

the vermilion sportsman



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

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Proposed State Park on Lake Vermilion

by Terri Yearwood

Terri Yearwood has worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for 18 years in the areas of strategic planning, stakeholder partnerships and project design and management. She is currently serving as Project Manager for the Lake Vermilion state park proposal on behalf of the Commissioner's office. She is also the Operations Manager in the DNR's Division of Ecological Resources. Terri has written this article for the Sportsmen's Club newsletter to keep our members up-to-date on this very topical and visionary project.

Lake Vermilion was translated by the French from "Onamuni" which means "Lake of the Sunset Glow" to the Latin word "vermilion" for a color ranging from yellow to red. In the 1940's the National Geographic Society declared Lake Vermilion one of the top ten most scenic lakes in the United States. It still is today. Comprising over 40,000 acres, it is the 5th largest lake within Minnesota.

In July of this year Governor Tim Pawlenty announced a proposal to create a new state park on Lake Vermilion. It would be Minnesota's first new major state park in almost 30 years. "Minnesota is a great state in part because of our beautiful natural resources and the opportunity for our citizens to enjoy them," Governor Pawlenty said. "Protecting and enjoying those resources is a chance to do permanent good."

How did this opportunity come about? U. S. Steel currently owns the property under consideration.

It encompasses approximately 3,000 acres of undeveloped land, including 5 miles of shoreline and meets the criteria for a state park of "protecting extensive areas of the state that possess natural and cultural resources that exemplify the best that Minnesota has to offer." The property is located on the southeast portion of the lake and consists of second growth forest and wetlands with lakeshore adjacent to Stunz, Mattson, Cable, and Armstrong Bays. It is adjacent to Soudan Underground Mine State Park. Their park management plan, developed through a public planning process in 2002, stated to "continue to work with U.S. Steel Group concerning the possibility of

(Continued on Page 2)

2008 Annual Meeting will be August 9

It's not too early to mark your calendar for the 2008 Annual Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, August 9 at Fortune Bay Resort.

The 2008 Annual Dinner Meeting will be a special evening for the club, as we'll be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Sportsmen's Club's founding in 1968.

Mark Holsten, Minnesota DNR Commissioner, will be with us that evening, helping us mark the occasion, so please make a note of the date and plan to be with us on Saturday, August 9 at Fortune Bay Resort. There will be more information about the meeting in our spring newsletter.

— Paula Bloczynski, Secretary

Proposed State Park on Lake Vermilion... *Continued from front page*



View across Cable Bay, Lake Vermilion

adding the properties east of the park to the statutory park boundary.”

U. S. Steel has an existing residential development plan for the property called the “Three Bays of Vermilion,” which includes private home sites, roads and water/sewer services. U. S. Steel has agreed to allow the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to pursue funding for the property while they continue to work on their existing development plan. The DNR will seek approval during the 2008 legislative session for a funding package to acquire and develop the park. The state has until August 1, 2008 to reach an agreement with U.S. Steel to purchase the property.

The proposal includes developing a flagship state park that would showcase northern Minnesota’s classic lake country, provide a wide range of year-

round public activities, and expand the experiences and knowledge of area visitors to the natural and cultural resources of the Lake Vermilion area. In combination with the facilities at Soudan Underground Mine (historic mining experience and the University of Minnesota MINOS project), the park would enhance the local and regional economy and provide a major attraction for the Iron Range. There are many potential public-private partnership opportunities with the Lake Vermilion state park:

- o The park would provide for a sustainable tourism base, provide jobs, and perpetuate the natural state of the property.
- o It would complement the private sector by attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors who will eat, rent equipment, and buy goods from local businesses,

and provide exciting day use activities for the resort community.

- o It could provide winterized facilities to accommodate hunters, anglers, skiers, snow-mobilers, and snow-shoers.
- o The park could partner with boat tours and provide overnight camping opportunities for rental houseboat operators.
- o And the park could provide opportunities to partner-market with the Cook, Tower, and Ely area and Fortune Bay Casino attractions, such as golf, dining, and cultural resource attractions.

Mark Holsten, Commissioner of Natural Resources, has created an Advisory Task Force to provide recommendations by January 15, 2008 on the range of opportunities, desired future resource conditions, and types of experiences at the proposed state park on Lake Vermilion. The Task Force report will form the basis for a concept plan that will be presented to the legislature.

