

# the vermilion sportsman



*"Published quarterly by The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.,  
A non-profit organization, founded in 1968 and dedicated to the improvement of Lake Vermilion"*

**Vol. 33, No. 3    1800 MEMBERS    COOK & TOWER, MN**

**AUGUST 2007**

## President's Message

Once again Mother Nature is making fools out of anyone who tries to predict! Early May saw Vermilion close to its lowest level in history and six weeks later, in mid-June, saw it close to its highest level. Who would have thought it? The fishing reports have been just as mixed! For the first time in years we've had boats anchored and trolling in front of our dock, and believe it or not they've been catching fish! Now everybody knows that you never fish in front of your own shoreline! IT JUST ISN'T DONE! That's why we have the big boats with big motors to get us across to the other side of the lake where the "Big Ones" are! I guess we may have to try some dock fishing again!

Planning is complete for our 39th Annual Dinner and Meeting August 10. It promises to be a fun night with John Stetson being the featured speaker. Lots of good door prizes and maybe even a good Norwegian joke if I can find one! Our thanks go to Paula Bloczynski and Rick Borken for their efforts in getting it arranged.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the Vermilion Plan is still moving ahead ever so slowly. Enough said.

Alan Cibazar, president of A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc. in Brainerd gave a presentation and proposal to USX and Breitung Supervisors for Aerial Imaging and Surveying of USX's proposed subdivision called the 3 Bays on Vermilion. This survey would identify for USX areas that would be susceptible to environmental damage and enable them to avoid those areas when building the infrastructure for the subdivision. Alan also gave a presentation to the Greenwood Township Wastewater Committee. I sat in on both presentations and was duly impressed by Alan and what his company could do for Lake Vermilion. More on this in subsequent newsletters.

Thanks to Bob Wilson's efforts, I do believe that we are getting our message out about "invasive

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

## **39th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING Friday, August 10 Fortune Bay Resort**

*Social Hour at 5 p.m. – Buffet at 6 p.m.*

*Adults - \$15 Children - \$7 (12 and younger)*

*Reservations necessary, by Monday, Aug. 6,  
to one of the following members:*

### **COOK:**

*Ray and Vi Harris, 666-2300*

*Dale and Nan Lundblad, 666-2316*

*or E-mail: [lundblad@accessmn.com](mailto:lundblad@accessmn.com)*

### **TOWER:**

*Paula Bloczynski, 753-2107*

*Walt and Marcie Moe, 753-3816*

*John Stetson, expedition manager for  
last winter's Global Warming 101 Expedition  
across Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic,  
will be our featured speaker*

species"! Have you noticed the billboard next to the Kountry Krossroads tavern on Highway 169 right across from the Pike-Sandy Co-op? That's one that the Sportsmen's Club sponsored along with the DNR, Sea Grant and the Resort Association. We're going to try to get a billboard just north of Virginia on Highway 53 next year so we'll be able to catch traffic to the Cook end also. I'm sure you have noticed that the State is stepping up their efforts to get the invasive species message out statewide.

Another little item that we are now starting to get

(Continued on Page 11)

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# Arctic explorer John Stetson will headline 39th annual meeting Friday, August 10, at Fortune Bay

Our Sportsmen's Club's 39th Annual Meeting and Dinner is set for Friday, August 10, at Fortune Bay Resort. This is the 11th year we have had the dinner meeting at Fortune Bay and, as in past years, the meeting will be held in the resort's second floor ballroom.

The featured speaker this year is John Stetson who served as expedition manager for last winter's Global Warming 101 Expedition, led by Will Steger.

**Please make your reservations by Monday, August 6.**

The following board members will take your reservations: COOK: Ray and Vi Harris, 666-2300 or Dale and Nan Lundblad, 666-2316. TOWER: Paula Bloczynski, 753-2107 or Walt and Marcie Moe, 753-3816.

We're planning a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by the buffet at 6. Dinner prices are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children age 12 and younger.

