

the vermilion sportsman



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preservation and improvement of Lake Vermilion"*

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1800 MEMBERS

COOK & TOWER, MN

MARCH 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Greetings friends and neighbors,

Several years ago I remember reading a story by outdoor writer Sam Cook about a BWCA camping trip. While en route on the first day after paddling and portaging several miles, Sam discovered he had forgotten to bring along a rope. This was a major problem because he knew that black bears were common in the area and they would need a rope to hang their food pack beyond the reach of the marauding bears. On the next portage, Sam's party encountered another group that was heading out after several days of camping. As their trip was near finished, Sam asked if he could either buy their rope or return it to them some days later at the completion of his trip. The departing party gave Sam their rope and said there was no need to buy it or return it, but instead to **pass it on** to the next party.

I relate the message of this story to the recent announcement that the State and U.S. Steel have reached agreement on the purchase of nearly five miles of pristine, undeveloped shoreline for the new Vermilion State Park. This is a wonderful opportunity for our generation to "pass on" to those who follow us the opportunity to experience and enjoy the beauty of Lake Vermilion. The final closure of this sale will require legislative approval, but let's hope this does not prove to be an obstacle to the purchase.

As so often happens, good news is tempered with some not so good news. In this case the announcement in late January that the deadly fish virus known as VHS had been found in the Duluth harbor can only be considered as bad news for the region. Though not harmful to humans, the virus is potentially deadly to fish populations. The following website provides information and answers to frequently asked questions concerning this deadly fish virus:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish_diseases/vhs.html

One of the ways that this disease spreads is through the movement of infected water or equipment from one water body to another. This is ominous news for Lake Vermilion because during our invasive species boat landing checks we have encountered more than one boat preparing to launch in Lake Vermilion that was last used in the Duluth harbor. This underscores why

the SCLV under the leadership of board member Bob Wilson has devoted major resources and efforts towards thwarting the further spread of invasive species into Vermilion. You can help in this effort by volunteering to be an invasive species boat inspector as described in the Volunteer Opportunities section of this newsletter.

Among our goals for 2010 is to increase membership by five percent. Membership Coordinator, Jeff Lovgren reports that membership renewals are at nearly the same level as last year, but the number of new members is down by over 40%. The decline in new members is likely attributable to the reduction in the number of sales on the lake as it has been our practice to grant a complimentary one year membership to new property owners. To meet our goal of five percent growth, we need your help in recruiting new members. The best way to add members is through a one on one invitation from a member to neighbors and friends. In this situation, a level of trust has already been established and you can explain your reasons for joining our lake association. Soon we will be printing a 4X9 inch card to assist in new member recruitment. I would also note that after checking with several other lake associations, our membership fees are very low and we are finding that a growing number of members are including a donation along with their membership renewal. Donations are tax deductible and may be designated for a specific club activity or for our general fund.

This issue of our newsletter contains a wide array of articles ranging from topics important to the future of Lake Vermilion to stories of human interest. It also includes articles from the newly formed Lake Vermilion Guides League and the St. Louis County Environmental Services Department. By forming partnerships with these and other groups, we can work together for the future of the lake.

Our board members and many volunteers continue to work hard towards the improvement of Lake Vermilion so we can pass it on to the next generation. Your commitment is greatly appreciated.

Mel Hintz, President

GUIDES CORNER

By: Terry Sjoberg, Lake Vermilion Guides League

Hello everybody,

As I'm sure many of you are somewhere it's warm, I'll let you know what it's like up here in the Northland. It's very white and cold and as I look out my window at beautiful Lake Vermilion, springtime seems a long ways away. There has been some good news and some bad news this winter as far as the future of Lake Vermilion. Always the good news first, the state has decided to buy the 3 bays property from USX, for a new state park on the shores of Lake Vermilion. It will preserve over 4 miles of some of the most beautiful shoreline we have, for generations of Minnesotans to enjoy now and into the future. Miles of excellent spawning habitat for all of the species of the lake will be protected for all time.

The bad news is really more unfortunate than bad. The Arrowhead chapter of Muskies Inc has disbanded due to a lack of interest by local anglers. The chapter had been very involved in many local fisheries projects with the Tower DNR office and had spent much of its time and money helping local youth groups, here on the Range. I for one think it's a great loss to our area and the Lake Vermilion fisheries as a whole.

It's my hope that the new "Lake Vermilion Guides League" will be able to pick up where the Arrowhead chapter left off. Started last spring, the league is made up of all the best local guides on Vermilion; both east end and west end guides are involved in this new venture. It was formed as a nonprofit organization with the health and well being of the Lake Vermilion fisheries as our major focus. We will also be involved in many local youth projects in the Cook and Tower areas. We are one of the major sponsors for the 2nd annual Tower fishing contest scheduled for February 13th. The contest's major focus is on promoting ice fishing for our local youth and their families. Every child who enters will win a prize. All kids get to fish for free when accompanied by an adult.

Speaking of ice fishing, the season is winding down with just a couple weeks of Walleye angling left to



go. It's been a so-so year for many local ice fishermen. Ice conditions have been excellent all winter long, but unfortunately the Walleye fishing has been a little erratic. There are still some good opportunities left for some great pan fishing through the month of March.

I however will be concentrating more on preparing for the spring fishing opener. It may still be months away, however it will go fast and before you know it open water will be upon us. Vermilion has always been a great early season Walleye destination. I really can't remember the last time we had a bad opening day. I typically use only two different presentations for those early season Walleyes. Jigs tipped with a chub minnow, or a slip bobber rig tipped with either a minnow or a leech. There are many locations to fish. Shallow back bays with creeks or rivers entering always produce very well. Shallow neck down areas can often concentrate large numbers of Walleyes in the spring. Don't be afraid however to try some of the deeper main lake areas in the spring as well. Many of Vermilion's Walleyes spawn out on deep sand and gravel bars out in the main basin.

See you all in the spring!!

January Ice Fishing Adventure

by: Gary Whitenack

Being a newcomer to year around living on Lake Vermilion, I am still learning what winter offers for recreational activities. Like many seasonal visitors to Lake Vermilion I knew how great summer is here on the lake, but I am learning that winter has as much or more to offer for outdoor adventure.

An example of this is a recent invitation for a one-day lake trout fishing adventure. Mel Hintz (SCLV president and a Lake Vermilion “east ender”) invited two of the newer SCLV board members, “west enders” Jim Mueller and myself, on a lake trout fishing outing to Canada.

This was to be a one-day outing to Canada to ice fish for lake trout, which in itself made me wonder how we could fit a Canada fishing trip into a one-day outing and include any time to actually fish. Well, what a day of fishing we experienced!

The “west enders,” Mueller and Whitenack, met up with Mel and his friend Jim Underhill at 5:00AM in Cook. Off we went to Canada with four guys, four snowmobiles, and us “west enders” who were total novices to lake trout fishing wondering what the day held. Mel did mention that once we got north of the border we would have a little snowmobile ride into our Canadian mystery lake.

