

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 27, 3PM
SAYNER COMMUNITY CENTER
ONTERRA WILL PRESENT THE LAKE MANAGE-
MENT PLAN SUMMARY.

DON'T MISS THIS !!

THIS WILL BE A SOCIALLY DISTANCED
MEETING IN PERSON AND WILL BE BROAD-
CAST BY ZOOM.

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July 30 2020

LOON HOOTS

The Newsletter of the Plum Lake Association



WHAT DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT PLUM LAKE ?

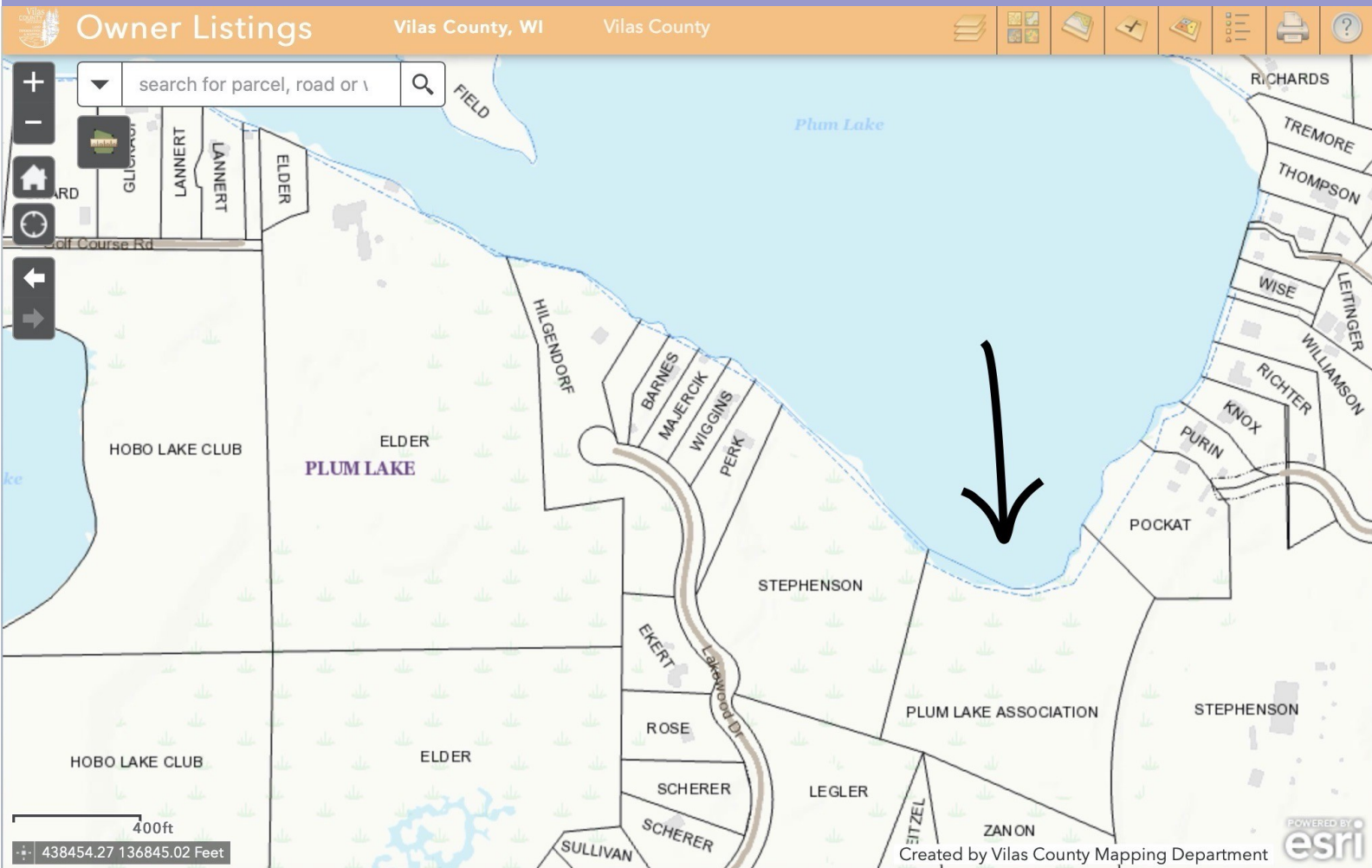
WELL, what you don't know, but would find interesting, might surprise you. Phase one of the Lake Management Plan for The Town of Plum lake was kicked off in spring of 2017 and included Plum, Star and Little Star Lakes. It has some depth—356 pages to be precise— and contains information that will surprise and interest anyone that has a link to Plum Lake. On August 27th, Our annual meeting will commence with the final report on the Lake Management Plan. It will be introduced by Tim Hoyman, President of Onterra LLC. who was engaged to provide a comprehensive lake management plan for the major lakes in the township by the Town of Plum Lakes Lakes Committee on behalf of the Town.

