

# the vermilion sportsman



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A non-profit organization, founded in 1968 and dedicated to the improvement of Lake Vermilion"*

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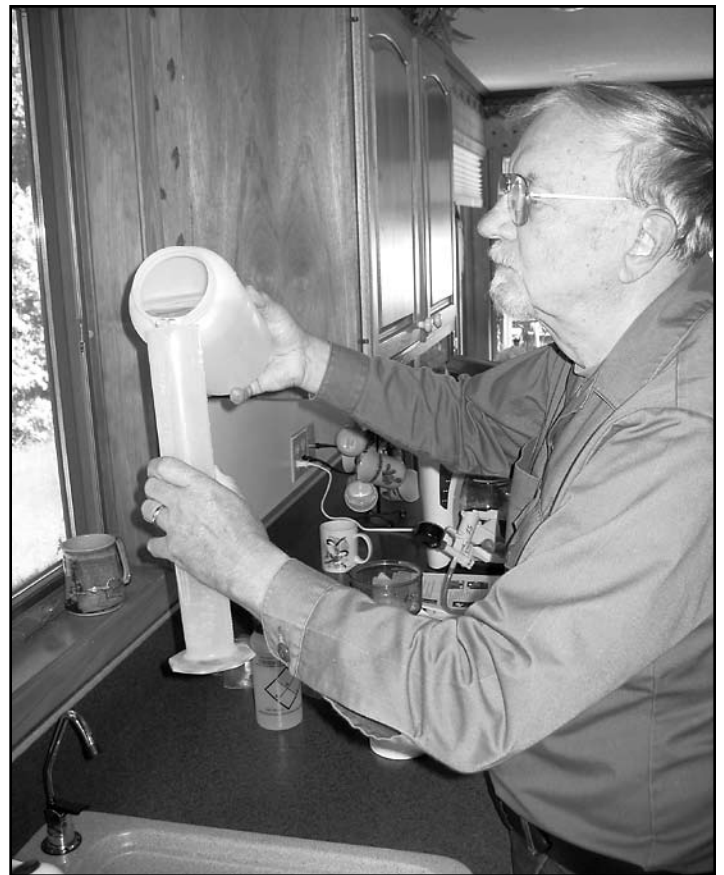
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Short summer, short fall, beautiful winter for hibernating with books, ice fishing, deep snow for snowmobiling (until 40-degree weather and rain this past week), make this country a joy and a challenge. Ah, we do love living up north at the lake viewing its winter beauties that are so different from the other seasons.

Updates on a couple things that we are interested in: The State Park land acquisition is still in limbo and the Vermilion Plan is being scrutinized again by the County Commissioners with hearings possibly this coming summer when the Snowbirds are back in residence. The results of Water Quality testing we helped the MPCA with this past summer are scheduled to be discussed on April 29, 2009, at the Greenwood Town Hall. We hope to have a big turnout for this very important meeting. See Mel's report for details.

Speaking of Water Quality, my wife and I are still involved with two advisory committees dealing with Non-degradation Rules Update for the MPCA and Shoreland Management Rules update for the DNR. Both committees will generate "Reports to the Legislature" that are now due some time in 2009 or early 2010. Delays have occurred due to the wealth of comments

*(Continued on Page 3)*



**Volunteer Darryl Johnson doing lab testing.**

## **WATER QUALITY MEETING PLANNED - APRIL 29, 2009**

**By Mel Hintz**

The Sportsmen's Club will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall to discuss the results from last summer's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program on Lake Vermilion. Jesse Anderson, research scientist, with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), will present the data and findings from the 2008 water samples and relate them to the previous assessment completed in 2000. The MPCA is preparing a written report on the 2008 assessment which will be released in March or early April. A copy of their report will be placed on the SCLV website when it is available.

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# ***Snowmobiling Around Vermilion***

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**By Scott Kelling, Tower, Mn DNR - Parks & Trails**

Lake Vermilion area visitors and residents have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of snowmobiling experiences both on and off the big lake. Surrounding communities all enjoy trail connections to the 20,000-mile statewide snowmobile network, and area lakes offer marked trails to lakeside destinations, fishing holes and winter scenery.

A broad network of volunteers, landowners, businesses and government agencies cooperate each winter to provide tens of thousands of riders with a world-class snowmobile experience.

The Lake Vermilion area is the hub of a local land trail network that reaches in all directions. The Tower-based Vermilion Penguins maintain the Iron Ore Trail south of Tower and several links to the state trails off Lake Vermilion's west end. Further north and west are the Bearskin and Wolftrack Trails, which are cared for by the Cook Timberwolves snowmobile club.

DNR Parks and Trails staff is responsible for year-round maintenance and grooming of another 300+ miles of nearby state trails including the Taconite, Arrowhead and Fishing Lakes trails. Voyageurs National Park, Iron Range and Ely area trails are also just a short ride away.

On Lake Vermilion, local volunteers establish 55 miles of ice trails that make travel safer and easier for snowmobilers. In addition to their land trails, the Penguins stake 37 miles of ice trails on the Tower end, while the Cook club maintains 18 miles on the Cook end. Wooden reflectorized stakes are placed every tenth mile to make navigation easy. Intersections are signed with "You are here" maps to help get riders where they want to go. Additionally, the stakes help guide riders around potential trouble spots like thin ice and exposed rocks.