Commissioner's Advisory Task Force **Membership**

Tim Tomsich, Breitung Township Supervisor
Charles Tekautz, Breitung Township Supervisor
Stephen Abrahamson, Mayor of Tower
Dave Danz, Cook City Council Member
Chuck Novak, Mayor of Ely
Mike Forsman, St. Louis County Commissioner
Bob Wilson, Sportsman's Club of Lake Vermilion
Jay Schelde, Lake Vermilion Resort Association
Nancy Larson, Stuntz Bay Boat House Association
Rod McPeak, Citizen at Large
Mark Ludlow, Ludlow's Island Resort
Mary Somnis, Iron Range Resources
Corey Strong, Bois Forte Tribal Government — Nett Lake
Dorian Grilley, Executive Director Minnesota Parks & Trails Council
Tim Campbell, Explore Minnesota Tourism
Courtland Nelson, DNR State Parks Director
Craig Engwall, DNR Northeast Region Director
Paul Maurer, DNR State Parks Regional Manager

The Task Force met twice, September 11 and October 11, in the Breitung Township Fire Hall in Soudan to explore issues and opportunities associated with a new state park at Lake Vermilion. The next meeting was held November 7 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the library of the Tower school building. It was followed by an Open House in the school cafeteria from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Open House provided an opportunity to meet Task Force members and to ask questions about the park proposal. The Task Force will meet again on December 11, with the time and location to be announced. All meetings are open to the public.

The DNR has also formed an Acquisition Team to lead the negotiations with U. S. Steel for the purchase of the property. The property appraisal process is under way, and will be completed by the first of January 2008. All committees and teams working on the park proposal will complete their work prior to the start of the legislative session on February 13, 2008.

The opportunity to purchase a large tract of undeveloped land that consists of natural and scenic resources to qualify as a state park from a single landowner is very rare. The combined acres of Soudan Underground Mine and the U. S. Steel property would be over 4,000 acres. The importance of increasing the capacity of public recreation facilities to meet the expected future demand for current and new visitors on one of the largest and most scenic lakes in Minnesota is significant. It could be one of the highlights of initiatives during the Sesquicentennial of statehood in 2008. "A state park in this location would provide an 'up north, place at the lake experience' for all Minnesotans." (Governor Tim Pawlenty)

For more information about the proposed state park on Lake Vermilion, visit the DNR website at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/lake_vermilion/index.html.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

"Summer's almost gone and winter's coming on" as the old song goes! Time to sit back and reflect on the past year, to get all the summer toys winterized and put away, and to get all the winter toys ready to ride! For many of you it's time to pack up the RV and head for warmer weather and others to chop more wood for the heating system. For some it's time to get re-energized and for others it's time to kick back, catch up on the reading and relax. For some it's time to get ready to travel and others it's time to get ready to hibernate. Whatever is your particular choice, I wish you all a healthy and Happy Holiday season and safe traveling.

How about that Mother Nature! We were in a drought condition all summer and then got dumped on all September! One report was 25 out of 30 days of rain. The lake is now near its all time high, I believe.

First, a big thank you to all the members who volunteer to help get our club projects accomplished. St. Louis County has recognized those efforts by awarding the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion its "Volunteer Excellence Award" on September 25, 2007. See Dale's article on this award. Mel has an article on the SCLV participation in the Citizen's Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP). Vermilion has been selected by the MPCA to be monitored more closely and that means more volunteer opportunities. We'll have more on this later. Thanks again to all volunteers.

New members Jeff Lovgren and Gary Lundquist were elected to the Board replacing Frank Siskar and Rick Borken respectively, Judy Moline was confirmed as elected to fill Marti Wivell's slot and Paula Bloczynski and I were re-elected. I want to thank Frank, Rick and Marti for their fine efforts for the SCLV.

The Annual Meeting and Banquet was well attended and I think everyone enjoyed our speaker, John Stetson, and his description of his treks to the North Pole and across Antarctica. His message came across that yes, the planet earth is in a warming cycle. How much can be attributed to humans is very difficult to assess because the present warming cycle coincides with an increased solar activity period. One of our members sent me an interesting pamphlet entitled IMPRIMIS, an August 2007 publication of Hillsdale College of Hillsdale, Michigan. The main article poses the question: 'Global Warming: Man-Made or Natural' by S. Fred Singer, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science, University of Virginia. The article is quite long and will not be printed in this newsletter, but in the interest of educating our members I would suggest they go online to www.hillsdale.edu for access to this article. I thank the member who sent this to me because we need to hear all sides of an issue before adopting a position.