After a 7:00AM breakfast at the Chocolate Moose in International Falls, we crossed the border, purchased Canadian fishing licenses, and headed further north. We “west enders” followed Mel and his friend Jim wondering where we were actually heading when suddenly we stopped at a nondescript pullover where we parked, unloaded our snowmobiles, and headed off to the mystery lake. For those who enjoy great scenery and snowmobiling, the snowmobile trip to our fishing lake was excitement enough for one day.

Our snowmobile ride was through some spectacular forest and included travel over frozen lakes, frozen rivers, dense swamp cover, and highland ridges. Adding to the adventure we experienced a creek crossing with open water (we crossed this quickly), crossed over two beaver dams, and after several forks in the trail we finally arrived at the

lake trout mystery lake. After some ice auger work, we were fishing by 10:30AM in a remote Canadian lake.

Our fishing action began immediately with Mueller having a fish on which escaped before the rest of us even had our lines in the water. Shortly thereafter he missed yet another before Underhill caught a lake trout of about seven pounds, all before 11:00AM. As you might guess we “west ender” greenhorns were definitely now in awe of Mel and his friend Jim’s snowmobile navigation and lake trout fishing prowess. We took a lunch break at 12:30 with Jim and Mel preparing fresh coffee, hot venison polish, and of course homemade chocolate chip cookies. These guys know how to fish and...eat!

By 2:30 we had our limit of four lake trout (all in the five- to eight-pound range) and were packing up our gear to ride our snowmobiles back to our vehicles.

As Jim Mueller and I arrived back at our homes on Lake Vermilion at 8:00PM we looked at each other and said at the same time “can you believe all of the excitement rolled into a one-day outing.” What a life we have here on Lake Vermilion with all it has to offer and it all lies within a “one-day outing to a remote Canadian lake.”

“There is a privacy about it which no other season gives you... In spring, summer and fall people sort of have an open season on each other; only in the winter, in the country, can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savor belonging to yourself.”

~ Ruth Stout

THE WEST ENDERS' LAKE TROUT



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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.

How to Smoke Lake Trout

by Mel Hintz

The following step by step procedure for smoking lake trout was shared with me by an old-timer of Finnish descent almost 20 years ago. I have used this procedure only with lake trout, but believe it would also work well with whitefish or suckers. The entire process takes about 24 hours from the time the fish are put in the brine until they are removed from the smoker. I use an inexpensive electric smoker equipped with a water pan and two cooking grates. During the smoking process, I place 8-10 small (2" square) chunks of hardwood (maple, hickory, apple, etc. that have been pre-soaked in water for a couple hours) directly on the heating element. Smoking time is 5 hours. The capacity for my unit made by Char-Broil is four trout in the 4-6 pound range.

So, here is the process:

Step 1: Catch the trout.....that is the fun part.

Step 2: Clean the trout by removing the entrails and scraping the blood away from the underside of the back bone (an old spoon works well for this). I normally do this while still on the ice shortly after the fish is caught.

Step 3: Trim away the belly meat, about 1/2 inch on each side as this tends to be fatty.

Step 4: Cut off the tail and fins as they take up space in the smoker.

Step 5: Prepare the brine by mixing in a 5 gallon bucket: 2.5 gallons cold water, 1 cup brown sugar, 1/8 cup lemon juice, and then add pickling salt to the mixture until a raw egg floats. Remove egg, rinse, dry and put back in the refrigerator so your wife will never know!

Step 6: Beginning at the tail, cut the lake trout into 2 inch chunks by cutting down from the top of the trout's back. In most cases, you will need a meat saw for this step to cut through the back bone.

Step 7: Place fish in brine and let soak for 12-18 hours.

Step 8: Soak hardwood chunks for 2 hours before smoking.

Step 9: Remove trout pieces and dry with paper towel.

Step 10: Spray the cooking grates with Pam so the fish does not stick and fill the grates with the trout pieces.

Step 11: Fill water pan with 4 quarts of hot water.

Step 12: Smoke trout at high setting for 3-1/2 hours.

Step 13: Baste one side (exposed meat) with brown sugar paste.

Step 14: After 45 minutes, turn trout and baste the other side. I also rotate the grates at this time.

Step 15: Smoke for additional 45 minutes, check to see that internal temperature is well done (160 degrees) and if so remove from smoker.

Step 16: Cool and eat or try some right out of the smoker when it is still warm.

My favorite way to eat lake trout is with Ritz crackers spread with a layer of chive and onion cream cheese. Absolutely delicious.... making the whole process worth the effort.

“Invasive Species”

by Bob Wilson

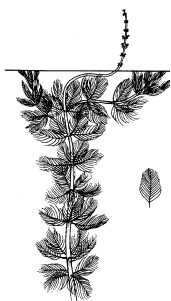


While it's possible, the chances of suffering an Invasive Species infestation in Vermilion in March should be as close to zero as we can get. However, there has been recent ongoing news on the “Invasive Species” front from around our country and most recently from Duluth, MN. Since Vermilion is calm and iced over at present, I'm going to take you back to earlier records and show a few of the high points, or perhaps low points would be more descriptive, of the “exotics” spread in the midwest portion of the country with emphasis on the Great Lakes.

1879 – Carp, a common name for various species of an oily freshwater fish native to Europe and Asia, first accidentally introduced to our country. Several species of Carp are listed as an Invasive Species by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They may feed on the oxygen-producing vegetation in a body of water making it difficult for other species to live there. Presently, the Asian Bighead Carp have proliferated and are knocking at the door of the Great Lakes. These carp are often pictured leaping from the water and flopping into boats and people. In 2009 electrical barriers were erected to prevent the fish from entering the Great Lakes. Success is as yet uncertain.

1921 - Sea Lampreys found in the Welland Canal. Eventually they infested all of the Great Lakes.

1950s - Alewives in the Welland Canal pass Niagara Falls and enter the Great Lakes. They first arrived in Lake Superior in 1954, but never developed as they did in Michigan and Huron in the 1950s and 1960s. After Sea Lampreys eliminated most of Lake Michigan's large predator fish, the alewife population exploded.



EURASIAN
MILFOIL

1950s - Eurasian Milfoil comes over from Europe and makes its way west. Fast growing shoots and extensive canopy formation can obstruct recreation and navigation. The ability to grow in cool water one to four meters deep gives it a quick start in the spring. It is in many lakes in Minnesota, particularly around the Twin Cities.

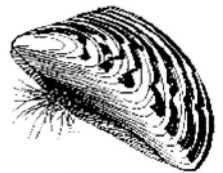
1966 - Michigan DNR introduces Coho salmon to take on alewives in Lake Michigan.

1967 - Michigan DNR brings in Chinook salmon to further help control alewives.