While Minnesota snowmobile trails officially open December 1 each year, the snowmobile season around Lake Vermilion generally begins in earnest about January 1 and extends well into March. Most trails are groomed at least twice a week, but snow and weather conditions are always variable.

Tower DNR uses four grooming tractors stationed at various locations to groom the Arrowhead and Taconite trails. For safety and trail quality, groomer operators typically begin their 10+ hour shifts in early evening and groom deep into the night. Snowmobilers easily see the flashing lights of the groomers after dark. And the reduced traffic and low overnight temperatures allow the smoothed trail surface to harden into a durable surface that will hold up longer under traffic. Local clubs own and operate their own groomers to tend to their club trails. Some clubs use volunteer operators, while others have found it worthwhile to use paid operators.

There are many variables to consider when grooming including snow depth, amount of traffic, temperature, budget, and ground conditions.

December trail reports always remind riders that local trails cross many swamps and wet areas. Early season riders may encounter rough trails because ice on swamps and flowages is too thin to support a 10-12,000-pound grooming machine. Trail volunteers and DNR staff spend most of December readying trails for freeze up by packing snow and vegetation in wet areas.

Snowmobile trails are mostly funded through registrations and the portion of the state gas tax that is attributed to snowmobile use. Snowmobile clubs receive grants through the DNR that help fund their efforts. The grant money is sometimes supplemented by charitable gambling proceeds and donations. But a big reason Minnesota's trail system is a success story is due to the many, many hours of volunteer labor donated by club members. Their long list of duties includes finding trail routes, securing landowner permission, building, maintaining, grooming, administration and rallying the political support needed for snowmobilers to continue to enjoy a safe smooth ride.

Trail conditions and destination information are easy to find when planning a snowmobile trip to the Lake Vermilion area. Free snowmobile maps are published and distributed by local trail clubs to area businesses. Local newspapers regularly publish trail reports and DNR trail updates are available at [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov) or by calling

the Tower DNR office at (218) 753-2580. The DNR office along Highway 169 just west of Tower also has local and statewide trail maps and other DNR publications. The public is always welcome during business hours.

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## President's Message...

(Continued from front page)

received by interested parties. For further information you can go to the MPCA and DNR web sites for drafts of proposed rules changes.

Our membership record makeover is nearly complete, thanks again to Jeff Lovgren and Mardy Jackson. We have been brainstorming methods to grow our membership and we will appreciate hearing ideas you have.

We are also looking for computer gurus who might want to volunteer their time to help keep our website up to date. The website that Jeff set up is beautiful and is very easy to keep updated. If interested, contact Jeff for more information.

Bob Wilson has been busy arranging additional training for boat inspections and finding billboards and advertising venues to get out our invasive species prevention messages. His report on a very ambitious project for next year is included in this newsletter.

Anyway, it's been a pretty quiet Fall and Winter so have a great year on Vermilion!

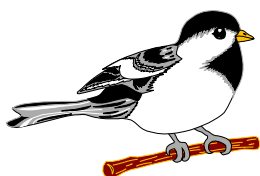
Walt Moe, President

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# Christmas Bird Count

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By Charlotte Jacobson



Each year in December, many of us hear or read about Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). Many of you are familiar with CBCs and others ask, what are they?

The CBC began in 1900, the idea of Frank Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. In 1905, the National Association of Audubon Societies was incorporated and took over the CBC. It started with only 27 participants. Now areas covered include Canada and locations in the Caribbean and South America involving thousands of compilers.

This past CBC was Minnesota's 103rd count. There are approximately 70 individual CBC areas in Minnesota. Count day is one 24-hour period selected between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5. On this day, participants count all the birds they can find within a 15-mile radius. It is not necessary to be an expert birder to take part. Organizers attempt to distribute more experienced birders among those less experienced to create learning opportunities for newer birders. Volunteers cover the designated circle by car, walking, skiing, snowmobiles, and by simply counting feeders from a window.

Last year, Audubon Society published a list of common birds that have dramatic decreases to their populations. The 10 species that had the most pronounced decline were: eastern meadowlark, boreal chickadee, evening grosbeak, loggerhead shrike, northern bobwhite, northern pintail, greater scaup, common tern, field sparrow and grasshopper sparrow. Their populations have decreased 65-82 percent over the past 40

years. Audubon was able to publish this report because they already had the data collected and compiled through CBCs, and breeding bird surveys (BBSs). The CBC is the longest running and most complete bird population census in the world. It not only heightens awareness, but provides scientific merit and quantification benchmarks to observations many have had — namely there are fewer birds than there used to be. This past July, armed with the report, Audubon and other departments were able to testify before Congress to persuade Congress to allocate funds and create conservation legislation.

The first Cook Area CBC took place in December 2002 with 25 compilers. This year the 7th Annual CBC was held Jan. 3 with 48 compilers assisting. All who participate have a relaxing, fun day contributing to a larger purpose. Noted this year was a female varied thrush, considered a rare but regular fall-winter visitant from the West, Alaska

down the Pacific Coast. Also noted on past Cook area CBCs was the northern cardinal. This bird has gradually been moving north.

The results of our CBC are given to the Minnesota CBC coordinator for the Minnesota Ornithologists Union (MOU).

Information for this article was provided by the MOU.



Been to our website lately?

