

THE VERMILION



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*To Protect and
Improve Lake
Vermilion*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is mid-October and we just received our first snowfall of about three inches and it looks like winter has started except many of the colorful leaves are still on the trees. The fall walleye fishing was very good for us and I was hopeful of another couple of days of fishing. It is interesting that walleyes caught this fall have been of many different sizes and not limited to small walleyes. There have been some very large ones in the 29-inch level or trophy range. I hope you were able to get out this fall and enjoy the colorful leaves and good fishing on beautiful Lake Vermilion.



Terry Grosshauser
VLA President

The cover photo of the newsletter was the photo chosen by members for first place in the photo contest held at the annual meeting. Please see the article on the photo contest and winning pictures. The 50th Anniversary meeting was on August 11, and we had 285 members and guests attend the event. Please see the article on the annual meeting. I would like to thank our team that planned and coordinated the annual meeting. The leader was Jeff Stebbins along with board members Sheri Sawatzky, Dwight Warkentin, and Marge McPeak. The experienced leadership of Jeff helped make this event truly a great success. Members enjoyed the information booths and the great meal provided by Camp Vermilion.

Our newsletter continues to be well received with the color pictures and great articles. Our mailing to non-member residents on the lake only received modest results. We would like to ask our members to let their neighbors know of the value that the Lake Association provides in protecting Lake Vermilion and the bonus newsletter that keeps residents informed about key activities on the lake.

With regards to board members, Marge McPeak has decided to leave the board to assume the President's position for the Virginia Rotary. We would

like to thank Marge for the many activities that she has worked on while being on the board. She will be missed. Officially being voted onto the board at the annual meeting was Pat Michaelson. Pat has already been working as a volunteer and coordinating our efforts to recruit volunteers and potential new board members. We are always looking for volunteers or potential board members that are interested in our activities and want to get involved.

In the fishery area, the Lake Management Plan was finalized and is now available to the public. Please see the article on the Lake Management Plan and where you can access the new management plan for Lake Vermilion. There were only two attendees and both were our board members who attended the DNR presentation on the Northern Pike regulations in August. There was an open period for public comment on the Northern Pike regulations. We do not know if the regulations will be changed at this time. People working on the study on the impact of invasive species on the fishery visited in August and they are currently working on the data at this time. As an organization, we support both Take A Kid Fishing and Take A Vet Fishing. Fishing was good for both events this year and participation was around 100 Kids and 100 Vets at these events. The guide organization and Fortune Bay deserve a thank you for putting on these programs and making them a huge success each year.

As part of the BP oil spill litigation, considerable funds, over \$7M, were being considered for wildlife programs potentially impacting Minnesota. There was an open period to comment on where the public believed the money should be spent. Unfortunately, the ability to comment has expired by the delivery time of this newsletter, but we did have the contact information on our website. One of the options for these funds was to protect loon nesting with the purchase of key properties, and for a program aimed at reducing the use of lead in fishing (lead is known to be ingested by loons and it can be fatal).

AIS boat checking is still taking place, so the numbers are not final. We do know that no new AIS infestations have been identified this year for either weeds or other invasive species. The Hwy. 53 boat checking operation by the DNR did occur again this year and

See President's Message...page 4



Celebrating our 50th Year

Vermilion Lake Association Hosts 50th Annual Meeting

The Vermilion Lake Association celebrated its 50th anniversary with a picnic Saturday, August 11, 2018, at Camp Vermilion. The organization was started in March 1968 when several resort owners decided to do something about the poor fishing on Lake Vermilion. It was the start of the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion. In August 1968, the first annual meeting for the club was held. Since then the club has become the Vermilion Lake Association with over 2,700 members. Our mission is to protect and improve water quality, promote and enhance the outdoor experience of Lake Vermilion, and to educate members regarding issues which impact the lake. Members reminisced about the first 50 years and discussed the

challenges of the next fifty.

The celebration was held from noon to six p.m., with two settings of the fabulous free chicken banquet. We hosted an attendance of 285. The members and guests registered for a variety of door prizes. The drawing was held at the end of the event. The winners were notified and we have listed them in this newsletter. Prizes included lawn ornaments, a kayak, Aronson's Mail Boat rides, a round of golf for two at The Wilderness, and half-day trips with guides, etc.

On the deck area, the members found lake association information tables covering topics of aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, annual loon count, shore lunch sites, night navigation

lights, and shoreland restoration. Partners from North St. Louis SWCD, Minnesota Sea Grant, DNR Fisheries, the Lake Vermilion Resort Association, the Lake Vermilion Trail Committee, and the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade shared their stories and answered questions.

The 50th Annual Membership Meeting of the Vermilion Lake Association was convened by President Terry Grosshauser at 3 p.m. Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were available at the registration table for members to take; a motion was made and passed to waive the reading of the minutes and treasurer's report. Terry

See Annual Meeting...page 4

Thank You To Our 50th Anniversary Picnic Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors



Vermilion Land Office- Barb Hegg



Lake Vermilion Antique & Classic Boat Show



Lake Vermilion Resort Assn.



Janisch Realty



Cook Building Center



B.I.C. Realty

Gold Sponsors



Fortune Bay Resort Casino



Culbert Realty

I would personally like to pay public tribute to this year's 50th Anniversary Sponsors (see list at left). For without whom, our celebration would not have been the huge success it was. It is through their financial support that helps the Vermilion Lake Association reach out to new Members and thank our existing Members for their membership support and continuing annual contributions. As this year's Celebration Chair I am happy to have devoted my time and effort to what I feel is an organization which offers the greatest contribution to Lake Vermilion, its scenic beauty, wildlife and fisheries, through the monitoring, preservation and protection of this most marvelous resource.