1982 - Spiny Waterflea, a tiny crustacean 1/4 to 5/8 inches long, found in Lake Ontario in '82, Huron in '84 and Superior in '87. They form a gelatinous mass on fish lines and anchor ropes and eat smaller zooplankton in competition with native fish. Now found in Crane, Kabetogama, Namakan, Rainy and many other lakes in Minnesota.

1986 - Rusty Crayfish discovered in Lake Vermilion at the east end of Ely Island by the Tower, MN DNR. They spread at an exponential rate over the next few years.

1988 - Zebra mussels introduced from freighters' bilge water discovered in Lake St. Clair near Detroit. The small finger size mussel can attach to boats or boating equipment and be transported between lakes. Their microscopic larvae can be carried in bilge water and livewells. Currently in the Great Lakes and a few Minnesota inland lakes such as Mille Lacs.



ZEBRA MUSSEL

1990 - The Round Goby (fish), a fierce competitor for food, first discovered in the St. Clair River, the channel between Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron, as a result of bilge water dumping by ocean going freighters. Now in all of the Great Lakes.

2009 – VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia), a fish virus, is found in Lake Superior for the first time. It was located in the Duluth Harbor. It has already reached epidemic proportions in the other Great Lakes. It is untreatable in fish, harmless to humans and threatens the sport fishing industry.

Actively practicing prevention techniques remains the only logical method of keeping Lake Vermilion relatively clean. Boater education, boat inspections and publicity on the subject are the main tools the DNR and the SCLV use for the fight.

Occasionally, a new and different perspective on prevention appears that could be used to slow the spread of the exotics. Mr. Kim Alan Chapman has written an article he titles "Red tag, blue tag: A system to stop the zebra mussel" and has given us permission to print it. It appeared in StarTribune.com in September of last year. While it would cause some hardships for fishermen and women who travel from lake to lake throughout the summer, the idea could be worth it. We aren't sanctioning this control

method as it would require significant study, discussion and legislative approval, but it seems there is a good possibility it would have a positive effect in slowing the spread of all aquatic invaders. Read Mr. Chapman's article below and form your own opinion!



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
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Kim Alan Chapman: Red tag, blue tag: A system to stop the zebra mussel

A quarantine -- choose either infested or uninfested waters for your boat -- is the only approach that will work.

By KIM ALAN CHAPMAN

Nearly everyone has heard of the zebra mussel. Having hitched a ride from Europe to the Great Lakes in 1988, this tiny clam causes up to \$400 million in harm each year to power companies, manufacturing plants, drinking water facilities, and boat and marina owners. Since arriving, it has pushed already imperiled American freshwater clams to new population lows, has rendered some shorelines unwalkable with its sharp-edged shells, and has filtered out such large quantities of plankton and tiny organisms from the base of the food chain that some fisheries have collapsed.

On the upside, there are so many billions of these creatures in the Great Lakes that the water is as blue as it was when La Salle explored the continent's interior. On the downside again, researchers recently learned that zebra mussels filter and eat green algae and zooplankton but discard blue-green algae. The result is that some inland waters have slicks of what appears to be bright-green paint -- accumulations of blue-green algae and the dangerous toxins they give off as byproducts of their existence.

The zebra mussel invasion is just a bit player in a vast, unfolding experiment: What happens when you move plants and animals from different parts of the globe to other places? Most of that movement is caused by international trade, including horticulture, but once a ship or airplane helps an invasive species hop over an ocean or mountain chain, the day-to-day movement of vehicles, boats and people ensures that it spreads across states and nations. For the United States, the list of invaders totals some 50,000 different plants, animals and microbes. In the news lately is the emerald ash borer, newly arrived from East Asia and destined to wipe out millions of ash trees.

But what I want to offer is a simple proposal to deal with the zebra mussel here in Minnesota. Today it infests more than 20 inland lakes, including Mille Lacs, and some rivers and streams. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources labors daily to stop it with all the defenses that smart minds can imagine. These include installing cleaning and inspection stations at lakes where managers have

(Continued on Page 8)

Kim Alan Chapman: Red tag, blue tag: A system to stop the zebra mussel

(Continued from page 7)

drawn a line in the sand -- no zebra mussels beyond this point -- as well as education brochures, posters and videos to convince boaters to clean their vessels before moving from zebra-mussel lakes to uninvaded lakes.

Millions of dollars have been spent nationally to find the weak link in the mussel's life history -- chemicals to kill the mussels but not harm other aquatic life, for example -- to no avail. The search for biocontrols -- other organisms that damage zebra mussels -- has come up short. The mussels remain unstoppable once they appear. No wonder -- a single zebra mussel starts reproducing at a year old and can generate up to several hundred thousand eggs every year.

Since there is no getting rid of the mussels once they've invaded a lake or river, the problem is one of prevention: Stop them from moving to new territory. The check-in points don't work; all they've done is slow the spread. In the end, the zebra mussel always reaches new territory because one person forgets the rules, or one inspector makes a small mistake, or one low-probability event occurs despite everybody's best intentions to prevent it. If we want to keep uninfested lakes free of zebra mussels, then we need a form of quarantine, which is standard practice in public health to prevent the spread of disease.

I propose a simple approach: red tag, blue tag. First, designate infested lakes and rivers as red-tag lakes and rivers and uninfested waters as blue-tag waters. Then boaters would decide whether they want to boat exclusively on red- or blue-tag lakes and rivers. They would no longer be allowed to move a boat among waters tagged differently. When they purchased a boating registration sticker, it would be half red or half blue, depending on their choice. (The other colored half of the sticker would indicate the valid year, as it already does.)

A red tag on a vessel would declare whether it is improperly plying a blue-tag lake and putting that lake at risk of zebra mussel invasion. Naturally, a red-tag boater could use a blue-tag lake -- but only in a blue-tag craft.

Biology is only part of the solution. We have the important issue of individual freedom vs. the common good, which is at the heart of most environmental debates. This proposal will be unpopular with people who cherish their right to put in on any body of water. Some who worry about the financial and social cost of a zebra mussel beachhead in, say, Lake Vermilion or another iconic lake might support it. Even though they would like to put their boat in where they please, they might listen to their better angels in order to save Lake Vermilion from zebra mussel invasion.

Even if logic and the biological facts argue for quarantine, in the end it is up to politicians to figure out if such a proposal is even remotely possible, considering their next election.

Kim Alan Chapman, of St. Paul, is an ecologist at Applied Ecological Services, an environmental consulting firm.

Donations for Annual Meeting Raffle

The door prize raffle at our August annual meeting is very popular. With your help, we can make it even better.

We would be pleased to accept donations of new fishing or camping gear, Lake Vermilion items, framed wildlife photos ... whatever you think would be appreciated by your fellow Sportsmen's Club members.

Donations can be dropped off with any board member.