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

# Road Salt and Minnesota Water — An Unpalatable Combination

Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting, 763-478-3606, [connie@fortinconsulting.com](mailto:connie@fortinconsulting.com)

Minnesota's 12,000+ lakes are taking a turn for the salty as we continue to rely on chloride based de-icers to maintain our winter roads and walks. Sodium chloride, road salt, is our most common de-icer. In the metro area last year, approximately 350,000 tons were applied to our roads<sup>1</sup>. This creates a problem when the salt moves through the watershed and into a water body. Chloride concentrations above 230 mg/l cause impairments in aquatic systems. This is equivalent to about 1 teaspoon of salt in 5 gallons of water.



What can we do? Encourage training for your maintenance contractors and your city and county plow drivers. Two new exciting training and voluntary certification programs are available: Winter Maintenance of Roads, and Winter Maintenance of Parking Lots and Sidewalks. Both programs show how to reduce your costs and environmental impacts and how to increase the efficiency of your winter operations. You can find out more about the trainings, print free training manuals, check the training schedule, or find out who is already certified online at [www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/roadsalt.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/roadsalt.html).

Does training work? Yes! The University of Minnesota reported that in the two years since training began, they have reduced their road salt by 41%, their magnesium chloride by 51% and their sand by 99%. In the first year alone, after training they saved over \$50,000.<sup>2</sup>



*The stripes seen on the road are from an anti-icing process. A liquid application of de-icer prior to a storm prevents bonding of ice to pavement. Much less salt is needed when anti-icing is used.*

Homeowners can also reduce the amounts of de-icers they use. Do not use chemicals to melt snow; use a shovel or plow instead. Know that sodium chloride will not work at pavement temperatures below 15 degrees.



*In salt application, more is not better. Once the proper amount is applied for the pavement and temperature conditions, applying more is wasteful. Training is available to learn proper techniques.*

For colder temperatures, use a better melter such as magnesium or calcium chloride. If salt is needed, use very small amounts. If you have carefully removed the snow first, one to three cups of salt per 1,000 sq. feet should take care of the small amount of ice.

## Psst! De-Icing Tip-offs

The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is piloting a 45-minute class for homeowners who would like to know more about how to maintain ice-free driveways and sidewalks but also protect the lakes and rivers. Contact Jenny Winkelman at 651-287-0948 for more information.

The Lake Superior Streams Web site has good information on salt and impacts on northern streams: [www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/understanding/impact\\_salt.html](http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/understanding/impact_salt.html).

The Freshwater Society and Fortin Consulting are hosting the 8th Annual Road Salt Symposium on Feb. 3, 2009. Join this great discussion about the environmental impacts of winter maintenance and innovations in transportation to reduce impacts ([www.freshwater.org](http://www.freshwater.org)).

Get informed and encourage winter maintenance training. Contact Fortin Consulting at 763-478-3606 or [connie@fortinconsulting.com](mailto:connie@fortinconsulting.com).

<sup>1</sup> Research by Eric Novotny, Andrew Sander, Omid Mohseni and Heinz Stefan at SAFL, University of Minnesota, and sponsored by LRRB/MNDOT. "Study of Environmental Effects of De-icing Salt on Water Quality in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Minnesota." This report will soon be available at [www.lrrb.org/PDF/200842.pdf](http://www.lrrb.org/PDF/200842.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Jim Weber — U of MN Facilities Management Landcare.

*From Shore to Shore, Issue 89*

January-February 2009



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# REMOTE LIVING II... How we started

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**By Gary Lundquist**

We and some of our boat access neighbors were using generators and growing tired of the noise, breakdowns and lightning-damaged extension cords left out during storms. The four of us decided we wanted grid type power; we made an application to the co-op for an underwater power line crossing the bay. If you are in a hurry or believe in schedules, there isn't enough Valium in the world; plan ahead and relax.

We obtained an easement in January for the power line to the shore across the bay, cleared it, and began waiting. The co-op's contractor was to lay the line in May. June came and then a little windstorm — July 1999. We had power to our shore in October. The first thing everyone did was buy a refrigerator, COLD BEER! The electrical inspector had a small panic attack when he saw our stairs (116, 70 feet vertical) a few weeks later; he had both knees replaced (already scheduled).

My wife and I had always planned that our lake place would be used year-round. I hunt and that was in the reasoning to purchase here. So the hauling of all the insulation, heating systems (plural) — at least one has to be off grid (we kept a generator) — kept us very busy.

One weekend we were relaxing after working. My wife and son-in-law decided to take the triplets for a walk while supper was made. They hadn't gone far when they heard a terrible sound close to them; a doe came running out of the brush with a large wolf on its tail. I didn't know my wife could make that much noise. The wolf ran off without the deer, which ran the other direction. We didn't venture very far from the campfire that night. Talk about a missed opportunity. I could have gotten permission to buy anything up to an M-1 A-1 battle tank that day.

In July of 2000 an old, cheap, no good ladder I was using failed, with me at the top. I was alone that weekend so I was lucky that a neighbor was able to transport me to the hospital — broken left wrist. Not much got done the rest of that summer other than enjoying the

lake. Oh, I got to buy an electric weed whip for my wife, but I'm restricting her to a 100-foot cord. We don't want a lawn.

After 9-11, my wife started talking about retiring early. We continued to finish the interior and recharging our souls at the lake.

Early in 2003 my wife said she wanted to retire and enjoy life. I replied, "Fine, dear," but we have two mortgages and the lake place isn't for sale. A short pause and she said OK. The realtor's "for sale" sign went up very quickly. Honestly, I didn't know I was a pack rat, but after only 24 years in one place it took me over a month just to clean out the garage.

