

Half Moon Lake Property Owner Survey

Please complete and return in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Harmony Environmental
516 Keller Avenue S
Amery, WI 54001

Total number of surveys sent out:: 226 (2/25/08)

As of 05/13/2008, 115 (51%) Returned

Note: The response %'s are based on the 115 surveys returned to date.

Do you currently own property in the Half Moon Lake District?

(Circle one) Yes 77% No .9% No Answer 22%

Comments:

- We have not moved, but we are not on the lake. So these?? Do not pertain to us. We only own 26 acres SE corner of 190th.
- I own property in name only but do not use the lake or the property at this time. Gloria H. Ameter
- Since 1930
- Attention should be paid to septic systems, which adversely affect water quality.
- Since 1959

If yes, please fill out and return the questionnaire. If no, please return a blank questionnaire with a note to let us know you've moved.

1. What activities do you enjoy at the lake?

(Check all that apply and circle the one that is most important.) Scores below are totals based on one point for each line checked and two points for the circled most important item.

<u>123</u> Appreciating Peace and Tranquility	<u>54</u> Water Skiing
<u>110</u> Enjoying the View	<u>25</u> Sailing or Wind Surfing
<u>103</u> Observing Wildlife	<u>20</u> Jet Skiing
<u>101</u> Swimming	<u>9</u> Scuba Diving or Snorkeling
<u>99</u> Fishing	<u>1</u> Other (list) Wake boarding
<u>97</u> Motor Boating (pontoon, etc.)	<u>1</u> Other (list) Get to know others
<u>64</u> Non-motorized Boating (canoe, kayak, paddleboat)	

Comments:

- Jet Skiing should be forbidden.
- I only visit infrequently. I do not own waterfront property.
- Pontoon, NOT speedboats
- Jet Skiing should be banned

2. Are any of these issues regarding owning waterfront property a concern for you?

(Please rank them as follows: H = high, M = moderate, L = low, N = no concern, U = unsure)

Responses are given 3 points for high, 2 points for moderate, 1 point for low concern, and 0 points for no concern or unsure.

298 Protecting the lake environment

297 Maintaining the investment value of my property

295 Excessive aquatic plant growth in the lake

294 Water clarity at the end of my dock

255 Water clarity in the middle of the lake

6 Other Rising tax costs to cabin owners

3 Other Change to a weedy bass lake

6 Other Regulating Lake water level

4 Other Fishing-Quality or lack of

3 Other Jet Ski Noise

3 Other Too much new & old plant growth

Comments:

- Lake water level is too low.

- Does clarity = quality?

- Referencing plant growth over 30 years.

3. Please rank the degree each of the following issues negatively impacts your use or enjoyment of the lake.

(Please rank them as follows: H = high, M = moderate, L = low, N = no concern, U = unsure)

Responses are given 3 points for high, 2 points for moderate, 1 point for low concern, and 0 points for no concern or unsure.

250 Invasive aquatic plant species¹

244 Excessive algae growth

221 Excessive native aquatic plant growth

205 Loss of wildlife habitat

203 Loss of natural scenery around the lake

201 Jet skis

129 Too many small fish

159 Not enough “keeper” fish

135 Too many boats on the water

3 Other Bass

3 Other Walleye

3 Other Speedboat drivers

3 Other Slalom Course

¹ Invasive aquatic plant species are non-native plants that grow aggressively and may crowd out native plants or “weeds” in the water.

Comments:

- IF Invasive eq. Plant growth happens; Jet skis is Very High
- I wish we did not own jet skis.
- Too many Bass. Jet Skis has improved though!
- Too many large boats - wake problems
- "No walleye"
- No walleyes!!
- Jet Skis need a time slot
- Make Jet Skis QUIET

4. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree or are unsure for each of the following statements.

(A = agree, D = disagree, U = unsure)

_____ Future residential development threatens Half Moon Lake water quality.

A = agree 47%, D = disagree 18%, U = unsure 30%

_____ Existing residential development negatively impacts Half Moon Lake water quality.

A = agree 30%, D = disagree 26%, U = unsure 39%

_____ Water that runs off from my property impacts Half Moon Lake.

A = agree 47%, D = disagree 23%, U = unsure 23%

_____ Establishing or maintaining native vegetation (a buffer zone) along my shoreline would (or does) improve the water quality of the lake.

A = agree 71%, D = disagree 6%, U = unsure 16%

_____ Establishing or maintaining native vegetation (a buffer zone) along my shoreline would (or does) enhance the beauty of the property.

A = agree 58%, D = disagree 21%, U = unsure 16%

A few definitions to help you answer the questions that follow:

A *wetland* is land where soils remain saturated with water for an extended period of time. Wetlands can help to absorb and intercept runoff water thereby preventing pollutants in the water from entering lakes.

Land next to streams and lakes, if left in natural vegetation such as wetland, grassland, or forestland, can help to slow water flow and filter and absorb pollutants thereby preventing them from entering lakes.

A *conservation easement* is a deed restriction that protects natural features of a property by preventing or limiting residential or commercial development. Conservation easements are voluntary agreements between the landowner and the holder of the agreement. They do not have to allow public access to a property.

Harder Creek flows into the lake at the north side of the lake and flows from the lake in the middle of its southwest side. Harder Creek carries the most water into and out of the lake.

Tamarack Bay is a shallow bay surrounded by wetlands. It is just to the northwest of the public beach. *Tamarack Creek* flows into Tamarack Bay.

A *water quality practice*, as discussed in this survey, is a method to reduce erosion and/or prevent runoff of pollutants from a property to the lake.