2009 ‘Legendary Guides’ Inductee to the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame will be the featured speaker at Sportsmen’s Club Annual Meeting

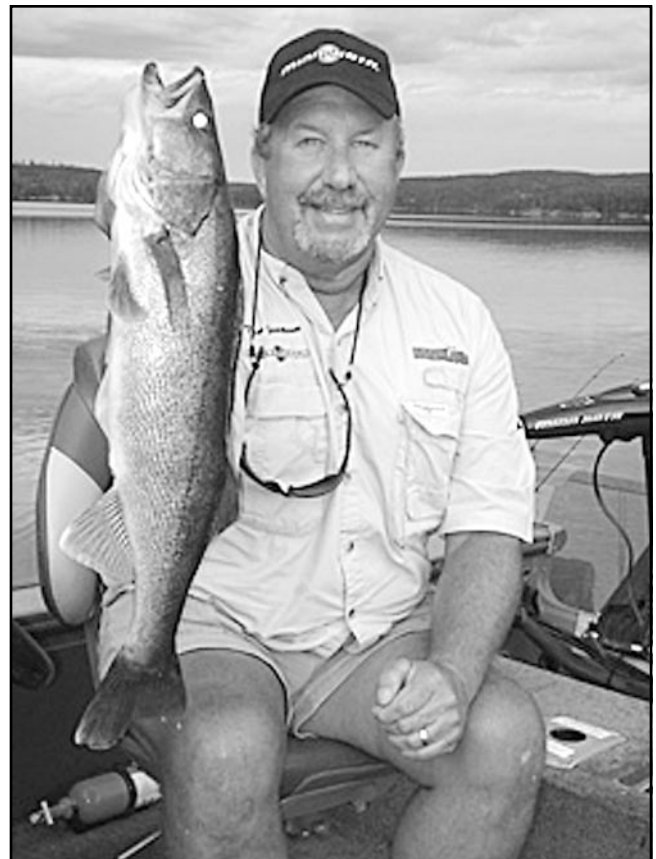
Mark your calendars and be sure to attend the Annual Meeting of the Sportsmen’s Club of Lake Vermilion on Saturday, August 14, 2010 at Fortune Bay Resort. The featured speaker will be renowned fishing guide and media personality, Tom Neustrom.

Tom Neustrom has spent 32 years as a professional fishing guide and promoter of the fishing industry. Tom has been recognized by In-Fisherman, North American Fishing Club, Fishing Facts Magazine and Minnesota Sportsman as one of the top walleye fishing guides in the country. Working closely with numerous publications, Tom writes constantly and enjoys sharing his knowledge and expertise in the sport of fishing with thousands of readers.

Since 1992 Tom has hosted “Guides Corner” heard on KMFY-FM radio from Grand Rapids, Minnesota. It is a forum that allows Tom to reach thousands of anglers with current fishing reports and strategies to catch the “big ones.”

In February 2009, Tom was inducted as a “Legendary Guide” into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin. Tom was very humbled by his selection and is very proud of the recognition by clients, sponsors and his peers who recommended him for the honor.

Tom has been appointed to the Minnesota DNR Fishing Roundtable, Red Lake Advisory Council and the State Walleye Advisory Committee. His expertise, dedication and passion for the sport he loves continually pushes him down a path of



preserving and enhancing the opportunities for every angler to have positive memories of days on the water. Tom believes we should all be stewards of the waters we fish and be responsible for making fishing better.

Anyone interested in the sport of fishing, improving their fishing skills or wishing to learn how they might participate in protecting and enhancing the Lake Vermilion fishery will find Tom’s presentation interesting and useful. This is a “must see” event! Make sure you bring any family members and friends who love fishing.

MR. SNOWMOBILE

How many people do you know, or I should say, do you know anybody who prefers winter over summer on Lake Vermilion? Well, let me introduce you to the memorable (now deceased) Bob Daggit. He was a long-time member of the Sportsmen's Club and a past president. He and his wife, Virginia, left Oak Park, Illinois and moved to their Lake Vermilion home on Fabian Bay in 1973. Let me give you a little background.

He was born and raised in Minneapolis, the family spending their vacations in Ely. He promised himself that when the time came in his life to retire, it would be in Ely. He had two sons, Bob Jr. and Joe, a very nice guy whom I had snowmobiled with one time. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in Metallurgy and was hired as a salesman by Ryerson Steel Co. He was an excellent salesman because he had a dynamic, outgoing and friendly personality; and was very knowledgeable in his field of expertise. He made more money than the boss, so the boss cut his territory in half. This made Bob so mad he said to himself, "I'll show this company!" and he doubled his commission again. They made him sales manager, and he retired at that status. Bob had said, "I never knew a stranger." If he went into a bar and saw a man sitting alone, he would go over to him, extend his hand and introduce himself and begin a conversation.

Before the first snowflake fell that late fall, Bob was the very excited owner of his first snowmobile, a Polaris. He joined the Penguin Snowmobile Club

and took to the trails daily... really bitten by the bug. This machine and the many that followed only cooled down by the interruption of summer.

We moved to our cabin in 1973 also, and it was kind of funny the way we met Bob Daggit and Jerry Ketola. One beautiful day my husband and I decided to snowshoe out to Strawberry Island. Half-way there we stopped to rest and decided to make angels in the unbroken snow. Across the bay from our cabin two snowmobiles came charging from the shoreline heading right for us. Thinking they didn't see us, we stood up, only to find out they came

out to rescue us; thought we were in trouble. Bob and Jerry introduced themselves and we all had a good laugh. That was our first meeting and the beginning of a long and lasting friendship.

Every Saturday the Penguin Club would have

a planned ride, but that wasn't enough for many of us. Our daily rides during the week began and were planned by Bob Daggit for those who could get free to ride; the numbers varying from three to around eight. This went on for over 20 years. We covered every trail in this north country, stopping for a cigarette and to rest our thumbs. When we all started snowmobiling in those days, we rode on trails, honest to goodness trails — not roads like they do today.

From this group of riders, some of them were gals who rode pretty regularly. At lunch on one ride there was a lot of kidding around and it culminated in the idea that Bob would lead a "girls only



ride" every Tuesday. One of the guys made fun of "Bobby's little bunnies" and that was the birth of "Bob's Snowmobile Bunnies." We gals decided to make our maiden ride to The Lost Week Inn at Gheen special. Taking a black indelible pen we inscribed that logo on our T-shirts. We were going to surprise Bob. On any given ride, as soon as we arrived at the bar/restaurant Bob would head for the men's room. That was our clue to quickly shed our snowmobile suits showing our T-shirts, standing in a line. When he appeared we sang a little ditty we made up for the occasion. There was a round of applause, Bob loved it and we all had a good laugh. There was one stipulation Bob made concerning our choice for lunch — they had to make a good Manhattan, his libation of choice. Just to celebrate this auspicious occasion, he decided to have two Manhattans instead of one. In the photo of the original six Bunnies, left to right: Helen Klingsporn, Marcia Vietanen, Tandy Esala, Murline Tahija, Aunie Vietanen, Bob, and Mardy Jackson. Jack Sparks, another long-time Sportsmen's Club member and former president, sometimes rode "tail gunner."