By May we were living at the lake full-time. Ahh the peace and quiet. Holy Cow! Look at my NTBDRN list (needs to be done right now): buying, installing and filling a bulk propane tank, foundation insulation, firewood, winter transportation and storage. Of everything, getting a phone line was the most difficult. Similar to pushing a log chain up a steep hill. I lost some weight that summer getting all the very important details done before winter, if only temporarily. I know, I know — there is no more permanent thing than a temporary fix. We're going on six years and I only have one or two temps left.

Living on Lake Vermilion has been and is a wonderful life. The friends we have made, and the appreciation of quiet solitude, peace, and the wonders of nature.

Friends and Family — the reason we work for and share our Great Lake Vermilion.

**Want to add a seasonal address?  
Want to change your main address?**

Contact Jeff Lovgren 218-753-2413  
lovgren@frontiernet.net  
PO Box 696, Tower MN 55790

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# HAZARD BUOYS TO REMAIN ON LAKE UNTIL LATE OCTOBER

The hazard and navigation buoys on Lake Vermilion have long provided boaters with a safe and reliable system by which to travel the lake and determine their location on it. The buoy system is managed by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department periodically selects a contractor to conduct this buoying work by putting the contract up for bids. The Sheriff's Department publishes a Request For Bids document which contains exact specifications for these buoying services. A Request for Bids was released to the public in mid 2008 with a published opening of bids date specified to be December 2, 2008.

Historically, the buoying service on Lake Vermilion has been very good. The contractor was required by the contract to "complete the placement of all buoys designated on maps prior to the earliest open water fishing season (approximately May 14th)". The contractor was also required to remove the buoys beginning on October 1st. The contract also specified that the contractor was to monitor all buoys throughout the season and reposition or replace them, when needed. Originally the October 1st date was logical because cold weather and snow could, and sometimes did, begin as early as late September. Over time, however, the weather has changed dramatically. In the recent decade, cold weather has not started until early November. Because of this warming trend, fall tourism has become very popular on Lake Vermilion with fall Musky and Walleye fishing being a major draw. At the same time there has been an increase in cabin construction on islands and other water access only properties with area building contractors traveling to these sites until "ice in". Many of the owners of these cabins are now using their properties more often to enjoy fall fishing, hunting and other recreational opportunities. Much of this activity is occurring after the buoys have been removed and has continued into November. Without buoys to assist safe navigation, a number of boaters have collided

with rocks, damaging hulls and props and, so far, resulting in only minor human injuries.

Sportsmen's Club board members have observed this growing late season use of the lake and have become increasingly concerned about the situation. Since one of the Sportsmen's Club's stated goals is to "promote safe boating practices", it was decided that the Club should encourage the Sheriff's Department to make changes to the buoying contract specifications which would require the contractor to leave the buoy system in place as late into the boating season as possible. The Club presented its

case to the Contract Administrator with the Sheriff's Department, Dave Phillips and also to St. Louis County - 4th District Commissioner Mike Forsman. The Lake Vermilion Resort Association and numerous local building contractors also voiced their concerns on this important issue.

When the new Bid Specifications were released to the public, it contained the following new language: "Contractor shall not commence removal of buoys on Lake Vermilion until October 25th or unless the water surface temperature reaches 35 degrees fahrenheit." This was welcome news to the Club and also to the many late season users of the lake. The Sportsmen's Club thanks the above named County officials for their leadership in making the safety of the boating public on Lake Vermilion a priority.

Dale Lundblad - Board Member

*Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open*

— Sir James Dewar, Scientist (1877-1925)

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# *“Invasive Species”*

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by Bob Wilson



## **Planning for the Spring and Summer Season**

Several of the organizations we deal with are in the process of planning their Invasive Species Prevention campaigns for the upcoming fishing and boating season. That would include Wildlife Forever. This non-profit arranges for billboard rentals across Minnesota and the country and helps us obtain one for prevention advertising in our area. Of course, the MN DNR is very active in these campaigns and recently sent out their instructions on how to obtain partnership grants to prevent Invasive Species via several different programs designed to educate the public and to create specific prevention activities. We have applied for several of these grants. Most of the rest of this article elaborates on three of these opportunities and assumes our grant request will probably be approved.

## **A New Scholarship Approach and a Summer Job!**

A little background is in order before getting into the SCLV's new perspective on our scholarship program. Many of our members may not realize that your club has for years been awarding a \$1000 scholarship to a deserving high school graduate at the Tower High School and/or at the Cook High School. These scholarships were originally named for Bob Olson and Barbara Shook, two Board Members from the past, who put much effort into building the club and whose families greatly supported our scholarship initiative. This year and for the first time we are going to try a different approach to scholarships.

We are planning to partner with the DNR to buy more invasive species boat inspection time at Vermilion's public water access ramps. Our normal

scholarship money, from one to two thousand dollars per year, will now be contributed to the DNR in return for approximately 166 hours worth of boat inspections on Vermilion and they will match it with another 166 hours. Some quick arithmetic will tell you that amounts to approximately 42 days of boat inspections by trained DNR personnel at various Vermilion ramps throughout the summer season. In addition, the club has input to the DNR schedules and the ramps to be staffed.

