



## Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.

Since 1968, a non-profit lake association dedicated to the improvement of Lake Vermilion  
P.O. Box 696, Tower MN 55790

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 20, 2015

CONTACT: Jeff Lovgren, President  
(218) 753-2413  
lovgren@frontiernet.net

### Sportsmen's Club Adjusts AIS Prevention Plans After Spiny Waterfleas Found

The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion (SCLV) will be expanding its launch-site boat inspection and education procedures after the Minnesota DNR recently confirmed the presence of spiny waterfleas in Lake Vermilion's east basin.

"We are clearly disappointed to find spiny waterfleas in Lake Vermilion. To slow their spread to other areas of the lake, our volunteer inspectors will continue to look for "spinies" as boats launch at Vermilion," said Jeff Lovgren, Sportsmen's Club president. "In addition, we must now put an increased emphasis on being sure no Lake Vermilion water is carried by a trailered boat to another lake. We will be talking more to boat operators about the importance of draining all residual water as they leave our lake, clearing aeration lines for bait and live wells, and cleaning and drying fishing equipment, like nets and downrigger cables."

Spiny waterfleas frequently spread from lake to lake by hitchhiking in bait buckets and live wells which are not completely dry.

Spiny waterfleas are tiny 3/8" planktonic crustaceans that consume large numbers of smaller zooplankton, disrupting the food source for young-of-the-year fish. Rapid growth of juvenile fish during the first summer improves winter survival.



Spiny waterfleas (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) on a fishing line.  
Photo: Jeff Gunderson, University of Minnesota Sea Grant.

Individual "spinies" are difficult to see but can accumulate as a noticeable gelatinous glob with protruding spines (tails) on fishing line, downrigger cables or anchor lines. The SCLV will soon make identification cards and sample collection kits available to boat operators at Lake Vermilion's 54 public and resort launch sites.

###

## RELATED NEWS AND PRESS RELEASES

### **Minnesota DNR: Spiny Waterflea Confirmed in Lake Vermilion, 7/20/2015**

<http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/>

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION – SPORTSMEN’S CLUB OF LAKE VERMILION

**Membership.** The SCLV is a non-profit lake association with 2400 members. Approximately 25% live on the lake or nearby, evenly split between the Cook and Tower ends. The rest are frequent visitors to resorts and cabins, living elsewhere in Minnesota (50%) or other states (25%).

**Community Service.** The Sportsmen’s Club of Lake Vermilion (SCLV) has been working since its founding in 1968 to protect Lake Vermilion and to enhance the outdoor experience for those who share it. Its volunteers have invested thousands of hours monitoring water quality, promoting sound shoreline and watershed practices, monitoring Vermilion’s loon population, maintaining night navigation lights, building day-use shore lunch sites, encouraging effective cormorant management, removing rough fish from the lake, and working with the local DNR Fisheries staff to protect Lake Vermilion’s fishery. For additional information on its activities:

[www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org](http://www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org)

[www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org/htm/mission.htm](http://www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org/htm/mission.htm)

**Aquatic Invasive Species Become a Priority.** In 1992, SCLV representatives attended a conference in Brainerd entitled "Exotics in Minnesota: The Inland Invasion" sponsored by Minnesota Sea Grant et al. The east end of Lake Vermilion already had one “exotic” at that time – rusty crayfish – which was first noted in the mid-1980s. But it was clear the problem was much broader than one species. The Sportsmen’s Club took the threat seriously and has been working on AIS for 23 years with a growing army of volunteers. Over that time, AIS has risen to be its #1 priority. For additional information on AIS:

[www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org/htm/invasivesp.htm](http://www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org/htm/invasivesp.htm)

**Commitment to Lake Vermilion’s Fishery and Business Community.** The Sportsmen’s Club of Lake Vermilion is committed to doing everything it can to protect the Lake Vermilion fishery and business community by preventing all new AIS and non-AIS stressors and rolling back those already present.

**Early History.** The Sportsmen’s Club of Lake Vermilion was founded in 1968 by a dozen resort and marina owners who decided to address the poor fishing which frustrated their guests and threatened their livelihood. For additional information on the early years:

[www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org/htm/historyfounders.htm](http://www.SportsmensClubLakeVermilion.org/htm/historyfounders.htm)