I'm sure most of you have heard that the State of Minnesota is pursuing the acquisition of the US Steel property that was being considered for development as "3 Bays on Vermilion" for a State Park. The state has until July 31, 2008 to get the acquisition approved by the Legislature and the sale negotiated with US Steel. SCLV Board member Bob Wilson is a representative on the advisory committee that is preparing the presentation to the Legislature scheduled for February 2008. This could result in preserving a large area of the eastern part of Lake Vermilion in a near pristine condition. There have been some concerns raised by persons saying we don't need another park, but, in fact, this would be an expansion of the Soudan Underground Mine State Park — not an entirely new park. Much of the staffing is already in place and would be up and running much quicker than normal. Bob will be generating some articles on

the Park acquisition as it proceeds.

Mark Holsten, Minnesota DNR Commissioner, has accepted our invitation to be our next Annual Meeting Speaker. We don't have a synopsis of his talk as yet, but I'm sure he will address topics of interest to all our membership.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be sponsoring a Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Safety course April 12, 2008, at the Greenwood Town Hall. Ed Zottola has an informational article about the course in this issue giving details on registration.

Greenwood's long-range planning committee is still looking for ideas, so please get your ideas submitted ASAP.

We're sad to report that Tom Morrow succumbed to cancer last July. Our utmost sympathy goes out to Tom's family. He was truly a nice person whom we were privileged to know and have as a member and friend.

Once again it's time to close and wish you all a Happy Holiday, great ice fishing and a great winter be it hot or cold where you are!

Walt Moe, President

THE COAT OF MANY COLORS... *by Mardy Jackson*

Wow! I sure came close to hitting a large buck while driving on Highway 77. It was the middle of October, a very dreary day. As he leaped into the woods on the other side of the road, I was surprised to see his coat had already turned to a dark gray-brown from the reddish brown of summer. It had only been a month or so since I saw a deer with its summer coat.

I understand there hasn't been much research done on what triggers the beginning of this change; it could be the same as the snowshoe hare. Although the deer changes from light to dark, the hare changes from dark to white. In my woods, I've seen the hare's feet turned white and the color change going up its body. Whereas with the deer, people see clumps of the shiny red-brown hair, which has been shed, on the ground. When the hare's eyes receive less light in the fall, that's what triggers its change to white, so it could be the same situation with deer, the lessening of light.

The darker colors may offer a little better camouflage with the gray of winter and against the background of the bare tree trunks. Also the darker color absorbs more heat from the sunlight. But the difference is not just the color alone. The winter hair is a different consistency.

The hair is thicker and similar to hollow-like straws which act as insulation. Air is a good insulator and by having air in each of the millions of hairs, the deer's thick winter coat keeps a layer of warm air next to its body, even allowing it to lie down and sleep in the snow.

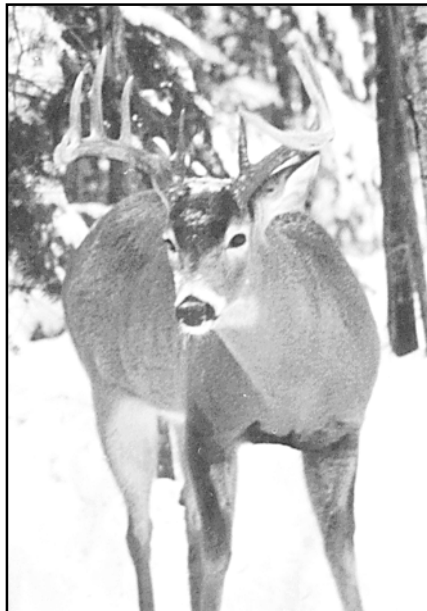
Come spring the heavy winter coat is shed, and the pretty, shiny red-brown coat returns. Overheating in the summer can be a problem as deer do not have any sweat glands. In that respect, the thin hair is very shiny which helps reflect the sun's hot beams. The lighter color helps the deer blend in with the light-colored grass and trees of summer when they are resting and sleeping.

In the spring, the fawns are born and they too have the red-brown color of their mother. They do better, though, and have white spots all over their backs. These spots are a great camouflage. Not only does it break up the deer's outline, but it sort of resembles the sunshine

through the trees, helping the fawn to further blend in with its surroundings.

So we can see the deer have many colored coats for purposes nature has given them — the wonders of the natural world.