How does that dovetail with our old scholarship program you may fairly ask? The scholarship angle for our high school graduates as well as current collegians comes into play as we get DNR job applications to the high school counselors and others in the area so that students who qualify can apply for these summer intern jobs. While the DNR program manager chooses the applicants to be hired, we feel one or two of our area young men and women will have a good chance of obtaining these jobs. As a result, we are helping our local young people during some difficult economic times and simultaneously helping protect Lake Vermilion. We are looking forward to observing how this program proceeds and determine if some local student or two, your club and Lake Vermilion can all be winners.

## **Placemats at Restaurants.**

Have you ever eaten in a restaurant where the placemats on the table carried a public service announcement? A couple of my friends have and gave them to me with the recommendation that we should try this method of further educating the public on Invasive Species Prevention. For a start and a test we will design, print and distribute 3000, three color, 11 x 16 placemats for restaurants in the Tower and Cook area. That's not many placemats considering there are about ten restaurants in the area that might be interested. So, when you are eating in a local



restaurant this summer check out the placemats. If they don't have one of ours or any at all it would be nice to think they were so popular they ran out!! Let us know what you think if you see one.

### **Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Training.**

Some of you may remember that in 2004 the DNR out of St. Paul came to Tower to train all of our interested volunteers in the art of checking a boat for Invasive Species. At that time we had about 50 people participate in the event held at the Tower DNR parking lot. In addition to the training we provided a noon time picnic for all who attended. We are considering doing it again depending on how many of our volunteers and resort and marina owners we can convince to attend. Many knowledgeable lake people believe that more boats are launched through marina and resort water access ramps than through the public ramps. That may even be truer when out-of-state guests come to Vermilion for an extended stay. It would be a real bonus if more of these boats could get checked as many states have far less in the way of public invasive species education programs than does Minnesota.

Once again, the DNR would partner with us in implementing this program. We are targeting the month of April before the resorts get too busy. We will keep you posted on this activity. Look for a note in the local papers if we think it is a "go."

### **Other Currently Planned Summer Season Activities!**

- **Public Service Ads in Local papers!**
- **Gas Pump Topper Advertising**
- **Print and distribute Sport Fish & Invasive Species ID Cards**
- **Billboard Advertising on Highway 53 in Virginia, MN**
- **SCLV Boat Inspections at Public Ramps**
- **Public Service Announcements from WELY**
- **Requesting Cooperation from Fishing Tournament Directors**

### **Zebra Mussels in Mille Lacs - A Warning!**

Here is some recent news that serves as a warning for all of us to encourage everyone we can to travel with a clean boat & trailer. Zebra mussels are spreading in Lake Mille Lacs. Divers found only 131 zebra mussels in 2007 and in 2008 found 23,800. The mussels appear to be distributed lake wide now, and are being found on boats and docks. Mille Lacs represents the first major fishing lake in Minnesota to have such a large infestation of mussels. It is unknown as yet what effect this will have on the fishery. The mussels can filter a lot of water which can influence the amount of food available in the lake's ecosystem. **Please, when launching a boat in Vermilion, make sure it is clean, preferably dry and with no water remaining in the bilge or anywhere on-board.**

**Invasive Species are a very serious, nationwide, costly problem.**

**HELP PROTECT LAKE VERMILION**



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)



# About that time of the Blizzard and the Moose

It was Thanksgiving weekend a few years back, and I was to meet part of my family for a big “home cooked” dinner at the Bluefin on Lake Superior. Driving down Highway 1 out of Ely was a gorgeous sunshiny day, dazzling white snow, majestic pines. Being all alone, I sang to my heart’s content all the old camp songs — I was safe, no one could hear me. It’s a beautiful drive and I hope they don’t go through with changing it. There are not many pretty, winding roads through the woods left like it. Arriving early in the day, while the turkeys, etc. were roasting, we had time to hike the hills for a panoramic view of Lake Superior or walk its shores hunting for agates. It was unseasonably warm.

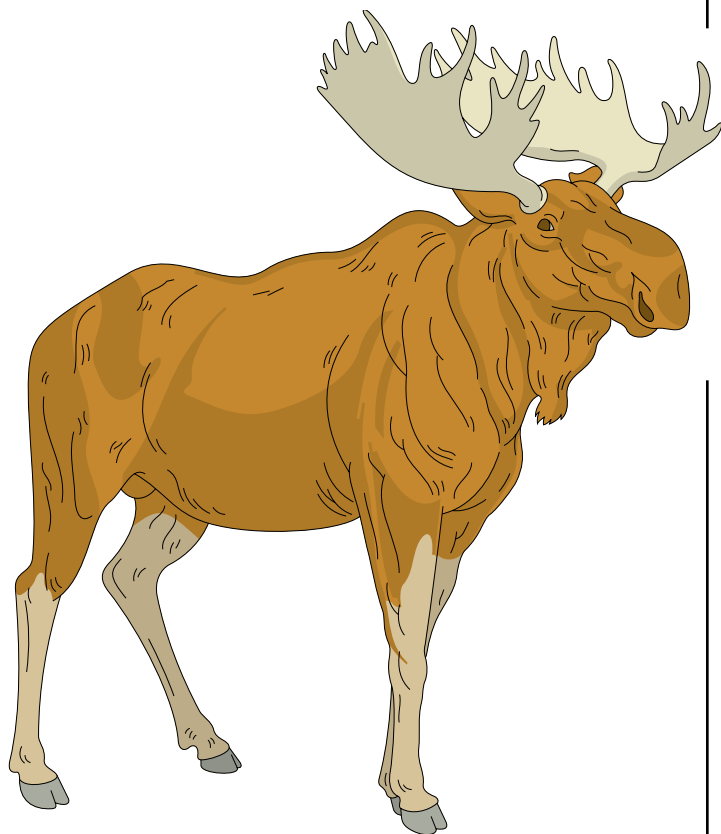
After dinner there was card playing, visiting or what have you, figuring our last night of togetherness. But we all finally hit the sack in our respective accommodations. Little did we know while we slept, that sneaky weatherman had a big surprise for us come morning. He had been very busy during the night. We awoke to a full-scale blizzard! My reservations were for one night! Oh, my gosh! Well — what couldn’t get out — couldn’t get in. I was set for another snowed-in night. One more chance for bonding and games.

