? That is the big question at this point.

With all the indications that I have got so far from the resorts owners it appears that they will have a busy weekend. By the time you read this article you will already know. The Flee Market will open on Monday May 25 or Memorial Day. As most of you know the Flee Market is Haywards large summer-time weekly event. It is held at the Hayward Sports Center every Monday throughout the summer. It concludes on Labor Day.

I helped a good friend of mine set up his booth last week. Rob Sparhawk lives in Round Lake and works with me for Sawyer County Ambulance looks forward to having a booth at the Flee Market every year. He sells sunglasses and several other items. He has been doing this for many years.

I also talked to Ethel Richter of Moose Lake who also has a booth at the Flee Market every year. She loves to sell odds and ends and of course, her popular home-made, potholders. She told me last Friday while I was talking to her on the phone, that this year will be the first year that she will not have a booth at the Flee Market. Ethel who lives during the winter months in Osceola, WI, fractured her R. arm last January 28 from slipping on the ice.

She told me that she is just starting to drive again, so thought it would be best not to do the Flee Market this year. She felt that it may be too much work for her. Ethel did say that she will be at her lake home for about one week after Memorial Day weekend. As most people know, Ethel loves to visit with people especially Moose Lake people over a cup of coffee at Louie's every morning. Stop by or give her a call.

The Crappies are biting on Moose. I have received many good reports. They have been moving into shallow water perhaps to spawn. Many 12 and some 14-inch fish have been caught. Jack at Louie's saw a beautiful picture that someone took of a Tiger Musky that someone accidentally caught on Moose Lake recently. A Tiger Musky is a cross between a Musky and a Northern Pike.

I have got some good reports about the Crappies being very active on the Chippewa Flowage. The bluegills also have been biting. I had 21 the other night. Some nice steady action. Now is the time that most of us have been waiting for. Do not miss out, launch your boat now.

Reminder: The deer, elk, bear and many other animals are having or have had their babies and are out and around. Please be careful while driving. My friend Rob Sparhawk has seen several baby elk and I have also noticed a few fawns out and about. We have had a baby bear with mother in our back yard passing through. The most important advice I can give you is, do not ever get between mother bear and baby bear. The female bears are very protective of their young ones. Occasionally, the mother bear may have twins, so there could be two little ones out there following her around. Be careful if you are out walking.

Because of our early deadline for our articles this week, I am writing this article on Friday afternoon May 22nd. With the Memorial Day Holiday this weekend the paper would like to have our news to them by

this afternoon or ASAP. I think I have talked myself into going out on the lake for a few hours. I am at a point where I think I will have to go out and make some more news for you. I think I will shut down my computer for a few hours and go out and catch some pan fish, or at least try. I should have a report for you shortly.

Well I got back. As most of you know Moose Lake has some nice Crappies and a few bluegills but not as many as the Chippewa Flowage. I went down to the Flowage for 3 hours to see what was happening with the bluegill action. After three hours of fishing & 51 fish later I am back at my keyboard typing.

When you found the correct fishing spot, the bluegills were going wild. I was using redworms and waxes. Waxes is a bait that you normally use while ice fishing. They work very well in the spring. My stepdaughter Cindy and a friend of hers were fishing off the public dock and caught two nice walleyes with largest being 17+ inches along with several perch. They were using crappie minnows.

Out of my 51 fish, I kept 13 for a meal for Barb and me. It was a fun three hours. Most of the fish were in 3-5 feet of water. Good Luck!

Birthday greetings this week go out to Sharon Haak on May 31st. There are no anniversaries. I hope everyone enjoyed their Memorial Day weekend with family and friends. Enjoy and Stay Safe!

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.