(Information from an article by Kevin Strauss)



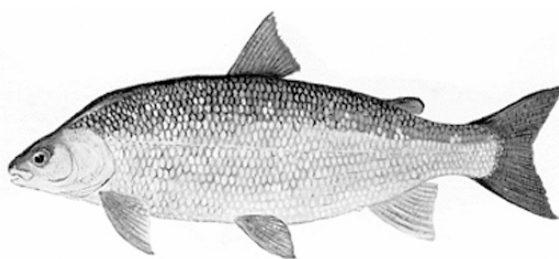
A neighbor called, "Hey, do you want to come along tomorrow morning?" Sure! (uh) Where?

Whitefish netting !

Early next morning (dark), in a small boat, we crossed Norwegian Bay (cold); we arrived at the net site on a rocky shore (secret). After an interesting tangle and a few words we had our fish for the day.

The fish: Lake Whitefish, a member of the salmon family, weighing up to six pounds on Lake Vermilion. Whitefish require cool, deep, well-oxygenated water in the summer — one more reason to work with the lake. The spawning season for the whitefish is in the fall when the water temp falls below 45° F. Spawning usually occurs at night with an on-shore wind and the fish swimming up and down the rocky shore releasing the eggs and sperm; over 100,000 eggs for larger females. Lake Whitefish is a premium freshwater fish to eat.

Try this recipe, it's a favorite of mine.



Lake Whitefish

Mediterranean Whitefish

1-1/2 lbs whitefish fillets
1 cup diced onion
1 (14.5-oz) can diced tomatoes with herbs (Italian)
1/4 cup dry white wine
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 teaspoon oregano
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons Kalamata (black) olives sliced & pitted
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

In a sauce pan, combine onion, garlic, tomatoes, wine, oregano, salt and pepper. Bring to a simmer for 20 minutes or until onion is tender. Pour mixture over fillets in a baking dish. Bake at 350 F. in a preheated oven for 10 minutes per inch of

fillet thickness until fillets flake easily. Sprinkle sliced olives and feta cheese on top and serve with rice or couscous.

Enjoy!

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WEB SITE

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS 2007-2008

(All phone numbers are Area Code 218)

COOK (55723)

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Ed Zottola 2866 Vermilion Drive 666-5542
Ed Tausk Vermilion Dam Lodge 666-5418
Judy Moline 8782 Raps Road 666-5716
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Bob Wilson, **Treas.** 1501 Echo Point 753-5544
Jeff Lovgren 2113 Birch Point Road 753-2413
Mardy Jackson (Mem. Records) 2065 County Road 77 753-3549

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

Girl Scout project will benefit the lake

Cook high school student Sara Gillson is working on a Girl Scout project that will have long-term benefits for the lakeshore and waters of Norwegian Bay and Wolf Bay. She has undertaken the huge task of rehab and construction on primitive overnight campsites — two on Norwegian Bay and one on Wolf Bay. She has obtained funding to cover project costs and has secured DNR approval. Sara and her mother were guests at the club's May board meeting, where they outlined the project and asked if the Sportsmen's Club would help in securing campsite monitors for the three sites in the future when Sara is off to college. Board members applauded Sara's tangible demonstration of being a good steward for the lake, and offered the support of our newsletter in advertising for campsite monitors. Sara's family owns and operates Life of Riley Resort on Norwegian Bay.



Sara Gillson working at one of the campsites.



Sara (center) and helpers doing groundwork at a primitive campsite.

Celebrating 25 Years of Counting Loons



Loon Survey Report for 2007

Better late than never — and I say that because, yes, it took place three months ago, July 16. But here's what happened. Our newsletter for August was being printed before the loon count was completed. This is redundant for all of you who attended the annual dinner meeting, so for the rest of the membership — here goes.

The day was absolutely perfect! The sky so blue, sun shining, but not hot even though there was no breeze. The lake was like a mirror; anything on the surface was easily seen. We were all at our respective territories at 9 a.m. to count singles, pairs, and chicks.

We have 22 territories on the lake; 10 on the west or Cook end, which Claire Zwieg coordinates and feeds the numbers to me on the east or Tower end, where we have 12 territories.

Our total count this year was 253, down 31 from last year when we had 284. (Half the total count were singles.) But being down 31 sounds worse than it is, because when I average out the last 10 years, the figure comes to 248. So 253 is right in there.

The only disappointing thing about our survey this year was the chick count. Just 21 for the whole lake. However, this spring was a bad one for nesting loons, that build their nests on the shoreline. This being necessary as their legs are situated so far back on their body, walking on land is too difficult. End of May and early we had rain and very windy days which could have washed out many nests. The young pairs will not re-nest, but the older pairs will try again. Some of the observers reported seeing

larger chicks, and some very young ones — weather undoubtedly accounting for the differences.