Jeffrey Stebbins

Annual Meeting...from page 3

Grosshauser made a recommendation for re-election of board members for renewal terms: Sheri Sawatzky, Mel Hintz and Howard Ankrum were voted in. Pat Michaelson was voted on to confirm her becoming a board member.

We want to thank our supporters that helped with donations to make the celebration a success: BIC Realty, Cook Building Center, Vermilion Land Office, Janisch Realty, Culbert Realty, Antique & Classic Boat Show, Lake Vermilion Resort Association and Fortune Bay.

Please check out the Vermilion Lake Association's website for more information about all the activities and more on the history of the association.

President's Message...from page 2

2018 was another year with 14 percent of the boats either getting a warning ticket or a ticket. The fines can be significant. The percentage of boats with issues is concerning and indicates that we need to continue to be vigilant in protecting Lake Vermilion.

Our volunteer recognition party was held on August 28 and over 60 of our volunteers attended. Our volunteers are extremely important in helping us coordinate the many activities we support in protecting and improving Lake Vermilion. Pat Michaelson is the new coordinator of recruiting volunteers. She works with board members to determine our volunteer needs and matches them with potential new volunteers. Contact Pat (plmichaelson@gmail.com) or (terrygrosshauser@gmail.com).

Please make a note on your calendar for next year's Annual Meeting which will be held in Tower on August 10. The speaker at this meeting will be Kevin Keenow, a Federal Loon Researcher, and his program will be on loons. He is very knowledgeable and this should be a very interesting evening with friends from around the lake. More details to follow.



50th Anniversary Party Door Prizes

The following are the winners of the door prizes at the anniversary party. We would like to recognize and sincerely thank people and organizations who have donated door prizes for the event. Specifically we'd like to thank Aronson's for the boat rides; Don Johnson for lawn art; The Wilderness for the golf rounds; tackle from Northwoods Bait and Tackle; and three half-day fishing

trips from guides Buck Les Carbeau, Joe Panichi, and Rob Bryers. Thanks for the very nice donations that help support our activities.

\$500 Gift Card: Rosie Zimmerman

Kayak: Laura Williams

Guided Fishing Trips: Luke Wade, Brad Stitcell, David Folman.

Golf at the Wilderness : Joan Jordan

Metal Lawn Art : John Basken, Trudy Harper, Warren Vollmer, Dan Mobilia

Bait Bucket and Lures: Bill Congar

Mail Boat Rides: Craig Beveroth, Steve Bezat, Ali Holstein, Allegra Dengler

VLA Honors its Volunteers

The Vermilion Lake Association hosted a Vermilion Club pizza party for its volunteers on August 28 at the Greenwood Town Hall. Over 60 volunteers attended the party which included a couple of door prizes including a beautiful hand-made quilt from Kathy Lovgren.

The Vermilion Lake Association board would like to express its thanks for your generous gift of your time and skills to further our mission to protect and

improve Lake Vermilion.

The volunteers are listed by activity or project on the following listing of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer your services to help the Lake Association protect beautiful Lake Vermilion, please contact any board member. Board members and their contact information can be found on page 16 of this newsletter.

See volunteers list on next page

VLA Thanks Our 2018 Volunteers



Mary McNellis won a quilt handmade by Kathy Lovgren

**120+ assisted with the annual loon count.
Thanks to our Volunteers*

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Howard Ankrum
Barry Botruff
Rob Bryers
Larry Clines
Kim Goodwin & Rita O'Reilly
Jim & Donna Graham
Dan Hill
Byron Jackson
Marilyn Johnson
Dan Karolevitz & Irene Sieckert
Steve Lindberg
Jeff Lovgren-Leader
Bob McNamara

Mary McNellis
Jim Mueller
Frank Siskar
Wayne Suoja
Bob Ultseth
Dick Vohs
Gary Whitenack
Bob Wilson

Communications

Terry Grosshauser
Penny Jackson
Jeff Lovgren-Leader
Irene Sieckert

Volunteer Coordination

Kathy Lovgren
Pat Michaelson-Leader
Rachel Rushing

Records Archivist

Renee Aro

Vegetation Management

Howard Ankrum

Donor Volunteers

Jim & Patty Cownie
Denise & Mark Muhich
Lee & Anne Niepagen
Karen & Eric Olson

Shore Lunch Sites

Rob Bryers
Jim & Cathy Carlson
Jim & Ann Gribble
Tom & Sue Hartley
Mel Hintz- Leader
Richard Johnson
Ron & Bev Kmett
Mike & Lori Ptak
Jeff & Nancy Stebbins
Scott & Terry Vagle
Allen & Mary Williams
Bob & Judy Ulseth

John & Claire Zwieg

Water Quality

Craig Beveroth
Rob Dahl
Bob McNamara
Wayne Suoja-Leader

Fisheries

Terry Grosshauser-Leader

Sucker Sales

Rob Bryers
Tom Forconi-Leader
Don Johnson

50th Celebration

Annual Meeting

Craig & Carol Beveroth
Liz & Rob Dahl
Bonnie Grosshauser
Don Johnson
Colleen Lepper
Bill Michaelson
Jeff Stebbins-Leader
Sheri Sawatzky
Georgia Suoja
Chris Woody

Navigation Lights

Jerry Korpela-Bontems
John Zwieg

Loon & Cormorant

Count Territory

Coordinators*

Warren & JoAnn Anderson
Renee and Tom Aro
Joanne Bergman
Barb & Gary Boutto
Cathy & Jim Carlson
Pam & Larry Clines
Bonnie & Terry Grosshauser

