

May 5, 2023

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Plum Lake Golf Club clubhouse  
Saturday, July 8, 2023 9:30am



*The Newsletter of Plum Lake Association*

## A LONG SNOWY WINTER

*All time record snow. Northern lights. If it weren't for the fact that it was still snowing on May 1st, it might have been a bit more special. But no...had to be too much of a good thing. It got old in April, progressing to "way over the top". But just look at these photos. You can't help but stare in wonder. This IS a very special place and we are so blessed to have the privilege to be a part of it.*

*However, SUMMER IS SPECIAL TOO! Even more so*

*this year, thanks to **WINTER!***

*So, get ready. Ice went out this week and the snow is melting fast. Its time to think about piers and boats - loons calling at night – baby ducks and swans and kids in the water – bluegills and walleyes and bass, OH MY!*

*Hurry back.  
Its time.*

AJR



## FISH STICKS....AND WEATHER

*It should have been simple. Well, at least it started out right. We finally had good ice, 26 inches, in early February and we set our date for a Friday. We had Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) volunteers from Lac Du Flambeau scheduled to help as well as 3 teenagers from Northland Pines High in addition to our committee, Wayne Snow, Don Anderson, George Lannert, Tom Popalisky, Merle Purin and myself. I waded through the snowy woods with Summer, ( my labrador) for a couple days the week before, looking for the right size trees ...30 ft maples and 20 ft balsams. Summer made sure we wouldn't be attacked by angry grouse.*

*Early the next week a few of us thought we would get a jump on it before the big day, just to make sure we had our act together. Joe Lechner and I did the tree dropping and Wayne and Joe used their tracked 4-wheelers to haul them out on the ice with the help of Tom and Don. We worked for half a*

day, got about a third of the trees out and were pretty proud of ourselves as we pulled them near the site.

We should have watched the weather. It started raining (**raining?**) the next morning and stopped around noon the following day. Then it got cold. Real cold. When we returned to the site, the trees were frozen in place....the wrong place. We finally broke them free in an afternoon and left due to the dangerous ice. Lesson learned - pay attention to the weather.



We postponed the main event to the following Friday due to absolutely sheer, glassy ice everywhere, impossible to walk on without major ice spikes. The forecast showed a bit of snow coming and so we waited. Then the forecast changed... just a

bit.... now up to 20" of snow coming, with 40 mph winds, and arriving in less than two days. Game time decision: If we waited any longer, by Friday, we would never be able to uncover the trees from drifted snow or move any others in the deep snow that would cover the lake. Lesson revised: Never believe a weatherman.

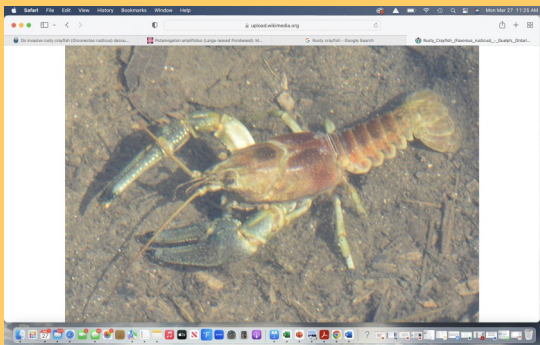


So there we were - Wayne, Don, Tom, and myself and last minute recruits, Bob Jackson from Laura, and Terry Monroe. We were cuttin' and haulin' without our young volunteers, racing against an oncoming blizzard. We got it done, cabled in place with some cement blocks and cabled to the shore in case the ice pushed out in a big wind. The snow started late that night followed by the wind the next morning. It didn't stop for 2 days.

My thanks to our great crew and the new chairs of our fish sticks project committee, Wayne Snow and Don Anderson. We hope the perch appreciate it.







## Rusticus, Virillus and Propinquus.

*Its been 12 years since our last rusty crayfish population check and just as planning started for a new effort on Plum, I learned of another University group that has been studying the crayfish populations on area lakes, including Plum. The University of Illinois has been developing a decades-long data base on changes in the rusty crayfish population on 10 Vilas County lakes, including ours. Danny Szydlowski is now at UW Madison completing his doctorate and he filled me in on his research. Danny also put me in touch with the University of Florida, which is doing research on crayfish diseases in our part of northern Wisconsin, perhaps including Plum. I have reached out to those researchers as well and will compile a short summary of what we know now with the benefit of all of this research (“kind of a state of our lake”) to our town supervisors and again to our membership preceding our annual meeting. The presentation with a few slides (15 minutes max) will address the current state of our lake after more than 50 years of rusty crayfish, the impact on Plums’ ecosystem, the potential for recovery, the prospect of management to improve the damage and the potential for another “boom” in the rusty population.*