Yes, this year was quite a milestone — 25 years the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion has been doing this survey on the loon population. This has been for our own information as well as valuable for the Non-game Wildlife Division of the DNR. No other lake in the state of Minnesota can come close to this record. This has only been possible because of the volunteers from our club. This year 54 people took part. Thanks to all of you! If anyone would like to take part in our loon count, please let me know. We often need alternates and from time to time a territory will open up. You can contact me by dropping me a note at Box 696, Tower, MN 55790 or call (218) 753-3549.

Have a good winter!

Mardy Jackson



Artist with Lake Vermilion connections wins Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest!

Wildlife artist Joe Hautman of Plymouth, Minn., won the 2007 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest — the oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition in America — with his depiction of a pair of pintail ducks. Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced the winner in front of a crowd of 300 people at the contest, held at BIG Arts in Sanibel, Fla.

Mr. Hautman's family, who are Sportsmen's Club members, have owned a cabin on Lake Vermilion for many years.

Hautman's painting — chosen from among 247 entries from artists across the country — will be featured on the 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp which will go on sale in late June 2008. Federal Duck Stamp sales raise about \$25 million each year to fund wetland habitat acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System.



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The annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest is the only federally-sponsored juried art competition, and is run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This year's contest crowns the winner of the 75th duck stamp since the program's inception in 1934. Before 1949, a commission selected the design.

"This was the most exciting Duck Stamp contest in history," said H. Dale Hall, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "To have a three-way tie for first place, then to have the artist and his family right here in the audience, was fantastic. We're going to continue to move this contest around the country to give the public a chance to own this."

The competition was surrounded by a week of public events at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and BIG Arts celebrating the life of artist, conservationist and creator of the Duck Stamp, J.N. "Ding" Darling. Born in 1876 in Michigan, Darling was a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for his conservation-themed cartoons. He also served as Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, the forerunner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from

1934-1935. Darling's conservation legacy remains the foundation for the broad-based support and strategic vision of North America's successful waterfowl management efforts.

All waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase and carry the current Migratory Bird Conservation and Hunting Stamp — commonly known as the

Duck Stamp — but conservationists, stamp collectors and others also purchase the stamp in support of habitat conservation. Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds from the \$15 Duck Stamp go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which supports the purchase of acres of wetlands for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System.

To date, Duck Stamp funds have been used to acquire habitat at hundreds of refuges, in nearly every state in our nation. There are 548

national wildlife refuges spread across all 50 states and U.S. territories. A current Duck Stamp can be used for free admission to any national wildlife refuge open to the public. Refuges offer unparalleled recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, bird watching and photography.

Joe Hautman won the Federal Duck Stamp contest in 1992 and 2002. He has also won multiple state Duck Stamp contests. His brothers, Bob and Jim, are also multiple Federal Duck Stamp Contest winners.

Hautman attended the Federal Duck Stamp contest this year with his family. The audience gave him a standing ovation when his art was chosen as the winning piece.

"I've been to a lot of Duck Stamp contests, and this is the most exciting one I've been to," Hautman said. "I'd like to thank my family, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, who turns this artwork into wetlands and ducks."

Hautman's winning art depicts two pintails — a male and female — nestled gracefully atop reeds in a marsh.

Sportsmen's Club receives Volunteer Excellence Award



St. Louis County presented a Volunteer Excellence Award to the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the Morse Town Hall in Ely as part of its regular St. Louis County Board meeting. The award was presented by Fourth District Commissioner Mike Forsman. Receiving the award on behalf of the club were board members (l-r) Bob Wilson, Dale Lundblad, Walt Moe and Paula Bloczynski.

The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion was presented this award for outstanding service to the community by volunteering generous gifts of time, talent and energy in contributing to the exceptional quality of life in our region, and helping to make Saint Louis County a better place to live and grow for all of its citizens.

Winter Project: An Update to our SCLV Website

The lake may be a bit quieter this time of year, but that doesn't mean all activity has slowed. Some of the action has just moved indoors for a few months. An important example is a major update to our club website.

You've probably noticed that our organization's current website (www.lakevermilion.com/SCLV) is starting to show its age. And we haven't always been quick to keep the information there up-to-date. Our goal, over time, is to re-establish our website as a first-class communication channel and resource for our members.