Mark Harelstad
Mel & Ellen Hintz-Leader
Florette & Alvin Hujanen
Willis & Betty Irons
Mardy Jackson
Dan & Jane Johns
Rhonda & Rob Joki
Betty & Dick Kerber
Jill & Jerry Korpela-Bontems
Rita & Jim Lakmann
Colleen & Jerry Lepper
Reany & Steve Lindberg
Kathy & Jeff Lovgren
Dorothy & Bill Marbaker
Norm & Carolyn Miller
Shirley & Bruce Tode
Judy & Bob Ulseth
Ann & Warren Vollmar
Mary & Allen Williams
Jaynee & John Yocum
John & Claire Zwieg- Leader

Board of Directors

Howard Ankrum
Terry Grosshauser
Mel Hintz
Rob Joki
Jerry Lepper
Jeff Lovgren
Eric Hanson
Adam Maki
Marge McPeak
Pat Michaelson
Sheri Sawatzky
Wayne Suoja
Dwight Warkentin
Dale Lundblad-Dir. Emeritus

Lake Vermilion Fisheries Plan

Recently the Lake Vermilion Fisheries Plan was approved and posted on the DNR website. This is an important plan for management of the fishery from 2017- 2022. It is an improvement over the last plan in 2007 which allowed for no changes during the period it was effective. The new plan allows for changes if ongoing three-year averages do not meet certain criteria outlined in the plan.

Due to our limited space in the newsletter, we are only publishing a portion of the Executive Summary and we strongly recommend that you go to the DNR website to see the executive summary, entire plan, and the “responses to public input” document. All three are available on the website. The portion of the executive summary attached gives an overview of the fisheries plan, however there is much more to the plan so that you can get a better understanding of how the lake will be managed.

Direct Link: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakevermilion/index.html> or go to www.mndnr.gov and enter “Vermilion”

In addition to the plan, there is a link to the DNR LakeFinder reports of our fisheries assessments and other data collection reports: Direct Link: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=69037800> or go to www.mndnr.gov and the “LakeFinder” link and enter “Vermilion”

Lake Vermilion Fisheries Plan

Executive Summary

PURPOSE: Develop a plan to guide fisheries management on Lake Vermilion for a six-year period from 2017-2022, with the understanding that adaptive management strategies could occur outside the scope of this plan.

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT

STATUS: The last fisheries management plan for Lake Vermilion was developed in 2007 by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries staff with minimal input from stakeholders (Williams 2007). This plan defined goals and actions for managing specific fish species of primary management concern present within the fish community. Lake Vermilion is an important statewide resource and there has been increasing public interest in management issues in recent years. A more structured management planning process that included formal citizen participation and facilitated planning meetings was initiated to engage stakeholders in the development of this plan.

The DNR worked with a group of 20 stakeholders, which comprise the Lake Vermilion Fisheries Input Group (LVFIG) to provide input for the development of the 2017-2022 Lake Vermilion Fisheries Management Plan. This group provided diverse local and statewide perspectives and made recommendations on Lake Vermilion fisheries management. We will continue to work with the Input Group and other interested stakeholders through the duration of the plan. This will include holding annual update meetings to review the previous year's information, assess the status of the fishery with respect to the goals and objectives defined in the management plan, and provide opportunities to discuss any emerging issues.

The updated Lake Vermilion Fisheries Management Plan is designed to build on existing knowledge while preserving a sustainable, species-diverse fishery. The current plan is more detailed than previous management plans and will be updated on a more regular time frame. The plan will expire in 2022, however de-

viations from the plan may be necessary and appropriate under certain conditions. Potential deviations from this plan will be discussed with the LVFIG before implementation. The management plan not only addresses fish populations, but also other topics of lakewide interest including habitat, double-crested cormorants, fishing tournaments, and aquatic invasive species.

New to the 2017-2022 Lake Vermilion Fisheries Management is an increase in the use of defined fisheries goals, objectives, and management activities for individual fish species. Goals are defined as broad qualitative statements encompassing what the management plan hopes to achieve. Objectives are specific quantitative statements that contribute to achieving the goals. Finally, management activities are specific actions designed to monitor, support, regulate, and maintain the Lake Vermilion fishery. It is important to note that not all fish species will have

Continued on next page

Executive Plan...from page 7

defined goals and objectives and some management actions cover multiple species.

While taking into account historical trends, the objectives set forth in this plan are based on the most recent 20 years (1996-2015) of fisheries data available. This time period was selected as the baseline for several reasons. First, it reflects ten years of data collection before and after the implementation of the special walleye regulation in 2006. Secondly, it represents a period of generally higher walleye abundance than observed in the 1984 to 1995 surveys. Third, in the face of changing climate, technology, and other issues, the previous 20 years is more representative of contemporary conditions than historic observations.

Additionally, new to this plan is the use of percentiles and 3-year moving averages to define most objectives. For example, the 25th percentile means 25% of observed data points fall below a certain value and 75% of data points are above that value. A 3-year moving average, the average of the current year plus the previous 2 years, is used to minimize year to year variability. Most objectives in this plan use the 3-year moving average of annually collected data for the point of comparison. Conversely, objectives set based on creel survey data use a mean of the results from the two consecutive years of creel surveys that have previously occurred during six year periods. Any other variations from this will be noted.

One unique feature of Lake Vermilion is that it is comprised of two major basins, East Vermilion (area east of Oak Narrows) and West Vermilion (area west of Oak Narrows), and there are significant differences in habitat and the fish communities present in each basin (Johnson 1968). In addition to lakewide goals, objectives, and management actions, basin specific metrics are defined separately in some cases. Since walleye are the most sought after species by

anglers on Lake Vermilion, management has focused primarily on that population via regulations, fry stocking, and assessments. The walleye population will continue to be a primary focus in this management plan. Additional fish species that have defined goals and associated management actions in this plan include black crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and yellow perch. Additional fish species of management importance that are addressed include cisco (tullibee), lake whitefish, and white suckers.