The trail on the way home wound through a long swamp area. Our faithful leader, going a little faster than his reactions at this time, missed the curve and sailed into the deep, deep powder snow. When he came up laughing and not hurt, we just roared, it was so funny. But what a struggle we had getting him and then his snowmobile out of that deep snow and back up on the trail. Returning home at a slower pace we each were speculating what he'd tell Virginia why he was so late for his self-imposed dinner hour at 5:00. I can't begin to tell you how many rides ended through the years with him dashing ahead to try to get home for dinner on time, his deadline.

Bob seemed to have, a propensity for missing the curves on the trail. He, Jerry Ketola and Murline were riding the swamp trail behind County Road 77, the year of the big snow. Bob was leading as usual, when all of a sudden he faced a sharp

curve and went sailing into the swamp. Only the tips of his skis were showing through the snow. What a riot! They had to trample a path to get Bob back on the solid snow of the trail, and another one to arc the snowmobile out to the trail, onto the packed snow.

Bob had advanced diabetes, circulation was bad and his feet would easily get cold. Solution? He bought those white bunny boots the paratroopers wore in WWII. He took a lot of kidding, but they did the trick. They became

his trademark.

He had both hips replaced, but with his great sense of humor he made jokes about his condition. He'd tell you he had steel "bleeps" and a plastic "bleep." He'd had so many operations that if you saw him nude you'd think he was sewn together like a patchwork quilt. And yet, when someone would ask him how he was his stock answer was always FANTASTIC!

There came a time when the circulation became too severe and they had to amputate one leg below the knee. He got a prosthesis and the following winter he could walk with a cane. So he fashioned some clips on the side of his snowmobile to hold his cane. He was back in business again needing a little help to get off the sled.

He'd get a good laugh a few times over incidents with his prosthesis. There was this ride with a bunch of guys who weren't regulars and some didn't know about Bob's problem. On a particularly rough area on the trail a couple of guys went off the hard-packed snow of the trail and flipped on their

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Highway 169 Realignment... An Update

By: Jim Mueller

Last summer, we reported that the scheduled realignment of Highway 169 in the Sixmile Lake area east of Soudan may pose a serious geologic hazard. Sixmile Lake is located in the Lake Vermilion watershed approximately 1.5 miles east of Armstrong Bay. The geology in the Sixmile Lake area is very unique. Geologic publications from the Natural Resource Research Institute, the Institute on Lake Superior Geology, and open filed US Steel data specifically identify the Sixmile Lake area as having excellent potential for massive sulfide deposits.

The Minnesota Dept. of Transportation has funding to realign Highway 169 from mile 269 (north of Fourmile Lake) to mile 273, Co Rd 408. This section of Hwy 169 has a high accident rate and is shaded making it prone to the presence of black ice in the wintertime.

The sulfide bearing rock in the realignment area drains into Armstrong Bay. If not handled properly, exposure of the sulfide bearing rock to water and oxygen could result in increasing the already high levels of sulfate in Arm-

strong Bay. High sulfate levels can cause an increase in mercury methylation that bioaccumulates in fish and is harmful to humans. High sulfate levels also have harmful effects on aquatic vegetation including wild rice.

In January, 2010, the SCLV water quality committee met with Brian Larson, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) Project Manager, and Kevin Adolfs, MNDOT Design Engineer, to express our concern about this potential hazard. We were informed that MNDOT will be taking core samples along the proposed alignment routes in early summer 2010 to determine specific locations and quantities of sulfide bearing rock and will contact us to review the results. Should significant quantities of sulfide bearing rock be present in the final alignment route, there are methods such as those used by the Pennsylvania DOT to minimize exposure to water and oxygen. Construction on the realignment project is scheduled to start in 2011 with completion in 2012.

Mr. Snowmobile... (Continued from page 11)

sides — Bob was one of them. In getting away from his sled, he caught the shoe of his prosthesis on the hood. They got him back up on the packed snow and Lee Anderson started yelling for a stretcher and pointing at Bob's feet. They were pointing in the opposite direction! Bob looked down, bent down, and turned his foot around. Lee was given a hasty explanation and to the relief of a few others. Bob got a big charge out of that.

One other instance I'll relate happened on the trail returning from Giants Ridge. We'd had a cocktail and a good lunch. Got to talking to another couple who said they were heading back to Lake Vermilion too, and decided to ride along with us. It was a cold and windy day and we were riding a little faster than usual to get home. Bob usually led and he hit something on the trail that threw him over down into the ditch. I believe it was the wife of the couple who had joined us screaming, "He broke his leg; he broke it right off! Who's got a cell phone? We got to get an ambulance — a stretcher! Bob's prosthesis laid in the snow a few feet away from him. Can you just imagine the horror for that poor woman who didn't know Bob had a prosthesis? He, of course, got quite a chuckle out of it.

Readers, I don't want to give you the impression Bob was an erratic driver. He was a good snowmo-

bile driver and a safe one. These are just a few rare instances over a 20-year period — and they were memorable to those involved.

Not only to make Bob Daggit more content with the summer, we did a real fun thing. We three couples, Jerry and Becky Ketola, Virginia and Bob Daggit, and Bob Jackson and I had a standing Friday night boat dinner date. One couple would bring the hors d'oeuvres, another the cocktails and the third would bring their boat. And we would rotate on this each week. The couple who were driving the boat would make the dinner reservations someplace on the lake (back then there were a lot of choices), but not tell the others where we were going. We'd drive all around the lake, then anchor someplace and have our cocktail hour before heading to the restaurant of choice that night. Sometimes we'd have another couple, but we did this for years! What fun! The summer passed too quickly.

There are so many stories to tell about Bob Daggit on the trail and off. What fun the Ketolas and Jacksons had with him both summer and winter. He was a man everybody enjoyed being with. He used to say, "I love everybody." Well, everybody loved Bob Daggit, too, and when he died in 1997 he left a big void in many hearts.

Hold the Salt

A University of Minnesota study shows chloride concentrations in Twin Cities metro waters are significantly higher than natural levels. The culprit: road salt — sodium chloride. Every winter metro government and commercial users apply almost 350,000 tons of road salt for de-icing. About 70 percent of it washes off into nearby lakes, wetlands, soils, and shallow aquifers where it is retained, according to research led by Heinz Stefan, professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. The rest of the salt drains through creeks and storm sewers into the Mississippi River.

“No one has asked the question of where the road salt has gone when winter is over. Our study, funded by the Local Road Research Board, has been concerned with that issue in particular,” said Stefan.

The research team tracked movement of chloride throughout the Twin Cities’ watershed, distinguishing chloride applied by humans from chloride of geological or natural origin. Human-induced chloride concentrations (salinity) in 39 metro-area lakes increased from 1984 to 2005, following a similar upward trend in the amount of road salt purchased by state and local agencies.

If continued, this trend would produce a doubling of current salinity in some metro lakes in about 50 years. Compare this with a near zero concentration in the 1950s, when road salt application began.