Over the next few months we'll be working on

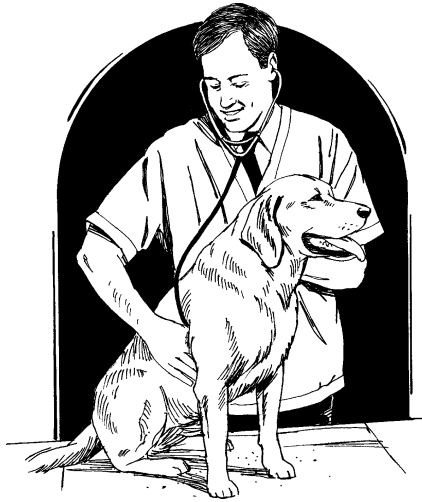
making the site easier to read, adding a calendar of upcoming events, and creating an information section on issues that affect our lake, with links to other sites with more information. Later, we'll be adding tools that will make it easier, for example, to join or renew your membership and to volunteer to help with club projects that interest you.

We need your ideas. Please let us know what you want the website to do for you. Tell us what you've gone there to find — and whether you were rewarded or disappointed. Please email your suggestions to Jeff Lovgren (lovgren@frontiernet.net) or give him a call at 218-753-2413.

How's Your Dog Feeling?

By Richard "Chip" Hanson, Ely Vet Clinic

We all know how much our dogs love the north woods. What could constitute a better summer day for our pets than crashing through the woods chasing chipmunks and swimming at the beach. They have it made. Our north woods are not without hazards for our pets however. In addition to bugs and fishhooks and piles of dead minnows there is also an infectious disease. This area of the country is unfortunately a suitable environment for a soil fungus called *Blastomyces dermatitidis*. This organism can cause a disease in people and animals known as Blastomycosis. Some of you may be familiar with this disease or even know of an animal that has had it. We have diagnosed this disease in many animals from the Lake Vermilion area through the years. This fungus lives in moist sandy soil near bodies of water. People, dogs and cats are all capable of being infected with this organism.



The most common route of exposure is to inhale the organism from disturbed dirt. You and I could get it from working in the garden or landscaping, but cases in people are fairly rare. Our dogs typically contract it through digging and sniffing in the dirt. This is part of why they are more likely to get the disease than you and I. The fungus produces millions of microscopic spores which are small enough to be breathed into the lungs. Once an animal has the disease it is virtually impossible for that animal to pass the disease to another animal. Every person or animal that gets the disease gets it from the soil. We think that many, many dogs, cats and people inhale the spores but our bodies mount adequate defenses to the presence of the germ and we do not get sick and may be protected by antibodies from future infections. Sometimes due to reasons we don't fully understand, the organism is able to get the upper hand and the animal or person begins to show signs of the disease. Once the organism is sniffed into the lungs it changes its lifestyle from a fungus to a yeast. Once it transforms to a yeast it is capable of traveling throughout the body and causing

infection and damage to almost any organ of the body. In this area the disease is most common in 1- to 5-year-old large breed hunting dogs, but any animal can become infected.

There are a few common symptoms of Blastomycosis that you should be on the lookout for. The number one complaint when we see a dog that has Blasto as we call it, is coughing and lethargy. Many animals also have a decreased appetite and a high fever. It's not a bad idea to have a dog designated thermometer in your first aid kit. A normal dog's temperature is anywhere from 99-102.5. Anything above 104 is suspicious of Blasto. We also commonly see dogs with painful appearing eyes, skin lesions that don't heal and sometimes orthopedic pain or swelling. This disease can be very challenging to diagnose or it can be pretty easy. Every case is different. There are new better blood tests for the disease but they are far from fully dependable. The incubation period

between your animal inhaling the fungal spores and showing signs of being ill can be anywhere from a week or two up to many months. If you are a visitor in our area and you find yourself back home with a dog that you may feel is ill, make sure and at least mention this disease to your home vet. It is a very uncommon disease from a national perspective but fairly common for us here. Most veterinarians in the rest of the country will never see a case of this disease. The Ely Vet Clinic had over 30 cases last year.

Blastomycosis is a very serious disease. If left untreated almost all animals that are infected with this disease will eventually succumb to it. Thankfully the disease is still fairly rare and new drugs and diagnostics make the chances of a successful outcome better than it has ever been. With proper therapy up to 75% of animals will beat the disease. If you have questions about this disease or other pet related issues please feel free to call us at the Ely Veterinary Clinic at 365-5911.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Invasive Species Boat Checks — Summary of the 2007 Summer Season

“No exotics were found!”