FISH POPULATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Walleye Goal: Support a robust walleye fishery with sufficient spawning stock to meet reproductive needs and provide the opportunity for anglers to both harvest walleye and catch quality-sized fish. **Walleye Objectives:**

1) Abundance: Maintain lakewide walleye gill-net catch of 14 fish/net (25th percentile) or greater.

a. Maintain East Vermilion walleye gill-net catch rate of 16 fish/net (25th percentile) or greater.

b. Maintain West Vermilion walleye gill-net catch rate of 10 fish/net (25th percentile) or greater.

2) Reproductive potential: Maintain mature female walleye biomass between 1.3 and 2.1 pounds/acre (25th-75th percentiles).

a. Maintain East Vermilion mature female walleye biomass between 1.1 and 1.8 pounds/acre (25th-75th percentile).

b. Maintain West Vermilion mature female walleye biomass between 1.6 and 2.5 pounds/acre (25th -75th percentile).

3) Recruitment: Maintain walleye year class strength index of 0.4 (25th percentile) or greater.

a. Maintain East Vermilion walleye year class strength index of 0.5 (25th percentile) or greater.

b. Maintain West Vermilion walleye year class strength index of 0.5 (25th percentile) or greater.

4) Harvest: Maintain summer (May through September) boat angler walleye harvest near 65,000 pounds.

5) Angler catch rate: Maintain a targeting boat angler catch rate of 0.38 walleye/hour (25th percentile) or greater based on the open water creel survey.

a. Maintain a targeting boat angler open water catch rate on East Vermilion of 0.45

b. Maintain a targeting boat angler open water catch rate on West Vermilion of 0.16 walleye/hour (25th percentile) or greater.

Yellow Perch Goal: Support a self-sustaining yellow perch population that provides a stable prey base for other sportfish.

Yellow Perch Objective:

Abundance: Maintain gill net catch rate of 19 fish/net (25th percentile) or higher.

Muskellunge Goal: Support a muskellunge population that provides opportunity to catch trophy fish (50 inches or larger).

Northern Pike Goal: Support a self-sustaining northern pike population that provides opportunity for harvest.

Smallmouth Bass Goal: Support a self-sustaining smallmouth bass population.

Largemouth Bass Goal: Support a self-sustaining largemouth bass population.

Bluegill Goal: Maintain a sustainable harvest level of bluegill.

Black Crappie Goal: Maintain a sustainable harvest level of black crappie.

'Bout Time - The Story of the Little Green Boat

Winner of the "People's Choice" award at the 28th Annual Antique and Classic Boating Show on Lake Vermilion, Minnesota

Why build a boat? What kind?

We'd been in our Reedsburg, Wisconsin, home about 10 years and most remodeling projects were complete. I'd built some furniture and other items needed for the house when I decided to try something new - a boat. Furniture is generally a group of rectangular boxes assembled in various forms but a boat has very few straight lines or flat panels so building one would require a whole new set of skills.

We'd owned our cottage on Daisy Bay for a few years and had acquired a Catalina 22 sailboat and a 20-foot runabout. My boat building thoughts included a strip built canoe or kayak - or a small sailboat. The sailboat idea was the winner!

I didn't want anything too large or too small and decided 12 - 14 feet would be just right. I chose the Marisol Skiff designed by Gifford Jackson because it has many details simpler skiffs don't - like deadeye mast stays, a curved mast partner, a Gunter cat rig so there is only one sail to tend, and pleasing lines. Jackson, a native of Auckland, New Zealand, trained as a naval architect and worked as an industrial designer. He designed and had the Marisol Skiff built for his own use in 1975. I



Jerry Lepper
VLA Treasurer



figured I was only going to build one boat so it might as well be pretty.

How to start and the building process.

Plan sets for boats this size typically run 4+ pages but the Marisol plan set is 35 sheets - basically a complete training guide for small

boat building! Also, coming from New Zealand everything is metric. Building using metric dimensions wasn't as hard as you might think. First I bought a metric tape measure and then had to train my mind a bit. You can't think of a 1" x 2" board (really 3/4" x 1 1/2") but rather a 20mm x 40mm board.

To become familiar with the design and plans I first redrew them using AutoCAD and printed a set on a 1:7.5 scale. This allowed me to build a 20-inch model of the hull on my workbench the first winter. This was time well spent because I became familiar with the irregular plank shapes, required techniques and assembly stages.

Woods used in construction were okoume marine plywood for the bottom and shear planks (sides), white ash for the load bearing

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Autumn

Webster says, "Autumn - Any period of maturity or, of beginning decline"



For some reason this year it is this "beginning decline" that weighs on me.

Autumn on Vermilion, like a kaleidoscope, comes with her changes.

Over night, the lake becomes too cold for swimming.

Another day, voila!....The boats have virtually disappeared,

As if following some strident unspoken command.

The ducks and the geese and the loons begin gathering, preparing their adieus.

Friends and neighbors talk of "going south" or have left already.

The song birds.....oh, the song birds, shutting-down their daily performances.

I will miss them all.

As for us, we the people, we find ourselves in our own deep autumn.

Aches and pains for sure, some with concerns, some just coming with the territory.

Unlike nature's autumn, with her leaves bursting with color and distinction and zest,

Ours finds memories growing dim, and a stark realization of winter's inevitable arrival.

And when, exactly, do we cross over to winter's darkness from autumn?

Maybe it is when the stormy waters of the big lake loses her battle for freedom.

Stillness prevails, the ice has won.... again. But even then, when I look down our bay,

There is something restful about that undisturbed, flat horizontal line of the far shore.

Things that lie flat seem at peace to me.

Their sparsity helps make life more legible,

Helps us to define our space and time.

Giving one time for acceptance.

Acceptance of what was...and...what surely lies ahead.