“If we keep on doing this for another 50 years, we may have a significant problem [with water quality],” Stefan said. “Certainly if ground water becomes saline, when we use that water we may have to treat it, at significant cost, by reverse osmosis, to remove that salt.”

In its 2010 draft report, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency listed 11 metro-area streams as impaired by chloride. Minnehaha, Nine Mile, Bevens, Shingle, and Battle creeks are just a few of those with chloride concentration levels above the chronic standard of 230 milligrams per liter.

Continuous levels of chloride concentration as low as 230 mg/L (equivalent to roughly 1 teaspoon of salt in 5 gallons of water) have been shown to be harmful to aquatic life. Salinity exceeding this standard can interfere with plant growth and reduce the diversity of organisms in rivers, according to a recent U.S. Geological Survey study.

Road salt also mobilizes heavy metals. Soil along major highways contains lead and cadmium, which come from motor vehicles. When road salt spreads onto roadsides, the chloride releases these heavy metals from the soil and they become water soluble and can run into nearby lakes, rivers, and ground water.

Keeping roads free of ice is essential for safe winter travel, but using less salt can reduce the impact on watersheds. Sodium chloride is ineffective at temperatures below 15 degrees

F, when other, more expensive melting agents such as magnesium or calcium chloride work better. For temperatures at or above 15 degrees F, road and sidewalk applications need only be 1 to 3 cups of rock salt per 1,000 square feet.

The University of Minnesota began using these guidelines in 2006. Prior to its reduction program, the university used an average of 775 tons of salt per year on its Twin Cities campus. From 2006 to 2009, the university used a yearly average of 462 tons, about a 40 percent reduction. The program saved the university more than \$50,000 in road salt costs in the first year alone. Minnesota Department of Transportation road crews have also improved the efficiency of their road salt applications by putting down a brine mixture in many areas before a storm to prevent ice from bonding to the pavement.

“If road salt application rates are reduced in future winters, it is projected that the lakes will respond with noticeably lower chloride concentrations within five to 10 years,” said Stefan.

There is good news ahead, as the DNR is using Clean Water Legacy funding to support three research projects that aim to better assess and reduce pollutants entering lakes, streams, and wetlands. This research includes the evaluation of new technologies to reduce road salt use in winter.

“The Clean Water Legacy staff will use information from the road salt study to better understand how aquatic organisms are impaired where chloride is one of the potential stressors,” said Nick Proulx, DNR Clean Water Legacy specialist.

Learn more about Stefan’s research at www.safl.umn.edu/roadsalt_research. For road salt application training information, visit www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/road-salt.html.



Maia Homstad, freelance writer

(Reprinted from Minnesota Conservation Volunteer)

DNR to Include Sulfate Testing In Water Quality Monitoring Program

The Dept. of Natural Resources, Section of Fisheries, has been monitoring water quality on Lake Vermilion as part of the Large Lake Program since 1984. Water samples are taken from five sampling stations during the first week of August and tested for total alkalinity, pH, conductivity, total dissolved solids, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll a. These are standard tests done on all lake surveys that DNR Fisheries does in the state. After recent discussions with SCLV board members, sulfate testing is going to be added to the list of standard tests already done on Lake Vermilion. Sulfate testing is being added due to concern about high-sulfate water leaching from a tailings basin at a taconite mine near the headwaters of the Sandy River, which eventually flows into Lake

Vermilion. Sulfate testing was done on Lake Vermilion from 1986 to 1992, but was discontinued because it was not part of standard set of tests done during lake surveys. Comparing the 1986-1992 data to current information will help determine if changes in sulfate levels have occurred. Annual testing will also be useful to identify any trends in future sulfate levels.

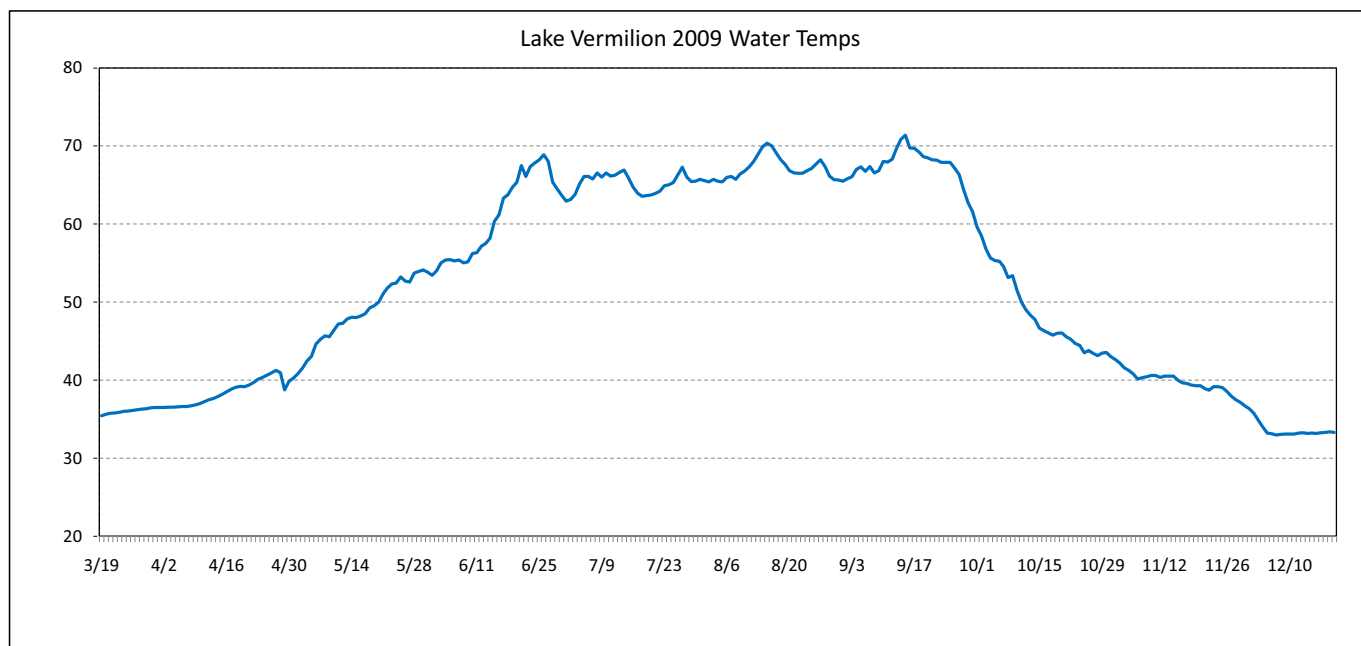
Duane Williams – Large Lake Specialist
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DNR Now Monitoring Water Temperatures on Lake Vermilion