Next day — “No room at the inn.” After a leisurely brunch, cars gassed up — they all took off down the plowed-off highway to Duluth, while your writer hopped into my trusty 4-wheel-drive Chevy Blazer by myself and started down the unplowed Highway 1 and on to Highway 2. So I finally get to Highway 2. Now join me here, folks. It’s pitch dark, I’m a Social Security collecting woman, I’ve

not seen a car since I left Highway 61, and I’m the only one making tracks in the pretty deep snow, going between 15-20 miles per hour. I come around an “S” curve and there looming in front of me is this GIGANTIC (yes, GIGANTIC — remember, I’m alone) bull moose crossing the road not 15 feet in front of me. Course I’m going so slowly anyway that there’s no problem putting on the brakes. That was one blessing or I would’ve had a fender full of moose. (I wonder how long it would take for someone to find me?) I stared at him in shock and wonder, as he vanished into the woods, while I was stopped — and vulnerable. Thoughts flashed into my head of stories of moose charging cars. In an impulse — I was gone, looking in my rear-view mirror, wondering if he was going to chase me.

As I drove slowly on, I got to thinking of that huge beast with that big rack. How could he go through the woods without knocking his head around? Does he just blast through the branches or does he sway his head back and forth? I did a strange thing on the next curve. I stopped the car, got out, and looked at the woods as my headlights shone on them, and thought how could he do that without knocking his head back and forth? Anyhow, by the grace of God, I got home to my cabin on Lake Vermilion long after midnight and felt weak as a kitten.

But I got to thinking about that moose and did a little research. The bull moose weighs about 1,800 pounds, his rack about 75 pounds and extends about 7 feet tip to tip. What a navigator! He has heavy-duty ligaments in his neck that connect his head to his



tools. A bull moose grows new antlers each summer.

A female, or cow as they're called, has no antlers ever. She has one or 2 calves in the spring weighing about 30 pounds and are quite helpless when they are first born. In a couple of days they can run faster than you or I and are excellent swimmers.

I've heard tell that in the rut season the bulls will charge anything and get mean. But any other time of the year, I feel it's a real lucky occurrence to see them — **THOSE MAGNIFICENT BEASTS OF OUR NORTH WOODS!**

Mardy Jackson, Board Member

## If you're burning garbage, you're making poison

Burning your household garbage is dangerous to your health and our environment, and generally against the law in Minnesota. If you're still using a burn barrel, wood stove, or fire-pit for your trash, it's time for a change. What can you do to help? Don't burn your garbage. Use recycling and garbage services or drop-off sites and encourage your neighbors to do the same. To find out more information about local recycling and disposal options at home or at the cabin, call your solid waste or environmental officer or visit: [www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel) for contact information for all 87 counties in Minnesota.

body, and extra strong muscles that make it possible for him to lower his head with those heavy antlers on top, take a bite of food, then raise his head back up. In winter the shed antlers fall off and are food for mice, voles, and porcupines. Some folks go into the woods "antler hunting" to find moose and also deer shed for display. Native Americans hunted moose antlers to make glue, arrow tips, and

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS 2008-2009

(All phone numbers are Area Code 218)

### COOK (55723)

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Gary Whitenack... 9140 Hibbing Point Road..... 666-2153  
Ed Tausk..... Vermilion Dam Lodge ..... 666-5418  
Judy Moline ..... 8780 Raps Road ..... 666-5716  
Gary Lundquist .... PO Box 236 ..... 666-2756

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Mel Hintz, **Vice Pres.** ..... 6119 Pike Bay Drive..... 753-2401  
Paula Bloczynski, **Sec.**..... 4443 Big Rock Road ..... 753-2107  
Bob Wilson, **Treas.**..... 1501 Echo Point ..... 753-5544  
Jeff Lovgren (Member Records)..... 2113 Birch Point Road ..... 753-2413  
Mardy Jackson ..... 2065 County Road 77 ..... 753-3549

**SCLV Board Meetings** are held monthly on the second Wednesday, and are open to all SCLV members. Check with a board member for time and location.

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# CITIZENS GROUP FORMS “LAKE VERMILION FIRE BRIGADE”

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Over the past several years there have been informal discussions by lake residents regarding fire protection, especially in dry seasons when fire danger is high. Some residents have purchased their own fire pumps. However, these efforts have been fragmented with no organized structure or training. In late May 2008, several Lake Vermilion residents met and decided that something needed to be done to address fire and rescue on the west end of the lake.

Informal meetings were held with the Cook Volunteer Fire Department, the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department, Beatty Township, U.S. Forest Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department. All of these agencies recognized the need and offered their support. During the early part of the summer of 2008, it was agreed that a lake-based fire/rescue organization should be formed and a properly designed and equipped fireboat purchased and placed into service.