Tom Aro

Autumn 2018

50th Anniversary Celebration Photo Contest

We had 30 submissions in the photo contest prior to the 50th Annual Meeting that were voted on by people attending the event. There was interest in all of the photos and 175 people voted on the photos submitted. Three points for a first place, two points for second place and one point for third place. Many people spent a lot of time reviewing all of the photos before voting and all photos received some votes so there was considerable interest and the quality of all of the photos made it very competitive.

First Place winner was Brian Cain and his picture is on the cover of this newsletter. Brian indicated that he was on his way to his deer stand in Black Bay. He said that it was so beautiful that he simply snapped a picture with his phone.



Second Place winner was the loon and baby picture by Arny Engman. Arny and his wife Karen have owned a cabin on Norwegian Bay for twenty years and they love to kayak. This photo was taken early one morning on the lake. He said we were surprised that the loon did not dive as they came near, and



then saw the baby a mother loon carrying a young loon on her back, very cute.

Third place was won by Cindy Mathais. Cindy said her father introduced her and her husband to Vermilion in 1991, staying at Pehrson Lodge where



they got married on the deck, and returned there every year until her father purchased a home on Fectos Point. "Our love of the lake goes beyond words," she said. "I have so many wonderful photos of the lake, fish, wildlife and sky that it really made it hard to choose. Living in central Illinois gives us the opportunity to appreciate the lake and all it has to offer each time we travel here. We are planning to have a fall visit and find some Lake Vermilion walleye and more memories to bring back."



A Beautiful Lawn, naturally

At the Vermilion Lake Association's 50th year celebration, several people requested that I re-print the following article. The photo illustrates a lawn with no fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides.



Wayne Suoja
VLA Board Member

This article provides tips for improved lakeshore stewardship focusing on natural shorelines—lakeshores with plenty of native trees and other plants, and decreased use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. Nutrients in fertilizers can lead to algae blooms and lower oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic animals; pesticides and weed killers (herbicides) can be toxic to people, pets, beneficial insects such as bees, fish, and wildlife. There are numerous non-toxic remedies that

you can easily make at home:

Fertilizers:

1. Combine ½ cup of molasses, 1 can beer, 1 cup non-phosphate liquid dish soap in a 20-gallon hose-end sprayer, filling the balance of the jar with household ammonia. Use this to spray your yard once a month.

2. Combine 1 can of regular cola, 1 cup of apple juice, 1 can of beer, stir, and pour mixture into a hose-end spray attachment. Do not dilute with water.

Pesticides:

Spray these organic pesticides with caution as they can also kill beneficial insects. Use them selectively and only spray on infected plants on the top side and under side of leaves in the early morning or late evening.

Garlic and Onion Spray: Mince 1 medium onion and 1 medium garlic clove. Place in bowl. Pour 1 quart of warm water over the garlic and onion. Let sit for 1 hour. Add 1 tsp. cayenne pepper and 1 tbsp. of dish soap. Stir and pour mixture into an empty garden sprayer to spray around your garden.

Baking Soda and Oil Spray: Add 1 quart of water to garden sprayer. Add 1 tbsp. baking soda, 1 tbsp. cooking oil, and a few drops of liquid dish soap. Stir and spray.

Army Worms: Use *Bacillus Thuringiensis*, which is a natural bacterium better known as BT which is non-toxic to birds, bees, pets, or humans. There is no residue problem and may be applied up to the day of your harvest.

Continued on next page

Pesky Deer: Mix 3 beaten eggs, ¼ cup vegetable oil, 4 tbsp. dish washing liquid, and 1 quart water. Put in a spray bottle and spray where deer are a nuisance.

Herbicides:

Spray these herbicides directly on plants you wish to kill, and try to avoid spraying on the soil.

Vinegar-Based Solution: Mix 1 gallon of white vinegar with 1 cup of table salt and 1 tsp. of liquid dish soap. Stir until all salt is dissolved, and pour into a spray bottle, and spray directly on plants on a hot, dry day.

Alcohol: Mix equal parts alcohol and water in a spray bottle, and spray only on weeds you are trying to kill. Avoid spraying directly into the soil.

Remember, perfect lawns are not perfect for your lake. Rainwater flowing over lawn surfaces picks up more dirt, pesticides,



Do You Want to Restore Your Shore?

In June of 2019, the Vermilion Lake Association will assist a lake-shore owner to restore their lakeshore to a more natural condition. We need a volunteer that is interested in restoring their shoreline landscape to help reduce erosion, reduce runoff, and to provide habitat for wildlife. Please contact board member Wayne Suoja for more details, 218-753-2162 or wsuoja@frontiernet.net.

toxic chemicals, fertilizers, pet waste, and other pollutants than on naturally vegetated shore. Consider planting native grasses, wildflowers, trees and shrubs to provide lakeshore wildlife habitat,

stabilize shorelines, slow runoff, and reduce the need for irrigation, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Green Boat...from page 9

members and those that required steam bending, cherry for all the exposed pieces, and Sitka spruce for the mast, boom, spar, rudder and center board.

Tools used were a table saw, band saw, saber saw, thickness planner, power hand planner, various hand planes, spoke shaves, chisels, lots of clamps and a wallpaper steamer.

In spring of 2000 hull building began in our garage. The hull was built upside down over seven temporary frames. The first step was to create a base - which must be level and true. The temporary frames (built during the previous winter) were then attached to this base. After the hull was complete it was removed from the frames

and turned over. I finished this part during the first summer and then hung the hull from rafter joists so both cars could fit into the garage for the winter. At this point interior construction such as seats, floatation tanks, deck wear strips, etc. could begin.

During the next several years I made smaller parts in the basement in the wintertime and installed interior components in the summer. Next the hull was turned upside down on saw horses so the outside could be fiberglassed and painted. Progress basically stopped about 2004 due to work demands and in November 2006 I retired.