The Dept. of Natural Resources, Section of Fisheries, has added year-round water temperature monitoring to the list of management activities on Lake Vermilion. An electronic temperature logger has been used at a private dock to record water temperatures during the open water season since 2004. The temperature logger is suspended from the end of the dock and records and stores temperature data at a pre-set level. We have been programming the loggers to record temperatures four times a day. The data can then be downloaded to a computer for analysis. Beginning in 2009, a temperature logger was set in the open water of Big Bay, far away from the shoreline. Recording water temperatures away from the shoreline is more accurate because water near the shore tends to warm and cool more quickly than the main body of the lake. The logger was set through a hole drilled in the ice last March and the location was recorded on a GPS unit. The logger was attached to a rope anchored to the bottom and then suspended about seven feet below the surface. An area of relatively low fishing pressure was selected to set the temperature logger; minimizing the chances an angler might hook it. This December we returned to the location using the GPS unit, cut several holes in the ice, located the logger using an underwater camera, and retrieved the logger and replaced it with another that will record temperatures for the following year. The process will be repeated each year and will provide water temperature data for the entire year. Average daily water

temperatures for the period March 19, 2009 through December 24, 2009 are displayed on the following graph. It is interesting to note the water temperature gradually increased under the ice during March and April, then abruptly declined when the ice went out on April 30. The sudden decline in water temperature at ice-out was due to mixing with colder water in the water column. Water temperatures steadily increased until June 26, when some of the cooler weather patterns common this past summer started. The warmest water temperature of the year occurred on September 15, reflecting how unusual this past summer was. Normally the warmest water temperatures occur in late July or early August. Water temperatures declined rapidly in late September and October when unusually cold weather moved in. Water temperatures stabilized in early December when the lake froze over. Having high quality temperature data for Lake Vermilion will be a useful management tool. Fish spawning, egg development, growth, and many other life history processes are closely related to water temperatures. It will also be valuable to develop a long-term database of Lake Vermilion water temperatures and monitor trends or changes in water temperatures.

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Living on the Edge: Ice - In, Ice - Out II

In the last quarterly newsletter I wrote about thin ice traveling, and that we had everything covered between the boats, ATV, snowmobile and hovercraft. Well... I forgot one important thing. My own inattention to detail, err... stupidity.

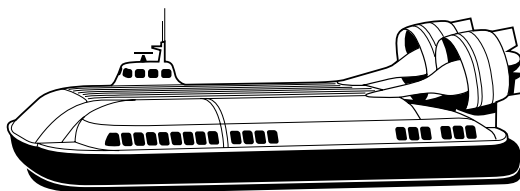
This past November "09" we were away from the lake, visiting, enjoying the holiday and hunting. We were anxious to be home, it was late in the afternoon (dark) when we finally arrived at our access property. We should have stayed with friends that night, but I really wanted to be at home.

The ice had not formed well yet, and in addition there was some powdery snow on top of the poor ice. It was a struggle, but we were able to cross the ice with the hovercraft. But in doing that, the hovercraft iced up with the water and snow spray. Propellers/airfoils don't work well when iced up — very little lift or thrust. The next day was cold and breezy, below zero wind chill — I didn't go anywhere, letting the ice get thicker.

Thursday morning, December 3, 2009, you

think I might have reason to remember this date? I started the hovercraft and although it didn't work well, it was enough to get across the ice. I pulled it up onto the shore and went to town for perishable supplies. I traversed the ice in the same track that we made a day and a half before. The hovercraft sweeps a nice clear track allowing the ice to freeze easier. I returned mid-afternoon and decided to

check ice thickness. The ice was a steady 3 to 3-1/2 inches out to 70 feet from shore. Thin, but I thought I could make it with the snowmobile. BOY! I wish I had checked a little further out. One hundred feet or so I found a very thin spot and broke through.



The sled sank quickly and I swam back the way I came, doing the breaststroke pushing ice chunks out of the way. Oh! By the way, an 18-pack of beer floats. When I got to solid ice I rolled up onto the surface and quickly walked to my small workshop cabin. I had a fire in the wood stove that morning, so it was a little warm. Luckily I had my hunting clothes still in the car, so I changed into dry clothes. After I warmed up and calmed down, I grabbed a long push pole, oars and some other tools I might

(Continued on Page 16)

SNOW FLEAS

What, snow has fleas? Where? Most of us have never noticed snow fleas, unique little creatures that are really very common, and right under our noses. Here's how to find them.

On a warm, sunny winter day, take a look at the base of a tree where the snow may have melted down to expose some leaves, or where the snow is shallow or hollowed out just a bit. There you'll find a sprinkling of what looks like "pepper" or "ashes" on the surface of the snow. Each speck you see is a snow flea. Once you find them, watch closely and see what they're up to.

Snow fleas are actually tiny insects which come out on warm, sunny days to eat decayed plant material or sap oozing from the tree. They hop around acting like fleas and that's where they get their name, snow "fleas." They're not fleas though, but actually an arthropod called Collembola (kol-LEM-bo-la) or commonly called springtails which measure about 1/8 inch (2mm) long. They have a very unique catapult system to get around. Two "tails" on their back end are tucked up underneath their belly, held in place by tiny "hooks." When the springtail wants to move, they just release the spring-loaded "tails," called furcula, which hit the snow and send them flying into the air. Since snow fleas can't control their flight or direction, they frequently land in the same spot or only a few inches away.

These are not just winter critters. You can find them any time of year in the forest living in the leaf litter stuck to the underside of leaves or on the surface of the soil, chomping on bits of rotting vegetation.

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

They also live on the surface of ponds. You'd have to look very closely to see them here because they blend in well and are so tiny.

Next time you're playing in the snow outside, or just going for a stroll, take a look and see if you can spy these incredible spring-loaded springtails, commonly called "snow fleas."

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*"We do not inherit the earth from  
our ancestors, we borrow it from  
our children."*