Tim spoke to our group three years ago as we commenced this project and was very well received. He now has the "real truth" about our lakes and watershed and will present it in a power point program to those present for the meeting as well as via Zoom to those attending remotely. His program will run around 45 minutes and he will be available for questions both via Zoom and in person. The Star Lake groups have been invited to attend this meeting as well.

The plan contains not only current status information but also historical data that we have not seen before, some predating settlement of the Northwoods. It concludes with a detailed plan for management going forward. This is a meeting that every lakeshore owner and resident of our town should attend.

PLUM LAKE PRESERVE

On July 21st, Plum Lake Association finalized the acquisition of the 10.78 acre parcel of land known as Lot 3 in the southeast corner of Plum's east bay. The parcel has in excess of 640 feet of lake frontage and contains an environmentally important piece of our watershed in undisturbed condition.



The land is comprised of a combination of forest and swamp communities with the dominant one by acreage being a nearly 8 acre Black spruce swamp with a deep carpet of sphagnum moss. Tamarack is also found scattered throughout this portion of the property. The floor also contains a variety of sedge and Labrador tea with some snowberry. Toward the lake, the black spruce community declines and transitions into a poor fen containing sedges, purple pitcher plant and crested wood fern. Emergent marsh dominates the shoreline with pickerel weed and blue flag iris and the immediate littoral zone of the lake offshore is comprised of a floating leaf shal-

low including white water lilly, spatterdock and watersheild.

About 10% of the land on the south end of the property is upland forest and contains red and white pine. Notably, this area contains a home building site with an approved perc test and is contiguous to a large piece of upland property that could be developed for single family use. It was this potential that spurred our interest in acquiring this property and preserving it. It is a critical part of our watershed and is a fragile ecosystem that is very important for our lake. If developed, it would have been a great loss. A back up offer for this prop-

erty was in existence if we had not closed on this purchase.

The environmental assessment by Onterra contained the following statement: "The conservation of the Plum Lake Property will go beyond the preservation of Plum Lake's water quality and aquatic community as it will also support the conservation of these communities and the species which rely on them."

As a result of our negotiated purchase price, the

generosity and commitment of Debra Stevenson, the owner, the appraised value of the site and terms of the grant we obtained, no funds from the Association were required to complete this purchase. It is our feeling that this accomplishment is a perfect demonstration of the value that lake associations can bring to the lakes they are charged to protect. Acquiring this property provides future opportunities to educate others in the nature and value of the wide variety of habitat in our biotic community and in the importance of preserving critical pieces of our watersheds. We can all be proud to be a part of the preservation of The Plum Lake Preserve.



PHOTO TAKEN 7/26/20

EAST BAY LOON PAIR WITH THEIR TWINS OFF PLUM LAKE PRESERVE
THE NEST PLATFORM IS LOCATED JUST OFFSHORE OF THE PRESERVE

Tom Kuessel and Vern Wiggerhauser

It has been a privilege for all of us to have known Tom and Vern. I knew Tom in a business context and admired him for many years. He knew my dad well - we had financed projects that Tom was involved in and my dad, who was hard to impress, had great respect and fondness for Tom. I got to know Tom and Marolyn better after we came to Plum and we enjoyed our time together.