In spring 2007 I moved to Lake Vermilion to oversee construction of our new home and after the drywall was completed I did a lot

of the interior work. This meant that I didn't get back to working on the boat right away. In early 2012 I set a goal of completing and entering my boat in the 2013 Antique and Classic Boat show on Labor Day weekend - and did!

A few years later while attending a woodworking conference the instructor explained steps he used in chair building and it occurred to me that building a chair is very much like building a boat!

Planning and building 'Bout Time - The Little Green Boat has been a great experience! Thanks to everyone who attended the 2018 Lake Vermilion Antique and Classic Boating Show, enjoyed the boat as much as I enjoyed building it, and voted in the "People's Choice" category.

It May Be Loony, But We Do It Every Year

I missed the Annual Loon Count on Lake Vermilion as it flew right by me. As someone new to the area I would have never guessed that we would count the loons every year. But from what I've been told, this event happens to be a premier volunteer opportunity. People wait for years to be assigned a territory to count.



Penny Jackson
Author and
VLA Volunteer

I wondered why? What draws people to volunteer and who started this event? With a few questions in hand I sought out Mardy Jackson, who agreed to tell me her story of counting loons for over 23 years.

As a child, Mardy and her family spent much time at their family cabin located on Sand Lake in northern Minnesota. Mardy along with her brother and three sisters, spent their days picking blueberries, swimming, playing in the woods, running wild and feeling free. She grew up loving and enjoying the great outdoors and everything it had to offer.

As an adult, the north woods and lakes were forever calling her back to cool clear waters and tall pines. In 1973 her husband Bob suggested they look "way up north" for a place on a lake. She immediately knew an adventure was in sight and she was ready for this move.

Bob looked for properties and found one on Fabian Bay of Lake Vermilion. It had just enough land, a cabin and multiple out buildings. Needless to say, Mardy

was extremely excited and could hardly wait to see it. But to her disappointment it wasn't the cabin she always dreamed of. Her dream cabin was a log home with a split rock fireplace and this didn't even come close. She looked at Bob and promptly told him "It looks like any other house we could have bought in town. It doesn't even look like a cabin." After a lot of negotiations were made, Bob had finally talked her into this cabin.

It was late August in 1980 when Mardy spotted 26 loons gathered near Strawberry Island. In all the summers she had spent at Sand Lake as a child, she had never ever seen that many loons gathered together. She thought to herself that this had to be a phenomenon! She had to tell someone, so she did. Mardy took it upon herself to write a letter to the State Supervisor of the DNR. It took until late fall before she finally received a reply. The letter was quite long and included a 2x3 inch box in the lower left-hand corner suggesting that she report to him the following summer the positions and amount of any loons she might see on the entire lake. Her first thoughts were "The man must not have a map of Lake Vermilion. He can't mean the whole lake. Doesn't he realize how big this lake truly is?"

After giving it much thought, she waited until the following July and took it upon herself to do a personal loon survey. She got out her colorful map of Lake Vermilion and charted her way. Once out on the lake she placed a black dot on her map for every adult loon she saw. For every chick she placed a



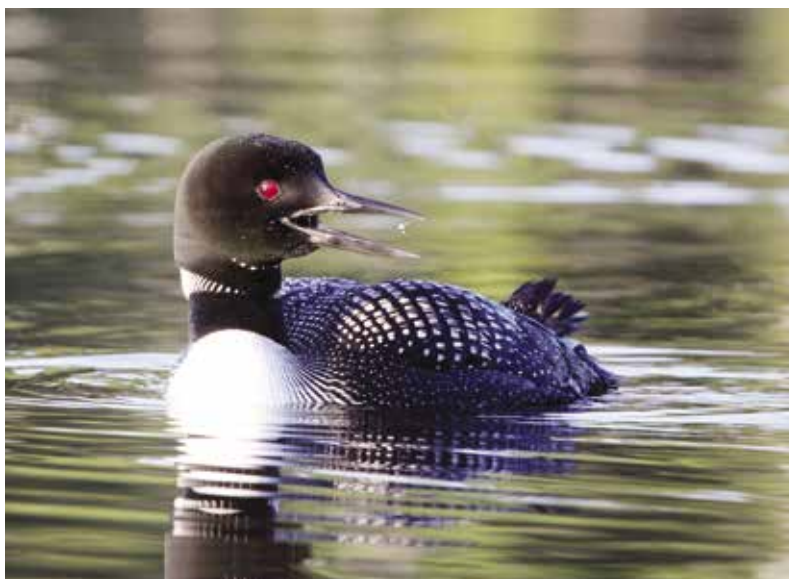
Mardy Jackson

red dot on the same map. If she saw people around she would ask them if they had seen any loon families around their bay. If so, she would add this information to her map. This process took 2-½ weeks just to count the loons from the East end to Oak Narrows. Anyone in their right mind could have guessed that this would not be an accurate count.

But, as luck would have it, around that same time a request came from Greg Raps, president of the Sportsmen's Club, looking for projects that had to do with the lake. A light bulb went on! Mardy contacted Greg with her idea and the Board members had no problem approving this project. With the help of Bob Daggit and Barb Shook, the lake was divided into 23 territories and volunteers were found to help with the count of all the loons on the lake.

Continued on next page

For the past 36 years consecutive years the Lake Vermilion Loon Count has taken place the second week in July. This week was originally chosen as the chicks have survived any predators and are large enough to swim on their own. The counting day is set along with an alternate day in case of inclement weather. At 9 a.m. on the designated day, the counters steer their boats in a grid pattern traveling very slowly back and forth on their assigned territory. They count singles, pairs and chicks. The final count gets tallied at the end of their assigned timeframe



and the numbers are recorded. Over the years the loon population on Lake Vermilion has remained steady. This year 235 loons were counted.

Just imagine what life would be like without volunteers like Mardy Jackson asking the simple ques-

tion "Why?" Without her questioning, we may have never considered the task of counting loons. And each year 67 or more volunteers would not have the opportunity to get out on the lake and add their beautiful loons to the count.