After dinner the business meeting agenda will include reports from board members and officers along with election of board members. This year we will be electing members to fill the 3-year board positions currently held by Rick Borken, Frank Siskar, Walt Moe and Paula Bloczynski. The nominating committee will present a slate of board candidates at the annual meeting. The slate will include those board members seeking re-election plus nominees for those who have chosen to resign from the

board. We will also be asking the membership to confirm Judy Moline as a board member. Judy was appointed by the board at their June meeting as a replacement for board member Marti Wivell who resigned in May. Board nominations can also be made from the floor at the annual meeting, with the nominee's permission.

Other features at the meeting will be the ever-popular door prize drawings and the opportunity for members and guests to talk about matters of personal concern regarding club business or problems around the lake.

The club's annual dinner meeting is always casual — come as you are in vacation attire. This is our one big get-together of the year, and we all look forward to meeting old and new friends from around the lake.

We hope to see you on **Friday, August 10**. Please mark your calendar, phone in your reservation and plan to join us at Fortune Bay Resort for the Sportsmen's Club's 39th annual dinner meeting.

— Paula Bloczynski, Secretary

## Polar explorer John Stetson will be featured at this year's annual meeting, August 10

John Stetson, professional dog sled racer and wilderness guide from Duluth, will be the featured speaker at the club's 39th annual dinner meeting August 10 at Fortune Bay Resort.

Stetson was the expedition manager for last winter's Global Warming 101 Expedition, headed by Will Steger. The expedition's 1200 mile route across Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic was traveled by a team of explorers and educators whose goal was to learn firsthand about climate change. The four-month dog sled expedition wound through Inuit villages where the team met with villagers and reported back their cultural observations of climate change. The progress of the expedition was followed online at [www.global-warming101.com](http://www.global-warming101.com).

John Stetson has traveled over 100,000 miles worldwide by dog sled. He and his Alaskan huskies have won numerous dog sled races, including the 2005 and 2006 John Beargrease Mid-Distance Marathon and the 2005 Hudson Bay Quest.

## Yodel Who?

Male common loons yodel to mark territory. When they change their territory, they also change their call, according to a recent report in the journal "Animal Behaviour." Cornell University biologists studied loons in Michigan and Wisconsin and found that each male had a unique yodel he used year after year — unless he switched to a new lake. Then he adopted a new yodel that helped distinguish him from the previous resident.



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## BOATING SAFETY CLASS

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The Lake Vermilion Sportsmen's Club in conjunction with the Ash River Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a class on Boat Safety. The class will be scheduled for a Saturday in April 2008. Tim Engrav, an active member of the Ash River Coast Guard Auxiliary, will be the instructor for the course.

The course is approximately eight hours long and will be taught in one day. Upon completion of the course a certificate will be given to those who attend. Several insurance companies will give those individuals who

have a certificate from this course a discount on their boat insurance.

The course covers eight major topics: Introduction to Boating; Boating Laws; Personal Safety Equipment; Safe Boat Handling; Navigation; Boating Problems; Trailering, Storing and Protecting Your Boat; Hunting and Fishing; Waterskiing, and River Boat-

ing. This course will help solve some of the boating problems that may arise on our beautiful lake.

The fee for the course will be approximately \$40. Final fee is yet to be determined, as the cost of the books is not known at this time. The fee will include the course book, coffee and lunch.

If interested in taking this course, please fill out the pre-registration form below and return to the address provided. When final arrangements are completed, those who have pre-registered will be contacted to complete the registration and payment of fee. If significant interest is shown by this pre-registration, a second date in April will be made available.