I met Vern on the golf course and loved our time together playing golf, and on teams together at Cottagers. As time went on, Anita and I spent more time with Vern and Billie with our Plum Lake family friends and grew to love them both. Vern was fun to be with, stubborn as a mule, independent and courageous. As a town supervisor and later, as a county board member, I found him to be a dedicated defender of our lakes. I asked two members, who knew these two characters well, to share background and their thoughts on these two long term anchors of our community



Vern will truly be missed by all who knew him. He served his community well serving as a town supervisor and Sayner/Star Lake Lions club member. None of us can thank him enough for bringing the Plum Lake Course back into shape financially after some

difficult years.

He loved to travel on his Harley bike and visit an old friend in Idaho. He had a free spirit. He told us stories about how he wanted to move to Idaho and become a rancher. I often asked him what was his attraction to Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1971 with a Forestry Management degree. He loved anything outdoors hunting, fishing, gardening and boating. He even carved waterfowl and was good at it. He loved his family and friends.

Times became challenging for Vern after losing his arm and legs but he was very courageous and brave. Billie always at his side. Once when we were out to eat Vern and I were wall flowers blocking the pathway. I with my cast and scooter and Vern's wheelchair! We were getting looks from patrons! Vern loudly piped up and said "Look what she did to me (pointing at me) You should see the other guy he didn't make it." We laughed so hard and Billie and my husband at the bar gave us the look. They had no idea what had just transpired!

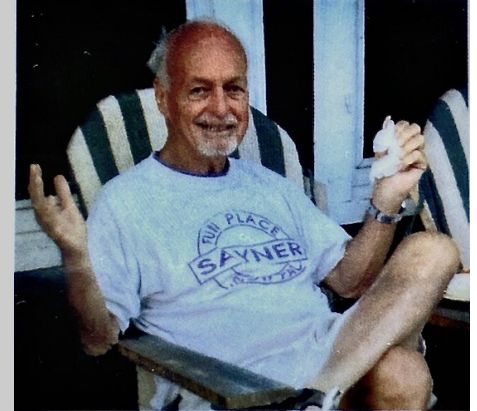
My how I will miss his delicious desserts and helping my husband and many others fish! Maybe when we meet him in heaven he will tell us his best fishing spots! A true fisherman never reveals his spot.

Phyllis Schnettler

Tom was born in Milwaukee, one of four children to Marion and Arthur Kuessel. He graduated from Marquette University High School and attended Santa Clara University on a football scholarship before returning to play football for Marquette University and earning a BA in Business Administration. After graduating from Marquette, Tom joined his father working for the Kuessel Coal Company in Milwaukee. Shortly after his father's untimely death, he began his real estate career that spanned more than half a century.

In 1956, Tom married his beloved Marolyn and they raised six children. Tom and Marolyn have 16 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was very active in his church and was very civic-minded, serving on St. Mary's Hospital Board and working to revitalize neighborhoods and downtown sections of Milwaukee and Plum Lake.

Tom could often be seen on the Plum Lake Golf Course and diving off his dock with his family. He loved Plum Lake and instilled the love of "God's Country" in family and friends alike. He loved to sing and would sing anywhere - on the Plum Lake porch, a restaurant, or family gatherings. He could have fun with you and could always make you laugh. He will be remembered for his good-natured ribbing and great love of family.



Judy Pacey

SHORT CASTS

- *The Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor (I-LIDS) cameras are operating and helping to provide full-time coverage of our landings. Clean boat/Clean Waters interns hours have been reduced this year and will be focused only on the busiest weekends next year.*
- *Although COVID slowed us up, we are still considering building a trumpeter swan nesting platform for next season for the far end of West Plum.*
- *DNR has appointed a task force on the management of Public Landings that includes our I-LIDS cameras, which by the way, are a critical component of our lake protection efforts this year. It is our hope they will conclude that they add real value and allow expansion on more landings including two in our town that are ready to apply. More to follow.*
- *UW center for Limnology is examining the potential of a research project on the containment of spiny water flea as a result of our inquiry to become involved on Plum. Our infestation is new and low at this time and is a candidate for determining if predator species such as perch can be a control and how best to grow their population to insure that spiny does not dominate the lake. We are communicating with both a researcher and the director of The Center for Limnology with data current and historical data. Stay tuned on this also.*

AJR

PLUM LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 193

SAYNER, WI 54560

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