

May 8, 2013



The Newsletter of Plum Lake Association

Magic

The ice is rotten. Black and honeycombed, it still covers nearly the whole lake but the temp is climbing, its warm and the wind arrived tonight. I'm hoping to watch it go out over coffee in the morning. This is a magic time.

The "open water fishing season" is here. It's actually been open for 5 days now and the only thing missing is the open water part. I am a VERY impatient fisherman and I am ready to start breaking it up myself.

I heard my first loon call today - actually two! Loon harmony. Its been a noisy couple of days as our birds return. They are as excited as I am. Hooded mergansers woke me up, staccato grunting as they pitch into the water at the edge of the shore ice. They are sleeping on the log in the shallows tonight. Next came the geese - a bunch are back and at 5:30am, they want me to know it. And Susie, the hen mallard who torments Ivory, arrived a couple of days ago with her metro-nome quacking.

Ivory stayed with Anita so I could fish without guilt for ignoring the dog, so she is missing the duck extravaganza. Having said that, she would not miss Sue.



She hates Sue. I love mallards, but I need ear plugs when Sue shows up. I could make a sexist remark now, but I have learned restraint.

The yard work is done and the boats are ready. I am too...SO ready.

Spring's coming....hurry back.

AJR



SHORT CASTS

A quick update on a couple of very important issues for us. The State has an agenda and it seems to have Vilas County in the bullseye. In my opinion, none of this helps us.

Motor trolling. You have seen the articles in the paper and our position on it. If you missed it, it is attached here. Motor trolling could be a big problem on Plum. Although voted down by popular vote and in our northern counties, the administration is bringing it back and plans to ram it through. This is a first. The Conservation Congress has not seen this kind of force before. The DNR is against it. So are the county residents. Nothing seems to matter. We have been told to “get over it”. Nice.

Early catch and release of largemouth bass. To sum it up, they want to open the bass season early and allow fishermen to take largemouth off the spawning beds. This is a movie we have seen before – in the 70’s – and we didn’t like the way it ended. It took 25 years after the last time they did this to get the bass population restored. Our letter to DNR on this issue is also attached. This is also being pushed by the executive level of the administration. On this issue, there is a ray of hope. We might be able to convince them to keep Vilas County out of the traffic, holding it out as a control or reference area and we are working on this at this time. Hope to have more on this soon.

All of this is a departure from previous years for the conservation congress and it is all political. Motor Trolling is a negative from every perspective and is not desired by anyone who lives in this county. Our bass populations are recovering as a result of good, specific management. In turn, they are a positive influence on our crayfish problem and a real boon to our resorts and businesses. We will be challenged to find a path to keep our fisheries and traditions intact.

If you would like to have your voice heard, write the following:

Rep.Swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov,

Sen.Tiffany@legis.wi.gov,

govgeneral@wisconsin.gov

Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov (Natural Resources Board)

DNRSecretary@Wisconsin.gov