----- Inspection Ramp Locations -----				
	The Landing	Timbuktu	Hoodoo Point	Moccasin Point
<u>Fishing Opener</u>	56	15	39	65
<u>Memorial Weekend</u>		16	48	25
<u>July 4th Holiday Period</u>	12		24	12
<u>Labor Day Weekend</u>	13	17	36	11
	<u>81</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>113</u>
----- Number of Boats Checked per Ramp -----				
<u>Total Boats Checked - 389</u>				

Boat Check Volunteers - 2007

Ed Zottola*

Ed & Marsha Zottola
Rick & Judy Pearson
Warren Anderson
Jim Lockman
Clark Brenna
Pat McDermott
Jerry Christian
Bubba Sawatzky
Judy Moline
Mike Pouchnik
Brownie Mollard
Ray Pohto
Larry Lange
Don & Marcia Price
Chuck & Shirley Nicholas

Ray Harris*

Ray Harris
Ed Ferguson
Jim Kuharski
Mal Berg
Warren Vollmar
Irv Gustafson
Jim Boeson
John Zwieg
Milt Legg

Mel Hintz*

Mel Hintz
Walt & Marcie Moe
Wayne Souja
Frank Siskar
Jeff & Kathy Lovgren
John Aronson
Rod McPeak
Jim Charles

Bob Wilson*

Bob Wilson
Bob Reed
Harold Korpela
Darryl & Joan Johnson
Rusty & Gayle Miller
Paula Bloczynski
Patti Borgstrom
Paul Hanson
Mardy Jackson



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*** Want to help check boats in 2008? Contact one of the in-charge people listed above.**

by Bob Wilson

Shore Lunch

Is shore lunch just for fishers*? No! Are you aware of the six shore lunch sites that were developed by your Lake Vermilion Sportsmen's Club in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service? They are for anyone who might want to take a break from cruising around the lake and have lunch or a snack, or maybe just a little rest from the waves of the lake. There are two on the Tower end, two centrally located and two on the Cook end. They are not campgrounds!

Unfortunately, these picnic areas are often used by those people who are a bit messy. They neglect to clean up the site, remove all garbage and neglect to extinguish campfires. The rules for use of the sites are posted. The signs state clearly **"Keep the Shore Lunch Sites clean for other visitors. Leave no trace of your visit by packing out all trash and extinguishing your campfire. Thank you."** The Sportsmen's Club is responsible for maintaining the Shore Lunch sites.

The club needs volunteers who are willing to check the Shore Lunch sites to assure that



TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Some of you may not be receiving all of your quarterly newsletters. They are published generally in November, March, May and August. Our mailing is done by an outside source that can only have one address for each one of you. So if you have two addresses and our newsletters are going to the one where you are the least, please let me know. I will then correct the address.

Thank you.

Mardy Jackson,
Membership Records
Box 696
Tower, MN 55790

they are clean and safe. Your Board of Directors appreciates any assistance that any member is willing to give the club in maintaining the public use sites. If you are not familiar with the Shore Lunch site locations, contact the club and we will get the information to you.

Is there one close to your lake home? Would you be willing to take a look at the area and check it out once a week during the boating season? If there is extensive damage or other problems with the sites, please contact Ray Harris (218-666-2300), our Board member responsible for the Shore Lunch sites.

***Fisher is defined by Webster's New World Dictionary as "A person who fishes."**

VERMILON SELECTED FOR ADVANCED WATER QUALITY MONITORING

By: Mel Hintz

For over 30 years, our Sportsmen's Club has been actively involved in monitoring the water quality of Lake Vermilion. This activity has largely involved the collection of secchi disk readings and water surface temperatures as part of the statewide Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The secchi disk readings measure water transparency which is strongly correlated to water quality. These readings are reported to the MPCA at the end of each monitoring season and are compiled in report format on their website at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-publications.html#reports>.

MPCA also administers a more advanced program called CLMP+ where volunteers collect water chemistry and temperature profile data in addition to collecting secchi disk readings. Under this program, water samples are collected twice monthly from May through September. The samples are sent off to a laboratory to identify the levels of chlorophyll-*a* and total phosphorus in the lake which determines the Trophic State Index. By verifying this relationship, the MPCA can continue to use secchi depth readings as a reliable indicator of the nutrients and algal productivity in the lake.