You too can make a difference. Maybe you have something in mind that you would like to do or implement. Or maybe you're just looking for information to volunteer. The Vermilion Lake Association would love to hear from you. Contact Pat Michaelson, Volunteer Program Leader at plmichaelson@gmail.com or check out the website at www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org.

Donations

The Vermilion Lake Association has qualified as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under IRC Section 501(c)(3). Your charitable gifts and membership dues are generally tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Please consult your tax professional.

To accommodate a wide range of donor interests, the Vermilion Lake Association has three funds to which gifts may be directed. Any size gift is appreciated and acknowledged.

General Fund: Gifts to this fund are used for a broad range of lake association activities.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Fund: Gifts to this fund are used to prevent new AIS infestations and to manage infestations already present.

Shore Lunch Site Improvement Fund: Gifts to this fund are used to improve and maintain Lake Vermilion's eight shore lunch sites.

How to Make a Donation

If you'd like to send a check, please make it payable to the "Vermilion Lake Association, Inc." and mail to the address be-

low. If you wish, you may direct your donation to a specific fund. All gifts are appreciated and acknowledged. Please include your name, email, and mailing address. If this is a memorial gift, please let us know who the gift is in memory/in honor of:

Vermilion Lake Association, Inc., Jerry Lepper, Treasurer, P.O. Box 696, Tower MN 55790

Donate online at <http://www.vermilionlakeassociation.org/get-involved/donate/>

Gilbert Pit Vegetation Update

RMB Environmental Laboratories visited the Gilbert Pit – also known as Lake Ore-Be-Gone – in August to check its vegetation and water chemistry.



Jeff Lovgren
VLA Board Member

The Gilbert Pit is a 400-foot deep mine pit that is now filled with water. Its campground, fishing pier, public access, and swimming beach make it a popular destination for locals, RV campers, and SCUBA divers.

We already knew the Pit was unlike most natural lakes in northeast Minnesota and an AIS hotspot for Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels. Indeed, heavy infestations of both were found. Fortunately, RMB Labs found no northern watermilfoil, a native water milfoil which can hybridize with Eurasian.

A Eurasian/northern watermilfoil hybrid could create problems at Lake Vermilion. The VLA and RMB will continue to monitor the Gilbert Pit's vegetation.



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Ramp Signs at Private Accesses Help Guests

Jeff Lovgren, VLA AIS Prevention Coordinator

Lake Vermilion's resorts, campgrounds and marinas joined the AIS prevention partnership in a big way in 2018. Many inspected incoming boats, monitored their docks for invasive vegetation, and helped their guests understand the AIS threat.

Some lake businesses added signs at their access ramps asking customers to request help inspecting their boat for AIS concerns before launch. Ramp signs, banners, educational materials, and dock attendant training is provided by the Vermilion Lake Association and North St. Louis SWCD.



Frequently Asked Questions About Aquatic Invasive Species

Q1: I think I saw fewer rusty crawfish by my dock this year. Are rusties going away?

A1: *We don't think rusties are in a long-term decline. But their population does seem to vary from year to year. We don't know why.*

Q2: When I launch a boat at Lake Vermilion, sometimes I see an inspector, sometimes I don't. Why is that?

A2: *To protect Vermilion efficiently on a limited budget, our AIS team tries to staff the busiest accesses at the busiest times of the day. At other times and places, we rely on diligent boat operators to self-inspect their own equipment.*

Q3: Why bother inspecting boats coming to Vermilion! Isn't it inevitable that all invasive species will eventually get here?

A3: *Absolutely not! Our inspection and early detection projects create a very effective firewall at Vermilion. These tools can keep serious game-changing AIS from becoming established for many, many years – perhaps a couple decades – while AIS researchers come up with solutions to prevent introductions and eradicate existing infestations.*

Q4: I check my trailered boat regularly for AIS problems. Are most boaters careful to not transport AIS from lake to lake?

A4: *Yes, most are. But, unfortunately, not everyone is on-board yet. Vermilion's inspectors have found about 5% of arriving boats have a problem, mostly drain plugs still in. When the DNR spot checks trailered boats along Minnesota's highways, about 14% of the boat owners receive either a ticket or a warning. We still have a long way to go.*

Q5: Where can I go to find the latest info on aquatic invasive species at Vermilion?

A5: *We recommend you frequently visit our website www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org ... then go to the AIS Prevention section. It's also a good idea to LIKE our Vermilion Lake Association Facebook page. Lots of AIS info is posted there.*

Q6: I have an idea for AIS prevention. Who should I contact?

A6: *We like new ideas! Please contact Jeff Lovgren, VLA AIS Prevention Coordinator, 218-753-2413, lovgren.jeff@gmail.com.*

Annual Vermilion Habitat and AIS Risk Assessment

Jeff Lovgren, VLA AIS Prevention Coordinator

In our Winter 2018 newsletter, we explained the need to understand Vermilion's aquatic invasive species (AIS) risks to prioritize our prevention activities. Without doubt, that's still critically important.

Since Vermilion's habitat – especially its water chemistry – is so unique, it is likely our list of game-changing AIS threats has little in common with most of Minnesota's hardwater lakes. At

our request, RMB Environmental Laboratories (Detroit Lakes) is studying this situation and will report their findings to us in December. We'll use their data to tailor our 2019 AIS prevention program and focus our inspection and early-detection teams in the right areas.

RMB Labs will update their Vermilion assessment each fall to cover new invasive species and an improved understanding of the habitat requirements for existing species.