The group has already been incorporated as the “Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade.” It has also filed with the State of Minnesota as a charitable organization and with the IRS for the 501 (c)(3) nonprofit designation. An order has been placed for a custom built fire/rescue boat valued in the \$350,000 range. Over the years there have been a number of incidents from home fires, boathouse and cottage fires, brush and forest fires, boating accidents and drownings to a variety of medical emergencies. Currently, these incidents are reported through 911 with the Cook, Tower or Greenwood fire departments responding. For the west end of the lake, Cook is the closest city with a volunteer fire department and is 10-30 miles away by road depending upon the lake location. Many areas have no roads (islands or roadless mainland). If the incident is

in a roadless area, the responders have to ask local lake residents to borrow a boat in order to reach the emergency. These boats are not equipped for emergency situations and produce added risk for the responders and victims. Also, it would be faster to take a boat across the lake rather than drive all the way around the end of the lake. There are many miles of shoreline on the north shore of Lake Vermilion under U.S. Forest Service ownership (Superior National Forest). A portion of this is the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which, by law, is roadless. These aged forests have an excess of cured fuel buildup which means that the potential for catastrophic wildfires exists. Fire fighters from the U.S. Forest Service and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are eager to support the Brigade, which will increase their ability to suppress fires.

The Brigade will become an integral part of the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS). There are two fire/rescue boats located in Greenwood Township, serving Greenwood Township and the east end of the lake. These boats have also attended emergencies on the west end. After several summer 2008 meetings, follow-ups were held in September-November to adopt a set of guiding principles for a new Minnesota nonprofit corporation to be organized to operate the Brigade's functions. The guiding principles for the new organization, as presented in those meetings and adopted by the board of directors of the corporation in January 2009, are as follows:

1. The Brigade is dedicated to fire, search and rescue, and emergency medical situations on the shoreline of Lake Vermilion, and potentially available for other areas.

2. The Brigade will be operated by volunteers and be under the governance of a board of directors that will be self-perpetuating.
3. The board shall initially consist of five members who shall elect three officers of the corporation (president, vice president, secretary/treasurer).
4. The Brigade will work with an advisory council to have access to citizen input and involvement.
5. The Brigade's principal relationship will be with the Cook Volunteer Fire Department/Cook Ambulance Service, but will have relationships and service/training agreements with some or all of the following governmental subdivisions and agencies: Beatty Township, Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department, U.S. Forest Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, the Lake Vermilion Resort Association and other fire/medical emergency agencies that could use our help.
6. The Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade will be supported through memberships, donations and grants as they become available.

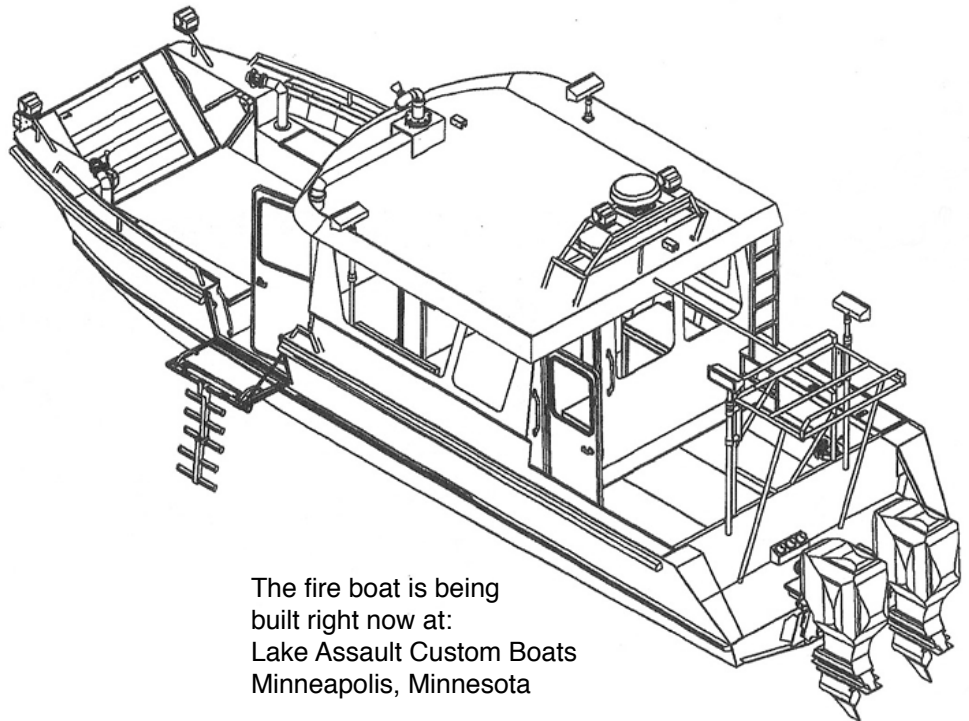
Membership is open to everyone and the Brigade is hopeful that the membership will be broad based. Being a member does not mean you will be expected to fight fires or participate in emergency medical situa-

tions. Membership simply means you support the Brigade. Membership fees and donations will pay for operating costs and equipment. Volunteers will be needed for fund raising and other events. Please join us in this commitment to aid residents, visitors, businesses, and guests in time of need.