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOATING SAFETY CLASS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN FORM TO: Mardy Jackson  
SCLV Membership Records  
P.O. Box 696  
Tower, MN 55790

### SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WEB SITE

<http://www.LakeVermilion.com/SCLV>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS 2006-2007

(All Area Codes 218)

### COOK (55723)

Ray Harris, **Vice Pres.** 7341 Oak Narrows Rd. .... 666-2300  
Dale Lundblad ..... 9082 Little Sweden Rd. .... 666-2316 (B.I.C.  
666-5352)  
Ed Zottola ..... 2866 Vermilion Drive ..... 666-5542  
Marti Wivell ..... 9145 Voss Road ..... 666-2888  
Ed Tausk ..... Vermilion Dam Lodge ..... 666-5418

### TOWER (55790)

Bob Wilson, **Treas.** ..... 1501 Echo Pt. .... 753-5544  
Paula Bloczynski, **Sec.** ..... 4443 Big Rock Rd. .... 753-2107  
Mel Hintz ..... 6119 Pike Bay Drive ..... 753-2401  
Mardy Jackson, **Mem. Rec.** ..... 2065 County Road 77 ..... 753-3549  
Frank Siskar ..... 5860 Echo Point. .... 753-4521  
Walt Moe, **Pres.** ..... 3331 Nisen Dr. .... 753-3816

**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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# Sportsmen's Club Awards Two \$1,000 Scholarships

by Frank A. Siskar

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The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion awarded two scholarships to 2007 high school graduates Sara Anne Kregness and Joe Frauenshuh. These awards are given to applicants who excel in leadership qualities, scholarship and careers or advocations that connect with conservation or the environment.

Sara, who was graduated from Tower-Soudan High School, received the scholarship in honor of the memory of Robert B. Olson who was a Tower civic leader and Lake Vermilion resident. Olson was an avid hunter, fisherman, outdoorsman, and a Sportsmen's Club director.

Sara is planning on attending Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California, to earn a degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. Besides being an excellent student, Sara lists some of her outside activities: "My passions include sports, music, theater, and student government. I have coached and refereed the elementary school volleyball and basketball programs. I volunteer my time in the school office, and I was a student aide to the social studies teacher. Teachers see me as a positive, responsible and enthusiastic influence in the school."

Sara was selected by the Tower Legion Auxiliary to be the area's Girls' State representative which encouraged her to become an election judge for local, state, and national elections at Greenwood Township. She was involved in Habitat for Humanity and roadside cleanup programs.

Sara indicated her connection to Lake Vermilion with these words: "My communities (Greenwood Township and Tower/Soudan) are very important to me. I care about the people who live here, and I care about the natural beauty that surrounds me. It is my hope that as a result of my college education, I will be able to make a positive difference in my community and the environment."

Joe, who was graduated from Cook High School, received the scholarship in honor of Cook civic leader Barbara Shook. The principal of the Cook Schools, Kevin Abrahamson, highly praised Joe with these words: "Joe is one of the finest young men I have encountered in the 27 years I have been in education. I cannot express strongly enough what an outstanding and deserving candidate Joseph Frauenshuh is regarding your scholarship. He is an outstanding individual who stands out from his peers through his strength of character, compassion, and his 'lead by example' personality."

Joe is pursuing a career in environmental law and business with hopes to attend Michigan Tech. Besides being an avid outdoorsman, Joe is an Eagle Scout and a member of the National Honor Society. While in high school, Joe participated in Knowledge Bowl, Math League, band, cross country, football, basketball, track, and the student council.

The Sportsmen's Club is proud of the achievements and service orientation of these two most deserving applicants. We know that they will make a difference in their communities which border Lake Vermilion.

## Sportsmen's Club 2004 scholarship winner graduates with honors from Winona State



James M. Hofmann, who was the 2004 winner of the Barb Shook Scholarship, graduated magna cum laude on May 4th from Winona State University. James received his BS degree with a major in biology, and will be pursuing a master's degree in aquatic science. James's ambition is to teach life sciences, and he hopes to live and work in the Lake Vermilion area. He is the son of Julie and Steven Robertson of Cook.

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# *“Invasive Species”*

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by Bob Wilson

**NEWS RELEASE** — Governor Tim Pawlenty has proclaimed June 23-30 as “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” week in Minnesota. See this News Release on Page 8.