*No other event or invasive species has equaled the impact of rusty crayfish on our lake. Understanding the current state and trends and options for management will be critical to continuing to repair the damage rusty has wrought on Plum.*

## SHORT CASTS

*Our Town of Plum Lake Lakes Committee is the only standing committee of the Town of Plum Lake. Managed by our lake leaders, it has come to assume the role of grant applicant for most of the projects our lakes are involved in, including Fish Sticks and Lake Management Plans. TPLLC’s work also includes oversight of our I-LIDS camera units on our major lakes, CBCW volunteer recruitment and University student contracts for boater education at our landings. This summer, it will also be working on the issue of wake surfing in our town lakes and completing our small-lake lake management plans. Additionally, we are developing a relationship with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to assist us in some of our habitat work and fisheries issues. Current members representing Plum are Doug Pinney, Treasurer and John Richter. Meetings are monthly and open to the public. Our next meeting is May 24<sup>th</sup> at the town hall - We’d like to see you there!*

*Check out our new piece in the Sayner Star Lake Chamber brochure!*

*Loon Platforms will be serviced in April and reset at ice out. The team will include Karen Happ, Jim Thomas, Judy Pacey and John Richter. If you would like to help, give John a call or an email. Our goal this year will be to make one last effort to find a new*

*loon pair for the east bay platform and to try to convince the starlight bay pair to use the new platform that will be snuggled up on the tiny island they have used for more than a decade. Their nest has been washed away by very large boat wakes for the last 4 years and a floating platform would perhaps solve that problem if we can get them to use it.*

*For those looking for kids and grandkids activities this summer, there is a good one for your consideration. Plum Lake Dressage has a 4 day Horse Camp (2 ½ hrs a day) event - information is on the back page of this issue.*

## MEMBERSHIP

*We want to meet your neighbors! We need your help. It starts like this... You walk next door and say hi....*

*Well, I guess you know that part. It's the next step that seems to be an issue.*

*Our renewed effort to reach out to our neighbors who are not members of PLA will be chaired by Judy Pacey and Tracy Bachmann. We plan to make this committee a constant effort of our association going forward. Having all of our community be aware of the state of our lake and the challenges is critical to our effort.*

*Lake associations across the state are banding together to defend the health of our lakes and rivers. If we don't, our northwoods home and environment will quickly erode, and with it, our children's chance to experience what we all have grown to love.*

*Please help us gather all Plum Lake owners to join our cause.*

*We know what it takes to preserve our water quality and our lake habitat. It starts with strength in numbers.*

## PLUM LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 193

SAYNER, WI 54560

President John Richter

Vice President Gail Shea

Recording Secretary Cheryl Carper

Corresponding Secretary Muffy Pinney

Treasurer Patty Hepburn

## DIRECTORS

Tracy Bachmann

Karen Happ

George Lannert

Chris Nyweide

Tom Popalisky

Karen Seehafer

Email contact: [Info@plumlakeassociation.org](mailto:Info@plumlakeassociation.org)

# YOUTH HORSE CAMPS THIS SUMMER FOR YOUR HORSE CRAZY KIDS!



**WHERE?** Plum Lake Equestrian Center, Inc.  
8177 Plum Lake Station Rd, Sayner, WI

**INSTRUCTOR:** Penny Wahlgren, 715-892-2216

**WHEN?** Session 1 July 10-13      Session 2 July 31-Aug 3  
Session 3 Aug 14-17      Session 4 Aug 28-31

**TIMES:** 9-11:30 a.m. youth up to 9 years old  
1-3:30 p.m. youth 10 years old and older

We offer an unmounted 4-day Youth Horse Camp for the summer of 2023. Students will gain a basic knowledge of horse care through hands-on experience. This event includes such topics as breeds, grooming, gaits, leading, tack, anatomy, body language and veterinary care of the horse.

Each session is limited to 4-8 kids. Cost is \$200/session and includes snacks. Pre-registration is required with payment in full to reserve your child's spot. Refunds are not given unless the vacated spot can be filled.

Upon successful completion of a session, your child will be eligible for private or semi-private mounted lessons at a reduced price.

To register: call or email for a Registration Form or visit [www.plumlakeequestriancenter.com](http://www.plumlakeequestriancenter.com), or find us on FaceBook.

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