Loon Nesting Platforms...WANTED: New Site for 2019

Mel Hintz, Board Member

After two years of deploying two platforms without attracting a nesting pair of loons, we plan to increase our odds by adding a third platform next year. Federal loon researcher, Kevin Kenow, has offered our lake association another platform to be deployed right after ice-out next spring. Our task now is to select a promising site somewhere on the east end of the lake so we are ready when the snow and ice leaves next April.

Following are the criteria for selecting a new east end site:

► Past loon activity - loons were present last year, but

no chicks were produced

► Sheltered location – site is protected from strong winds and wave action from boat traffic

► Road accessible - to deploy right after ice-out, we will need a site that is easily accessed

► WiFi available – when the site is occupied by a loon pair, we plan to mount a mini-cam nearby linked to our website.

If you have a site you would like us to consider, please contact me at 218-753-2401 or melhintz031@gmail.com. Hopefully, our efforts to attract a nesting pair of loons will be rewarded in 2019.

MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Vermilion Lake Association Caps Now Available



They're here! Wear your new caps proudly to show your support for your lake association. The price is right: \$15, plus \$3 shipping for any number of caps to one address. Free local pickup. Check out the three style choices at our website VermilionLakeAssociation.org/caps.

For more info, contact Sheri Sawatzky 218-666-5512, or email sherisawatzky@gmail.com.

A Fish Boil, What is That?

The Antique Angler returns with a new type of story. Have you ever heard of a “Fish Boil” or perhaps you have heard of the “Door County Fish Boil”. Door County Wisconsin is well known for its perfect climate for apples, cherries, and also for some great fishing and one of the largest spawning grounds in North America for Whitefish. But it is also known for the “Door County Fish Boil”. Ask any tourist that has visited Door County and he will mention the “Fish Boil”.



Well the “Fish Boil” originated in Door County. In the 1860s, a fisherman got stranded on a gill net boat by an ice flow, and it took seven days to get back to land. All he had was whitefish, potatoes and salt to live on. The fisherman after that held fish boils for his crew to celebrate the fishing. The fish boils were expanded to churches, community events, and then some of the tourists wanted to join in on the celebration and a whole set of restaurants in Door County started serving “Fish Boils”. They now serve a “Fish Boil” seven days a week all year long. They use large kettles filled with boiling water and then the fish, potatoes and onions are added. The customers gather around at dusk to view “The Boil”. The current standard fish boil includes homemade (of course) cole slaw, baked beans, rye bread, lemon bread, and the over the top kicker is Door County Cherry Pie. The fish and potatoes are served hot on your plate and covered with butter, i.e. Wisconsin butter.

So did you know that Lake Vermilion has an excellent population of Whitefish and that gill netting is allowed in the late fall as the Whitefish come into the rocky shallows to spawn? I have participated in this sport which involves pulling nets up that are covered in algae while trying to remove the fish from the nets in less than 30 degree temperatures. We have caught Whitefish up to 25 inches long.

The “Fish Boil” recipe is not that difficult and can be used for Lake Trout, Northern Pike or Whitefish. While all of these fish work well in a fish boil, the Whitefish is the fish we are most familiar with. Whichever fish you choose to use, the fish are gutted and scaled with the head cut off. Then the fish is cut

into steaks (vertical cuts of the fish) 1 to 1-1/2 inches wide and the fins are cut out. No bones are removed.

The recipe:

It takes approximately one pound of fish per adult or two steaks from an average six to eight pound fish.

- Use a large pot/ kettle 8 -10 quart
- 1 cup coarse salt
- 6 small onions
- 6 medium sized potatoes
- 12 fish steaks
- 1/2 pound of butter
- 1/3 cup fresh cut parsley

Fill kettle 2/3 full with water and bring to a rolling boil. Add salt and onions and bring to a rolling boil. Add potatoes bringing water back to a rolling boil. Boil 14- 18 minutes until potatoes are done - easily pierced with a fork.

Add fish steaks bringing water to a rolling boil - cook fish until done, usually 11 minutes. If fish flakes easily with a fork, it is done.

Drain and arrange the fish, onions, potatoes on a warm platter. Pour melted butter and parsley over the fish, potatoes and onions.

We have tried both Northern Pike and Whitefish in the boil and both work extremely well. Some people also call this a poor man’s lobster. Be generous with the butter. The Whitefish meat falls off of the bones easily with a fork and has a pleasant flavor worth trying. It obviously has become very popular in Door County where most people who go there do not miss “The Fish Boil”.





Vermilion Lake Association
PO Box 696
Tower MN 55790

Volunteers Make the Difference

The Vermilion Lake Association has been fortunate over the years to have a dedicated group of leaders and volunteers to staff our important activities. We are grateful for their help.

Please consider joining this team. We have needs for both workers and leaders, for those with only a few hours to spare, and for those who can make a larger time commitment.

If you think you may be interested, please contact Pat Michaelson, VLA Volunteer Program Leader, at 612-306-7702 (cell) or plmichaelson@gmail.com.

Vermilion Lake Association

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Membership year runs from Jan 1st through Dec 31st

☐ 2019 New Member ☐ 2019 Renewal

Membership level

☐ \$15.00 Individual ☐ \$20.00 Couple
☐ \$25.00 Family ☐ \$50.00 Business or Organization

Member Name _____

Spouse Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (requested) _____

Phone (requested) _____

Please clip or copy this form and send to the address above.

Become a Member

Join those who love Lake Vermilion as much as you do. Help us continue the many activities you've just read about.

Not sure? Check us out at our website VermilionLakeAssociation.org. We're pretty sure you'll like our vision for the future and the work we have underway now to make Lake Vermilion even better.

Please mail a check with the form on this page or join at our website using PayPal or a credit card.

The Vermilion Lake Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Do You Qualify?

Trick question. Anyone can join the lake association whose mission it is to protect and improve Lake Vermilion. No need to be a property owner. No need to be a fisherman or a kayaker. Just someone who cares about our great lake and wants to protect her for the next generation.