**THE BILLBOARD** — Remember the last issue of the Vermilion Sportsman? I mentioned we were partnering with the Minnesota DNR in St. Paul in renting a billboard on Highway 169 opposite the Pike Sandy Co-op. The artwork went up the week before the opening of fishing season and displays the national Invasive Species theme, “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.” Not long after the sign was up, the Lake Vermilion Resort Association agreed to cover half of the Club’s costs associated with the billboard. We are extremely appreciative of this financial assistance and salute the Resort Association for their participation in this worthy effort. Clean boats and trailers benefit us all.



Check out the sign in color on Highway 169 opposite the Pike Sandy Co-op.

**BOAT INSPECTIONS** — Your Club conducted boat inspections on May 11 & 12, the opening of fishing season, and again on May 24, 25 and/or 26 in connection with Memorial Weekend. The public ramps where the inspections took place were Timbuktu, The Landing, Moccasin Point and Hoodoo Point. The opening of fish

*Continued on Pages 6 & 7*



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# *“Invasive Species”... Continued from Page 5*

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ing season offered an opportunity for us to “spread the word” without actually worrying much about the actual inspection. Most boats were coming out of winter storage and were going boat fishing for the first time in 2007. We were able to talk with 175 boat owners that weekend, the largest single group of boaters we had ever visited in a two-day period.

On Memorial weekend, Club volunteers inspected 89 boats and visited with the owners. Most boaters are happy that we are on the job and commend us for taking the time to help keep exotics from infiltrating Lake Vermilion. None of our ramp captains and volunteers reported sighting any exotic species, a most heartening result considering a few of the boats had previously been in Minnetonka, Lake Superior, Mille Lacs and other lakes and rivers known to harbor various exotics. We planned to be out again around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week... If you want to join our team of boat inspectors contact one of the board members listed in the newsletter. We would welcome more help.

**RADIO-PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)** — WELY out of Ely, MN has agreed to broadcast an Invasive Species Public Service Announcement by Ron Gardenhire, the Minnesota Twins manager, once during each Twins broadcast and they air all of them. Thanks to WELY and the manager, Bill Roloff, for donating this air time and acting to reduce this serious, potential problem to all of the lakes in their listening area. WELY is truly a good neighbor.

**PLASTIC ID CARD** — The club recently completed a major project in designing, developing and producing laminated plastic ID cards displaying Lake Vermilion’s Sport Fish and Regulations on one side and the common Invasive Species on the other. Nan Lundblad did the design and development work with help from Duane Williams at our local Tower DNR. A contribution of pictures came from the Sea Grant organization and final production and a generous contribution of time and material came from the Cook News-Herald. One thousand copies are being made. The local DNR is providing \$500 to cover half of our costs. Special thanks to the DNR and to Nan Lundblad for a great job.

A smaller black & white version of both sides of the card is shown on Page 7. The actual size is 6” by 9” and they are in color. We give them away at boat inspections, but if you wish to order one by mail, please enclose a dollar (check) for handling and postage when you write to Mardy Jackson, Membership Records. The cards will fit in most tackle boxes and boat storage compartments. The boaters who have received them so far have thought they are very informative, handy and useful. See you in the next issue.

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

**HELP PROTECT LAKE VERMILION**

# INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH *Unlawful to transport!*



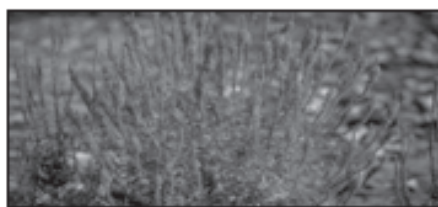
## EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

May form dense mats in waters less than 15 feet deep that interfere with fishing, boating and swimming. Found in waters less than 20 feet deep. 3-5 feathery leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on stems. Each leaf with 12-21 leaflet pairs. A native look-alike, northern water milfoil, has fewer (5-10) leaflet pairs.