At our September meeting, our SCLV Board voted to apply to the MPCA to have Lake Vermilion included in the CLMP+ program. Since the MPCA provides all of the equipment, training, and laboratory costs, there are a limited number of lakes included in this advanced program each year. In early October, we were notified that Vermilion has been selected for the 2008 season. Samples will be collected from 6- 8 sites, including existing DNR / MPCA long term stations at:

1. Wakemup Bay
2. Niles Bay
3. Big Bay
4. Near Trout Lake Portage
5. Frazer Bay
6. Pike Bay

Later in 2008, the MPCA will publish a CLMP+ report on Lake Vermilion. A sample report from

What's Your IQ About Boat Safety?



Do you know the difference between a displacement boat and a planing boat? What is a Backfire Flame Arrester? Do you have one on your boat? Do you know the penalty for discharging oil wastes into or upon navigable waters? What do all those colored floating things out there in the lake mean? Do I drive my boat around them or between them or avoid them totally? What does the red light on the bow of the boat signify? How about the green one? Which side of an oncoming boat do I pass by when on the lake? How many life preservers do I have to have in my boat? What sound signal can be used to indicate danger? All of these questions and many more will be answered at the **Boating Safety Course**.

Tim Engrav will teach the course. He is an officer in the Ash Lake Coast Guard Auxiliary. The class takes 8 hours and will be done in two 4-hour sessions. The course will be offered on **April 12, 2008**, in the Greenwood Township hall. Mark your calendar and watch for additional information on the course in the next newsletter and local weekly publications.

There will be coffee breaks during each session and a light lunch will be served. A certificate indicating completion of the course will be given to those who attend and pass the examination at the end.

A certificate from the course could result in a discount on boat insurance. Please check with your insurance agent to determine if your company gives this discount.

The cost for the course has not yet been determined. It will be finalized when the cost of the training manual is obtained.

another lake may be viewed at the above noted website. Jesse Anderson, MPCA Research Scientist will be at our November SCLV Board meeting to discuss the planning, logistical support, and the training of volunteers for the 2008 program. Further information will be provided in our next newsletter.

**Members — Watch for this
annual renewal letter!**



Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion

P.O. BOX 696, TOWER, MINNESOTA 55790

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF LAKE VERMILION

EXPANDED WATER QUALITY MONITORING

CONTINUE BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM

PRESERVE AND CLEAN UP SHORELINE

COOPERATION WITH AREA FISHERIES

NORTHERN PIKE SPAWNING AREA

NAVIGATIONAL AID LIGHTS

MONITOR EXOTIC SPECIES • QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

DAY-USE PICNIC SITES • SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

REMOVE ROUGH FISH • LOON COUNT

MEMBERS — MEMBERS — MEMBERS

Annual Dues from January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009

Individual Membership \$ 10.00

Couple 15.00

Family Membership 20.00

Corporate Membership 50.00

Your additional donation will be welcome in funding the work of the club

Please Send Also: _____ **Shoulder Patches** at \$2.00 each

_____ **Window Decals** at \$1.00 each



To save postage, we have included one 2008 membership card with this letter. This is the ONLY notice you will receive and we will record your membership classification based upon your remittance.

An early renewal would be appreciated — and why not urge a neighbor to join? Come join us to help us guarantee that our Lake will always remain a beautiful Lake. Get involved with us in actively preserving Lake Vermilion, Minnesota's finest Lake.

Sincerely,

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB OF LAKE VERMILION

Mardy Jackson

Mardy Jackson,
Membership Records

**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

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

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

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

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

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



1968 - 2008

Check us out at - <http://www.LakeVermilion.com/SCLV/>

Join us. Add your voice to those of your neighbors and friends around the lake who share a love for Lake Vermilion.

Complete the membership form, DETACH THE ENTIRE PAGE and mail with your check, made payable to Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion.

Thank you.

☐ **NEW MEMBER**

(Check one, please)

☐ **RENEWAL**

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB OF LAKE VERMILION, INC.

Mardy Jackson, Membership Records

P.O. Box 696

Tower, MN 55790

Enclosed is \$10 for a single membership for one year (Jan. 1, 2008____ to Jan. 1, 2009____) or \$15/yr. for couple membership or \$20/yr. for the "family" membership or \$50/yr. for a business/organization in the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send, also, Shoulder Patches at \$2.00, Car Window Decals at \$1.00, and Game Fish/Invasive Species ID Cards at \$1.00 each.

HELP US MAKE A BEAUTIFUL LAKE EVEN BETTER!



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