Training programs will commence in the spring and intensify after the boat is delivered. Anyone interested in finding out how to obtain a membership, donate to or volunteer for this important effort is encouraged to call:

Don Potter - President - 218-666-5437  
Stan Hildestad - Vice President - 218-666-5498  
Ron Rafter - Secretary / Treasurer - 218-666-0255

Or write to:  
Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade  
P.O. Box 490  
Cook, MN 55723



The fire boat is being built right now at:  
Lake Assault Custom Boats  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



## BOATING SEASON EXTENDED AT PUBLIC WATER ACCESSSES



The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion extends its thanks to DNR Trails and Waterways - Area Supervisor - Scott Kelling and his department for accommodating its request to delay the removal of the docks at the various Public Water Access sites which it maintains. The Club reported to the DNR regarding its observation that an increasing number of late season boaters were awkwardly attempting to launch and land at these sites long after the rollout docks had been removed. Out of concern for the safety and convenience of the boating public, Area Supervisor - Kelling and his crew altered their very busy work schedule in order to leave these docks in place well into October. The Lake Vermilion community is very well served by this dedicated group of public servants.

Dale Lundblad - Board Member

## AFFORDABLE TREES AND SHRUBS AVAILABLE

The North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting orders for a variety of trees and shrubs until April 10. The 3 - 4 foot deciduous shrubs or trees are being offered in bundles of 10 for just \$30. They are all hardy varieties which will do well in our climate and in a range of soil types and degrees of sun exposure. They are excellent for revegetation of the shore land buffer zone of your lake lot as well as attracting wildlife or providing shade or screening.

Call the NSLSWCD at: 218-742-9504 or download the order form from the website: [www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org).

## News and Notes

### New telephone numbers at the MPCA

Telephone numbers for individuals at the MPCA have changed. The Agency's main line (651-296-6300) and toll-free line (800-657-3864) remain unchanged. If you need to reach Johanna or other MPCA staff, please use the main or toll-free telephone numbers listed above or Johanna's new phone number: 651-757-2705.

*In any free society, the conflict between social conformity and individual liberty is permanent, unresolvable, and necessary.*

— Kathleen Norris

Between newsletters, stay connected with Lake Vermilion

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

## MISSION STATEMENT of The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.

— To promote and enhance the outdoor experience of Lake Vermilion for present and future generations by

- a. Maintaining and improving the Lake Vermilion fishery
- b. Promoting "Catch and Release"
- c. Promoting safe boating practices
- d. Establishing and maintaining a "Night Navigational Aid System"
- e. Establishing and maintaining shore lunch/picnic sites
- f. Monitoring and protecting area wildlife

— To protect and improve the water quality of Lake Vermilion by

- a. Monitoring water quality in cooperation with interested government agencies
- b. Promoting shoreline preservation and re-vegetation
- c. Monitoring exotic species and preventing their spread
- d. Promoting sound conservation practices in the Lake Vermilion watershed

— To educate club members and the public regarding issues which impact Lake Vermilion by

- a. Publishing a periodic newsletter and distributing it to club members and the public
- b. Maintaining an internet website containing previously published newsletters and other information about the club and Lake Vermilion
- c. Publishing news releases and articles pertaining to club activities in other publications

## Goal: 100% Newsletter Delivery

We know it's important that each member receives each newsletter on time. So we've been working on ways to be sure that happens. Here's a few:

- **Seasonal Address:** We can now accommodate both a main and a seasonal address for each member. Just let us know your seasonal address and tell us when to use it.
- **First-Class Postage Upgrade:** If we mail a newsletter issue within 2 weeks of your scheduled address change, we send it First Class to be sure it's forwarded or returned to us, if it can't be delivered as addressed.
- **Mailing Hold:** If you know you'll be on-the-road for several weeks between addresses, we'll be glad to delay mailing your newsletter until you're ready for mail delivery at your new location. Just let us know.
- **Replacement Newsletters:** We normally mail newsletter issues near the first of March, May, August and November. If you do not receive your copy after a reasonable time or if it's damaged in the mail, please let us know. We will correct the problem.

If you'd like to add a seasonal address, change your main address, or tell us about anything discussed above, please contact Jeff Lovgren at [lovgren@frontiernet.net](mailto:lovgren@frontiernet.net) or call 218-753-2413. We'll reply to each email to confirm receipt of your instructions.

Jeff Lovgren  
Member Records Chairman

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*Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and  
astonish the rest.*

— Mark Twain [Samuel Langhorne Clemens] (1835-1910)

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

Jeff Lovgren, Member Records • P.O. Box 696 • Tower MN 55790  
lovgren@frontiernet.net • (218) 753-2413

Membership year runs from Jan 1st through Dec 31st

2009 New Member

2009 Renewal

Membership level

\$10.00 Individual

\$20.00 Family

\$15.00 Couple

\$50.00 Business or Organization

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Main Street \_\_\_\_\_

Address City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Street \_\_\_\_\_

Address City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Use seasonal address during this period:

Do this every year

Just for upcoming year

Contact me to discuss when to use seasonal address

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 [www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.org](http://www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.org). We're pretty sure you'll like our vision for the future and the work we have under way now to make Lake Vermilion even better.

Please use the form on this page or the form on our website. Make checks payable to the "Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion." The Sportsmen's Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Join us as we work to improve this great lake. Together we can have an even bigger impact!

**HELP US MAKE A BEAUTIFUL LAKE EVEN BETTER!**



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AUTOCR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
COOK, MINN.  
Permit No. 25