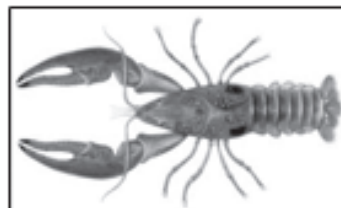
## ZEBRA MUSSEL

Damages ecosystems. Attaches to hard surfaces. Costs US \$ billions each year. 1-1/4" to 1-1/2" long. Juveniles about the size of peppercorns. All females dark & light colored stripes. Black to brownish D-shaped shell. Sperm heads used for attachment.



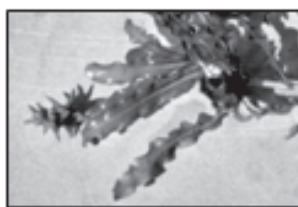
## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

A hardy perennial which can rapidly choke wetlands. Height 3-7 ft., spike covered with many flowers. Flower has several pink-purple petals. Downy, smooth-edged leaves; leaves usually paired, opposite. Mature plants have many stems that grow from a root crown. Dead stems stand until spring. Already present in Lake Vermilion.



## RUSTY CRAYFISH

Can harm sport fish, grazes on and eliminates aquatic plants, displaces and can hybridize with native crayfish. Adult 3-5 inches long. Claws larger & smoother than other crayfish. Carapace with pair of dark, rust-colored spots. Already present in Lake Vermilion.



## CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

Forms weed mats that shade out native plants. Grows from the shores to depths of up to 15 ft. Leaves somewhat stiff & crinkled, 1/2" wide to 2-3" long, arranged alternately around stem. Has small "leaf" visible along edge of leaf. Already present in Lake Vermilion.

Report all invasive species to the DNR if found in inland waters.



## SPINY WATER FLEA

Competes with native fish for food and fish gear. Difficult to distinguish without magnification, 1/4"-5/8" total length. 1-4 pairs of barbs on tail. Prominent, large, dark eyespot. Clumps look & feel like gelatin. Females produce eggs that resist drying. IMPOSSIBLE TO ERADICATE.



## LAKE VERMILION SPORT FISH SPECIES

2007 Fishing Regulations



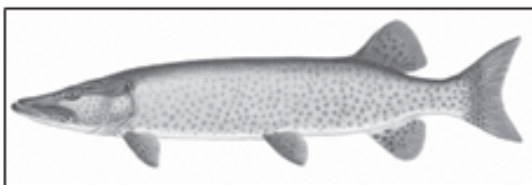
## WALLEYE

Special Regulation! 17"-26" protected slot. Possession limit—4 fish, may include 1 over 26"



## NORTHERN PIKE

Special Regulation! 24"-36" protected slot. Possession limit—3 fish, may include 1 over 36"



## MUSKIE

Special Regulation! Minimum length—48" Possession limit—1 fish

## A GOOD WAY TO TELL A MUSKELLUNGE from a NORTHERN PIKE



6 or more pores on each side under jaw



5 or fewer pores on each side under jaw



## YELLOW PERCH

Daily limit—20 fish. Possession limit—40 fish



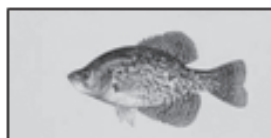
## LARGEMOUTH BASS

Possession limit—6 fish total, including smallmouth bass



## SMALLMOUTH BASS

Possession limit—6 fish total, including largemouth bass



## BLACK CRAPPIE

Possession limit—10 fish



## BLUEGILL

Possession limit—20 fish

Walleye, largemouth & smallmouth bass, bluegill, black crappie & yellow perch artwork by Diane Jorgensen/USFWS

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# DNR officers to focus on invasive species during Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Week

As the Fourth of July approaches, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is asking boaters and anglers to keep up the good work of minimizing the spread of aquatic invasive species. To increase awareness about this important statewide issue, Gov. Tim Pawlenty has proclaimed June 23-30, as Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! Week in Minnesota.

"Public action is key to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species that hitchhike on boats and equipment," said Jay Rendall, DNR invasive species program coordinator. "The potential to spread aquatic invasive species increases each year and Minnesotans need to continue with their high level of action."

DNR conservation officers will be working extra hours enforcing the invasive species laws during the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! Week.