A *watershed* is the area from which water flows across the land surface to a water body. The watershed of Half Moon Lake is about 5,100 acres and extends about 3 ½ miles to the north of the lake.

5. Please choose which (if any) types of undeveloped properties should be protected from development in the Half Moon Lake watershed. (Check all that apply)

- 86% Land with existing wetlands
- 79% Land next to streams (Harder Creek and Tamarack Creek)
- 66% Land adjacent to Tamarack Bay
- 60% Land next to wetlands
- 54% Land next to the lake
- 48% Land with drained wetlands
- 2% No properties should be protected
- Other _____
- Other _____

Comments:

- Unsure
- More education is needed for all of us in this area!
- All should be protected.
- Confusing- does land refers to developed next to undeveloped?
- Unsure about others
- There are enough laws to protect water around the lake.

6. From the list below, which methods do you think should be tried in an effort to protect Half Moon Lake water quality? (Check all that apply)

- 87% Educate landowners regarding practices to maintain features that protect water quality
- 79% Educate landowners regarding land protection options
- 77% Accept donations of land
- 72% Accept donations of conservation easements (these agreements restrict development without changing land ownership).
- 56% Buy land from willing sellers with the help of grants and donations
- 56% Purchase conservation easements from willing sellers with the help of grants and donations
- 0.9% None of the above is acceptable
- 0.9% Other Move Cty G to north behind existing homes
- 0.9% Other No lawn fertilizing
- 0.9% Other Inspect trailers at launch
- 0.9% Other Educate at landings
- 0.9% Other Purchase & re-establish drained wetlands

Comments:

- Do these increase taxes?
- Put back walleye.

7. The following are landscaping practices used to protect and improve lake water quality.

Which of the following are you familiar with? Which have you installed?

(Write an "F" if you are familiar with the practice or an "I" if you have installed it.)

F 44% I 20% Native flower plantings

F 43% I 36% Shoreline buffer zone

F 37% I 29% Natural shoreline restoration

F 28% I 18% Runoff reduction practices

F 24% I 4% Rain garden

F 19% I 10% Water diversions

F 17% I 3% Infiltration system

F 14% I 5% Infiltration pit or trench

F _____ I _____ Other _____

5% _____ None of the above

Comments:

- This will be our first summer with this property. We are unsure what's been done in the past. We are open to suggestions.
- Too many big motors. Bass fishing contests should be barred.
- I have little or no knowledge of some of these practices & am amenable to change with education.
- In 1997 with DNR help, we planted over 300 native plants but few survived. We have resorted to hostas because they are tough.

8. From the following list of water quality improvement landscaping practices, which, if any, would you consider putting in place on your property? (Check all that are of interest)

51% Native flower plantings

48% Natural shoreline restoration

43% Shoreline buffer zone

36% Runoff reduction practices

28% Water diversions

26% Rain garden

16% Infiltration system

13% Infiltration pit or trench

0.9% Other Rainwater collection system

0.9% Other Rip rap shoreline

9% _____ None of the above

Comments:

- Our property isn't conducive to any of these. It is all natural
- "More"
- Need to learn about these first.
- The DNR is NOT doing enough to control the HUGE production of large-mouth bass.
- I do the shoreline buffer zone now.
- Have already done Shoreline buffer, Natural..restoration, Infil. Pit, Native plantings & Runoff reduc.

- Not sure of what they are.
- Road between my property & Lake
- We have only an easement.
- Have done what we can do.
- ?

9. If you were to install a water quality practice, which, if any, of the following would motivate you to do so?

(Check all that are of interest)

- 82% Improving lake water quality
- 66% Improving water quality around my dock
- 59% Proving better habitat for fish and wildlife
- 58% Increasing the natural beauty of my property
- 45% Setting an example for other lake residents
- 37% Available financial and technical assistance
- 36% Displaying a commitment to the environment
- 32% Increasing my privacy
- 31% Savings on landscaping/maintenance costs
- 0.9% Other Providing easy access to purchase natural plants - maybe have a weekend sale at the beach???
- 3% I would not install a water quality practice

Comments:

- No dock
- Not financial but do need technical assistance
- See note on #8
- Maintaining the lake water quality.

10. If you are not interested in installing a water quality practice, please indicate why.

(Check all that apply)

- 10% I don't know how to install the practices.
- 9% I don't have the money.
- 6% My property doesn't impact the lake.
- 3% My neighbors might not like it.
- 2% I don't believe the practices will make a difference.
- 2% It might get in my way.
- 0.9% I don't have the time.
- Other _____
- Other _____

Comments:

- My land is off lake and forested with very little development.
- See note on #8

- We like our shoreline to be natural.
- I do not know 'what' a water quality practice is.
- Have not considered doing so

11. How do you prefer to get information about the lake?

(Check one)

- 72% Newsletter
- 37% Annual meeting
- 33% Email
- 26% Web site
- 8% Newspaper
- 5% Signs
- 3% Other Property Owners, Neighbors
- 0.9% Other Workshops, Classes

Comments:

- Annual meeting is "worthless"
- I've already done a shoreline restoration project and would be happy to talk to others who are considering doing so. Half Moon Lake LLLP Bob Cutshall (952) 941-4165 (H)/(612) 492-4239 (W)
- Annual meeting could be the most useful way but isn't. There is never enough time to discuss issues (neg/positive) regarding the lake.
- When gone 6 mos. In winter newsletters are sometimes too late.
- Surveys can get things so distorted when you can only check off items. I feel the quality of Half Moon Lake is good and needs to be maintained. I don't think it needs to be improved.