*~ Native American Proverb*  
~~~~~

Living on the Edge...

(Continued from page15)

need, put them in a 12-foot aluminum rowboat and pushed it across the ice to home. I ran behind the boat on my toes (you're lighter that way, don't ya know). Supper was interesting that night — the menu was cold shoulder and hot tongue. Not smart to scare the wife. I called a couple of good friends the next morning and in a few hours we had the sled out of the water, in a heated shop, drained the fluids and had it started and running. The seats took weeks to dry out.

It took awhile before I was willing to use a machine on the ice.

We are back to enjoying this great Lake Vermilion in the winter season. The wolves have been very active lately (mid-February), coming in close to the house. Watch your dogs.

Yes, I have to add: ICE IS NEVER SAFE, duh!

Gary Lundquist

VERMILION SAFE BOATER'S GUIDE

ALTHOUGH OPEN WATER IS STILL TWO MONTHS AWAY, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO BEGIN TAKING STEPS TO MAKE SURE YOUR BOAT IS SAFE AND COMFORTABLE.

The State of Minnesota and the U.S. Coast Guard mandate that certain items be carried on board while boats are under way. We will run an article about those requirements in our spring newsletter, just as the boating season gets under way. In addition to those items, however, the following are items that you may want to carry to make your time on the boat safer and more comfortable:

- * Paddles and / or oars (a necessity in small boats, a good idea in larger boats)
- * An anchor and line of the correct size and type for the size and weight of the boat
- * A bilge pump (or something to bail with; a one gallon plastic jug with the the bottom cut off and the cap left on works well)
- * Throw line coiled in a small bag, situated within easy reach (polypropylene is an ideal material because it floats and is available in highly visible colors)
- * Docking lines
- * Visual distress signals (flags, flares, distress lights or smoke signals)
- * A radio, VHF marine radio and mobile phone (important for emergencies and weather reports)
- * A compass, GPS device and suitable maps
- * Extra fuel, oil and lubricants normally used in your boat's operation
- * Tool kits (knife, multi-bit screw driver, set of wrenches, pliers, electrical tape, duct tape)
- * Extra fuses of the type used in your boat
- * Spare parts (spark plugs, spare propeller and special wrenches or tools)
- * Spare light bulbs (navigation lights, trailer lights, etc.)
- * Flashlight (with extra batteries and bulb)
- * Bottled drinking water for emergencies
- * First-aid kit in a waterproof case (adhesive bandages, gauze, pads, scissors, antiseptic lotions and ointments, aspirin substitute, an extra clean towel, bee sting kit)
- * Sun block lotion, extra clothing and accessories (T-shirt, cap, sun hat, sunglasses, rain poncho, mylar thermal blanket)
- * Map of Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion shore lunch / picnic sites (this can be found on and printed from the Club's website)
- * Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion game fish / invasive species laminated identification card



Taking a trip to a marine or sporting goods store to shop for some of these items is a fun way to pass some time during the late winter. While shopping, you might just see another product or piece of equipment which could make boating safer or more enjoyable. Setting aside some space in the basement or garage to stockpile some of these items will save precious time after ice-out when you are anxious to launch your boat and get out on that beautiful, blue water.

Dale Lundblad - Board Member

TAKING CARE OF OUR LAKE

St. Louis County and the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion share a goal: protecting and improving Lake Vermilion. The Environmental Services Department (ESD) appreciates this opportunity to provide information on ways that residents and Lake users can protect the Lake and its watershed.

Today we want to share some information about water use. In future articles, we will address subjects such as proper waste management, recycling, and other ways we can all protect that asset that is Lake Vermilion.

The average Minnesotan uses from 50-100 gallons of water each day. For those of us living in rural areas this water used for bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and flushing the toilet is all going into our septic system. The once modest cabin with hand carried water has been replaced with a modern 3-bedroom 2-bath home. With the convenience of turning on a faucet comes a substantial increase in water use.

There are approximately one-half million septic systems in Minnesota and the most common cause of septic system failure is excessive water entering the system. Conserving water is good for your pocketbook AND good for the environment, including the lakes we live on.

About 60 percent of water use in homes comes from bathrooms; to reduce this water:

- Repair leaking faucets and faulty toilets promptly
- Install low-flow toilets and showerheads; this reduces water use by one-half to two-thirds
- Take shorter showers; even with low-flow shower heads we use 2.5 gallons per minute
- Shut off water while brushing teeth and shaving

To conserve water in the kitchen:

- Only run full loads of dishes in the dishwasher
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator
- Do not allow water to run while washing dishes
- Do not use a garbage disposal

To conserve water in the laundry room:

- Use front-loading washers or sud-saver feature on top loading washer
- Wash full loads of clothes
- Wash laundry throughout the week, not all on one day
- Do not discharge water softener recharge water, furnace drip, or sump pumps to septic tanks

It is important to properly landscape the septic system area to reduce surface water infiltrating the septic system. Your septic system is designed to handle only the water coming from your home.

To do this:

- Direct downspouts and other surface water runoff away from your system.
- Irrigation systems and sprinklers should be located at least 10 feet from the edge of your system.

Septic systems are sized on the number of bedrooms and additional water use fixtures such as oversized bathtubs and garbage disposals. New MPCA rules will require 50 percent greater tank capacity for 4-bedroom homes, large tubs, and for garbage disposals. These larger tanks will help protect the drainfield. If you use your lake home primarily on weekends, have many guests at the cabin, or have large volume bathtubs it is a good idea to have extra septic tank capacity and time dose the drainfield. In this way the peak flow is stored and distributed to the drainfield over a longer period so as not to overload the system.

We recently saw a quote from Governor Pawlenty that read, "More so than any other state, the quality and quantity of water in Minnesota is central to our way of life. It helps define who we are and what we value." We all have a responsibility to do our part to minimize adverse impact on area lakes and streams.

Mike Kolb / Donna O'Conner - ESD

Volunteer Opportunities

Editor's Note: This new column will run on occasion to highlight volunteer opportunities for our members.

Website Editorial or Technical Support

We're looking for a couple volunteers to help keep our lake news and activity pages up-to-date. Tell us how we can improve our website. And then help us make it happen.

We're also looking for a volunteer with moderate computer skills who'd be comfortable using Microsoft Expression Web to update our web pages at the HTML level. Includes periodic link testing and compatibility testing with popular browsers.

For more info, contact Jeff Lovgren at 218-753-2413 or lovgren@frontiernet.net.

Loon Counters

The 28th consecutive year for monitoring the loon population on the entire area of Lake Vermilion is coming up in mid-July, 2010. On our 21 territories we sometimes need alternates, and occasionally territories to be filled by volunteers. This is not only important to our members, but also valuable information for the Minnesota DNR in studying the fluctuation in loon populations and the causes of same.

If you are interested, please contact Mardy Jackson at 218-753-3549 or send a note to 2065 County Road 77, Tower, MN 55790.

Promotion/Publicity Committee Members

We are looking for two volunteers to serve on the newly-formed Promotion/Publicity Committee made up of board members Mardy Jackson, Renee Aro, Ed Tausk, and Mel Hintz. The goal of this committee is to develop new approaches to promote SCLV membership by publicizing our activities aimed at protecting and improving the Lake. The committee is also responsible for updating the Power Point presentation about our organization. The committee will meet two or three times during the next nine months with the initial meeting aimed at brainstorming new promotional ideas.

For more info, contact Mel Hintz at 218-753-2401 or mehintz@frontiernet.net.

Invasive Species Boat Inspectors

Help your club inspect incoming boats for invasive species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and spiny waterflea four times a season during holidays and the fishing opener. A shift is usually two hours in length. It is not difficult and you will receive some on-the-job training. To do a better job of protecting the lake, more people are needed.

For more info, contact Bob Wilson at 218-753-5544 or rwilson2@frontiernet.net (east end), or Gary Whitenack at 218-666-2153 or aaw1947@aol.com (west end).

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

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

☐ 2010 New Member ☐ 2010 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 _____

☐ Every year, use seasonal address from:
Month _____ Day ____ until Month _____ Day ____

☐ Next year only, use seasonal address from:
Month _____ Day ____ until Month _____ Day ____

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. 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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