"Boaters and anglers who have aquatic hitchhikers on their boats and gear can be cited with penalties from \$50 to \$1,000," according to Maj. Al Heidebrink, operations manager for the Division of Enforcement.

It is illegal to transport aquatic plants, prohibited invasive species such as zebra mussels, and water from infested waters on public roads. Boaters are required to drain water when leaving infested waters and to remove the drain plugs when leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters.

By taking a few simple steps when leaving a lake or river, boaters and anglers can do their part to help stop the spread of aquatic hitchhikers such as Eurasian water-milfoil and zebra mussels to the state's water bodies. Those steps include removing all aquatic plants from boats and trailers and emptying water from live wells and bait containers.

Those who leave lakes and rivers, which the DNR has listed as infested waters, need to be especially careful. Anglers who have live bait and want to

keep it should drain any infested water from the bait container and replace it with tap or spring water. Boaters should also remember to dispose of unwanted live bait including worms and minnows in the trash rather than dumping them in the lakes and woods.



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

Signs are posted at public access points to identify infested waters. More information about aquatic invasive species and a list of infested waters can be found in the 2007 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet. A complete list of infested waters is available at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological\\_services/pubs\\_invasives.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/pubs_invasives.html).

The aquatic invasive species vary in different areas of the state. Spiny waterfleas are in many lakes and rivers along the Minnesota and Canadian border. Those waters include Lake of the Woods, Rainy River, Rainy Lake, Crane Lake, Namakan Lake, Kabetogama Lake, Little Vermilion, and Sand Point Lake.

Inland waters known to be infested with zebra mussels include Lake Ossawinnamakee and Rice Lake near Brainerd, Mille Lacs Lake, and Lake Zumbro north of Rochester. The Mississippi River from its confluence with the Pine River down to the Iowa border also contains zebra mussels. New Zealand mudsnails, ruffe, round goby, and zebra mussels are present in the Duluth area. Eurasian water-milfoil is present in 194 lakes statewide with most in or near the Twin Cities metro area.

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! is a national branded campaign being implemented by DNR, USFWS, Minnesota Sea Grant Program and others in Minnesota. The campaign Web site is at: <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>.



## Chapter 5. Aquatic Frog Calling Survey

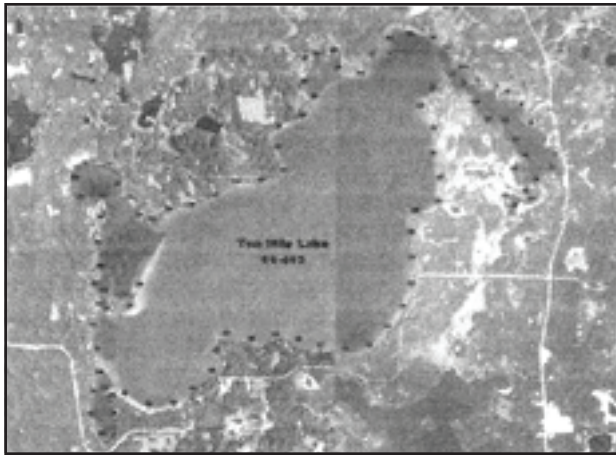
An aquatic frog survey is conducted from mid-June to mid-July. The methodology follows the Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey (MFTCS) protocol, which was an outgrowth of the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program. Information on MFTCS can be found at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/frogtoad\\_survey/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/frogtoad_survey/index.html)

Several life-cycle characteristics make mink frogs (*Rana septentrionalis*) and green frogs (*Rana clamitans*) ideal indicator species of lakeshore habitats. First, mink and green frogs are shoreline-dependent species that inhabit nearly all types of permanent water in this region. Adult male frogs are easily surveyed by visual and auditory detection. They establish and defend distinct territories, and tend to remain along the periphery of lakes and ponds throughout the summer breeding season or in areas of shallow water with emergent vegetation. Green frogs breed from late May to mid-August and mink frogs begin their calling in late May with the breeding season extending from late June to early August (Breckenridge 1944), so a summer calling survey is an effective technique to determine presence and abundance.



