

April 2, 2013

LOON HOOTS

The Newsletter of Plum Lake Association



GETTIN READY

Our lake sleeps. I ski softly over the powder covered crust, enjoying the total absence of any other sound. Shanties have been off the lake for two weeks. There are no tire tracks and very few sled tracks. It is that very quiet time in Sayner - April - the time between winter and spring when no one comes here and anyone who can leave, does. As Ivory and I work down the lake, the only thing that moves is blowing snow as far as we can see.

I watched the ice go out last year. It was March 21st. Today, April 2, I arrived from points south to “get ready” for my opening day crew that shares the first fish of the year with me. It’s time to gather the gear, clean the boats, fix the pier....but I find that there is a 3 foot drift in front of the barn with the boat and the gear. Door won’t open. Pontoon is locked in 5 foot plowed snow banks. I can’t see the pier. Plan to probe with a ski pole tomorrow. The ice thickness is 30+ inches. The snow depth next to my grill is 30+ inches. I guess 30+ is the big number now because it is also just 30+ days to the opening day of fishing. It’s going to be 8 degrees tonight with snow tomorrow. I checked the long range forecast for next week. It calls for snow every day. This is nuts.



But, ever the positive thinkers, we note that the sunset has moved west and as we watch it set tonight, it’s now just about over Bo Elders boat house – a reminder of late sunsets, flotillas and the great times ahead of us. I know I’m pushing it but summer IS coming and I can’t help myself. Now where did I put those waders....

SHORT CASTS

ATV'S

ATV advocates have made an inroad in Three Lakes with approval for use of town roads and are now working on a road in Lac du Flambeau. This issue is a critical one for Vilas county and it is not going away. Our new committee will have something to work on.

MOTOR TROLLING

You may have seen the results of a letter from us to the Natural Resources Board on the push for state-wide motor trolling, which we have opposed. Vilas County News picked it up and did an article on it. If you missed it, let me know and I will send a copy of our position.

CB/CW

We have been awarded a State grant for Clean Boats/Clean Waters boat landing work that will pay for an increased level of monitoring. Our grant, through the town of Plum Lake lakes committee, was the largest awarded. This will allow us to man the boat landings with students and an employee for more hours than ever before, allowing us to do a better job there and freeing us up to work with volunteer groups doing periodic in-lake monitoring. More on this to follow.

GOOD WOOD

Wood in the lake. It's becoming a big push by the DNR and we have been on the front end of this effort. Our new permit, for more trees in the lake is *still* in process. I guess not surprisingly, I have been contacted by DNR regarding my thoughts on the permit process and how to streamline it. We have also been approached by Vilas County on a tree drop/woody debris demonstration project that could be on Plum. This one has some pretty cool aspects—more on this later.

GLAD ITS NOT US...

In an article in Vilas County News about Big Sand lake in Phelps, their ongoing battle with Eurasian Milfoil was discussed. I have first hand experience with that problem on Big Sand as a result of an effort a few years ago to buy a beautiful lot in a spectacular subdivision between Long Lake and Big Sand, the headwaters of the Deerskin River. On the day of our last inspection in mid summer, we walked down to the water ... and were greeted by a solid mat of weeds (Eurasian Milfoil) that covered acres and had been driven on shore by the wind. No boat could have penetrated that mat. We left, without making an offer feeling very lucky we had avoided that fate. What follows is from the article in the paper:

“With references to Agent Orange and other chemicals being used to treat invasive aquatic weeks, the Vilas county Board denied last week the creation of a Big Sand lake Protection District... [Chairman Favorite]”They are using 2,4-D, Agent Orange, for treatment”. “Does 2,4-D treatment improve public health? Warnings are very compelling on 2,4-D. This isn't vitamins were putting into the water.”

LAST CAST

Our membership has nearly doubled as a result of our drive and we are not done. We plan to continue to find those who have been hiding in the woods. We are the last line of defense for our lake (read “glad its not us” again)...we need everyone involved. You can help. Tell your neighbors we are relentless, so they might just as well sign up. And we are SO worth it.

Happy Spring!!

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