The entire shoreline of each lake is surveyed, with boat stops at a minimum distance of 400 meters apart. For each lake, listening stations are established using GIS. Plots are evenly spaced around the lakeshore (Figure 14), and shoreline shape and total shoreline length are used to determine the number of stations. A minimum of 100 stations will be established on each large lake.

Figure 14. Sampling stations. Example, Ten Mile Lake with stations every 400 meters along shore.



Surveys are conducted between sunset and 1:00 a.m., and if conditions deteriorate such that rain showers or breezy conditions substantially affect hearing ability, a survey is stopped. At each listening station, a biologist listens for several minutes for frog and toad calls. An estimate of the abundance of frogs and a calling index is recorded for both mink and green frogs. The calling intensity of all other amphibian species heard is also recorded. The field data sheet used for the survey is provided in Appendix 10.

The abundance of green and mink frogs at each station is classed as:

1. 1-9 individuals
2. 10-20 individuals
3. 20-100 individuals
4. >100 individuals.

The call index value for each amphibian species heard is recorded according to the following:

1. individuals can be counted (silence between calls)
2. calls of individuals can be distinguished, but some overlap of calls
3. full chorus (calls constant, continuous, and overlapping).

Aquatic frog abundance and call indices for each site were calculated as the sum of the abundance class for each species (range 0-8) and the sum of the call index class for each species (range 0-6), respectively.

# Living with Wildlife – Beaver

Eleanor Burkett, University of Minnesota Extension, 888-241-0720, burke044@umn.edu

Beaver are both loved and despised. On one hand, they are great conservationists -- doing their part to create important habitat for fish, waterfowl, birds, frogs, and mammals. On the other hand, when they plug culverts causing road flooding, damage forests and home landscapes, or cause flooding where not wanted, they are considered a nuisance. They can also spread disease-causing organisms such as *giardia*.

Beaver were nearly trapped to extinction around 1900. They made a comeback and are found throughout most of North America. The habitats beaver often create are wetlands, which add to the diversity and abundance of plant and animal species. Wetlands also help to slow spring runoff, reduce downstream flooding and erosion, and filter sediments and pollutants.

Beaver live anywhere they can find a year-round source of water that doesn't fluctuate too dramatically or move too fast. They build dams using trees, fencing materials, rocks, planks, wire, mud, and just about anything they can find. In Minnesota, beaver lodges must be deep enough to allow for entering and exiting under winter's ice. Lodges can house anywhere from four to ten animals in a family group. These large rodents are herbivores, feeding mainly on tree saplings, preferring fast-growing species such as aspen and willow, but will also feed on grasses, agricultural crops and aquatic plants. They like to forage near water and store food supplies underwater for winter feeding. Beaver can have a great impact on an ecosystem because they:

- are the only animals other than humans that can cut down mature trees,
- concentrate their tree felling and foraging in the relatively narrow band of forest surrounding their ponds, and
- remove far more vegetation than they consume because they use it for building dams and lodges, as well as for food. (Haemig, 2006)

In preparing shelter and food for winter, beaver tend to cause the greatest nuisance for property owners in the fall.

If beaver are causing you problems, it is best to find a solution to live with them. Often when trapped and removed, other beaver will quickly move into the area. They can migrate from miles away, and survivors will reproduce to the habitat's capacity.



Photo credit: Steven Wayne Rotsch/Painet Inc.

If beaver are eating your trees, it is best to build fences around the trees using hardware cloth or 2- by 4-inch wire fencing (be sure to allow space around the tree for growth); chicken wire is okay for small trees, but needs to be placed near the tree to prevent beaver from crushing them, then eventually replaced as the tree grows. Low fences can also be used to protect a group of trees and does not necessarily need to surround the entire area because beaver dislike being away from water. Removing small woody vegetation may help make the area less desirable. Removing dams may discourage beaver, but check with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for assistance and permission if necessary.

More information about beaver management, visit the Purdue University Web site: [www.entm.purdue.edu/Wildlife/Wildlife%20Information.htm#Beaver](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Wildlife/Wildlife%20Information.htm#Beaver).

References:  
"Beavers: Wetlands and Wildlife." *The Beaver*, 2002.  
Online: <http://www.beaversww.org/beaver.html>, accessed February 4, 2007.

Haemig, P.D. *Beaver and Trees*, 2006. Ecology. Info #19.  
Online: <http://www.ecology.info/beaver-trees.htm>, accessed February 4, 2007.

*Living with Wildlife: Beaver*. Online:  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/is/living/beavers.pdf>, accessed February 4, 2007.

[wrc.coafes.umn.edu](http://wrc.coafes.umn.edu)

[www.seagrant.umn.edu](http://www.seagrant.umn.edu)

[www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu)

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



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## • President's Message

(Continued from front page)

distributed thanks to Dale Lundblad is a laminated card showing the fish species in Vermilion on one side and the invasive species on the other side. We have long talked about how to identify them, but now we have a picture readily available to help make sure! I hope we won't have to "edit" this card too much except to make a big black X.

Part of our mission statement is to promote "Boating Safety." Along those lines we are exploring the possibility of sponsoring a boating safety course conducted by the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. We're in the process of determining the interest of the membership and working out the details of sponsorship. Spring of 2008 will be the target for getting this course under way. With more and bigger boats speeding "across the lake" we see the need for such training. We have been remiss in not pursuing this before, probably because we did not see the need when a 16-foot boat powered by a 40-horse engine was BIG! Ed Zottola will be heading up this program and we'll have more information this fall and winter. Also, Ray Harris now has all the navigation lights converted over to solar charged ones, eliminating the need for battery changing. There has been another incident of someone removing/destroying a navigation light because they didn't like its location or interfered with them in some way. If anyone has information about this incident or feels that the light hinders their enjoyment of the lake, please let us know.

I want to welcome Judy Moline to the board, replacing Marti Wivell who was overcome by her workload as a lawyer. Even though Marti will not be participating as a board member, she has pledged to remain active in the SCLV affairs. According to our bylaws, Judy will be serving until she can be formally elected at the annual meeting. Also, it's my sad duty to report that Rick Borken will not be standing for re-election to the SCLV Board at the annual meeting. We will have a slate of people to be elected at our annual meeting on August 10, 2007.

Congratulations to Sara Kregness (Tower) and Joe Frauenshuh (Cook), recipients of \$1,000 scholarships from the SCLV. It's great to see young people taking an active interest in our environment. We wish them the best of everything in their future!

Greenwood Township has formed a long-range planning committee that some of you may be interested in sitting in on. We'll have more on this later.

One final note, have you noticed and wondered

about the lack of baby ducks on the lake? As a continuing effort to educate, I suggest you download a publication from the DNR entitled "An Assessment and Rationale for the Alternative Shoreland Management Standards" by Paul Radomski, Research Scientist.

[http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/shoreland/ALT6120\\_Companion\\_Report.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/ALT6120_Companion_Report.pdf)

I think you will find this interesting reading! No it's not the muskies either! Since the "Alternate Shoreland Management Standards" are not mandatory, I urge you to help convince the local government authorities to voluntarily use them.

I also have a draft copy of another DNR publication titled "Sensitive Lakeshore Area Identification Manual: A comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Minnesota's Lakeshores" by Paul Radomski and others. Being a draft copy this is not yet available online, but should be shortly. One interesting item for determining the lakeshore habitat is a Frog Calling Survey described in Chapter 5 and excerpted in an article in this issue. If anyone wishes a copy from me I can e-mail it to you. It's about 60 pages long so if enough people want a copy, please let me know.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting. Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Walt Moe, President

**"There is certainly  
something in fishing  
that tends to produce a  
gentleness of spirit, a  
pure serenity of mind."**

WASHINGTON IRVING

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**Thank you.**

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