

# 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"*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

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SPRING IS COMING WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IT OR NOT!!! The calendar says so and it hasn't been wrong yet! We now have to go through all the spring rituals such as raking, planting, trying to put a little color back in our lives after a long, long winter. And fishing — don't forget fishing! The season opens on probably the earliest date for many years.

The latest on the State Park land acquisition is that US Steel is backing out of the negotiations, but like Yogi Berra always said: "It ain't over 'til it's over." There is still hope that agreement can be reached. Rumor has it consideration of the Vermilion Plan is being moved up by the County Commissioners with hearings possibly this early summer.

Remember that the results of Water Quality testing we helped the MPCA with this past summer are scheduled to be discussed on April 29, 2009 at the Greenwood Town Hall. The report is quite long and can be accessed on-line at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-clmp69-0378.pdf>

From initial reading of this report it appears that the lake condition has not changed appreciably since the previous testing done in 2000. We were hoping for some indications of improvement but this shows we must continue our efforts to improve conditions.

The latest "State of the Fishery" report on Vermilion is also in this issue and shows that the lake is in pretty good shape, thanks to the efforts of the DNR and our volunteers. The one down note is that the Pike River Hatchery might be discontinued. We hope that this will not occur and will lobby for continuing it.

My wife and I are still serving with the advisory committees dealing with Non-degradation Rules Update for the MPCA but we have finished with the Shoreland Management Rules update for the DNR. For further information please go to the MPCA and DNR web sites for drafts of proposed rules changes.

Another reminder that we're looking for more volunteers for boat inspectors so let us know if you would like to be in-

involved with our ambitious program for this year.

We are investigating expanding our club activities into a full-fledged Lake Association. This would present many additional opportunities to improve our protection efforts of Lake Vermilion. With additional income from increased membership we can tackle projects that will do more for the lake. At this point we are in the information gathering stage so if you have thoughts or suggestions please let us know.

It's gonna be spring soon and I think we'll have another great year on Vermilion! Enjoy!!!

Walt Moe, President

### SPORTSMEN'S CLUB OF LAKE VERMILION, INC.

41st Annual Meeting  
and Dinner

Saturday, August 8  
Fortune Bay Resort

*"Please mark your calendar  
and plan to attend."*

*Watch for reservation information in the  
July issue of the newsletter."*

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# BILL COULD CLOSE ALL STATE HATCHERIES

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In mid April, as the crew from DNR Fisheries prepared to trap spawning Walleyes and open the Pike River Hatchery to raise fry for stocking, a bill was introduced into the Legislature which could close all State hatcheries, including the one serving Lake Vermilion, by 2014. The bill, HF 1143, proposes the DNR reduce production at its fish hatcheries by 20% from 2008 levels in each of the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. The bill's author, Rep. Denny McNamera, R - Hastings, said his goal is to determine whether it is more cost effective for the DNR or the private sector to raise fish. A number of news outlets sounded the alarm on this bill including the Outdoor News.

In a news story, Rep. David Dill, DFL - Crane Lake - Chair of the Game, Fish and Forestry Division Committee, said the intent of the bill is not to cease fish stocking, but to start a discussion on whether privately produced fish, allegedly cheaper, should be used instead of fish produced in State hatcheries. Each year State hatcheries produce 262 million Walleye fry, 1.4 million Northern Pike of various sizes, 20,000 Muskie fingerlings and over a million Trout of various types. The fish are stocked into 1,330 lakes and 125 streams.

The DNR has some concerns with the bill, but "We're still in the process of studying the implications of this," said Ed Boggess, DNR Fish and Wildlife Division Deputy Director. In addition to potential genetic and disease issues, the DNR also is concerned about availability of fish, he said. "We want to make sure we have a supply of fish to meet the needs within the State," Boggess said. The legislation comes at a time when DNR Fisheries officials are awaiting the results of an analysis looking at what it costs the State to raise Walleyes versus what it costs to purchase them from the private sector. That

analysis is nearly complete, Boggess said. The DNR currently purchases some Walleyes from private producers to satisfy a legislative mandate resulting from the Walleye stocking controversy of several years ago.

I contacted Rep. Dill, on behalf of the Sportsmen's Club, and asked him to comment on his committee's hearing of this bill and to update us on its status. He graciously responded with the following quote via e-mail:

"I heard the bill in the committee I chair and received valuable info from the public, DNR and public employees. The committee members now have an understanding of the importance of the hatcheries. The folks at the Sportsmen's Club need to know that, considering that the state is facing a \$6+ billion budget deficit, all operations need to be considered for possible savings; the taxpayers expect no less. That is the reason there was a bill, that is the reason I heard the bill and the bill did not receive enough support to move from committee. The bill does not have enough votes to pass on the House floor as an amendment. A bill is not dead (however) until adjournment in the second year."

Although this bill appears to be "dead" for now, State budget deficits will persist for years to come and this issue may surface again. Since we feel that the continued operation of the Pike River Hatchery is vital to the health of the Lake Vermilion fishery, your Sportsmen's Club Board will continue to monitor the situation. We appreciate Rep. Dill's support in protecting this important resource.

Dale Lundblad - Board Member

## LAKE VERMILION LOON COUNTERS

This coming July will be our 27th consecutive year for doing our Loon Count on the lake. This is not only important to our members, but valuable information for the DNR in studying the fluctuations in loon populations and the causes of same.

Our day for counting will be July 13, a Monday, and the following Wednesday, July 15, in the event of inclement weather.

Many times we need alternates and sometimes territories will open up. If you are interested in taking part, please write or call me:

Mardy Jackson, Phone: 218-753-3549  
2065 County Rd. 77, Tower, MN 55790



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# Summary of 2008 Fish Population Assessment on Lake Vermilion

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Lake Vermilion is part of the statewide Large Lake Program, an intensive fisheries management program on the 10 largest lakes in Minnesota. The Large Lake Program includes annual population assessments, annual water quality monitoring, and regularly scheduled creel surveys. A variety of sampling gear is used during population assessments to collect the various fish species and life stages. These gear types include gill nets, trap nets, beach seines, and an electrofishing boat. Sampling for each gear type is conducted at the same time and place each year in order to determine population trends for the major species. Data is also collected on length, weight, age, and growth for each of the major species.

The walleye gill net catch in 2008 was 13.0 fish/net, slightly below the historical average and the lowest walleye catch on Lake Vermilion in several years. The relatively low walleye catch was due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005. Gillnetted walleye had a mean length of 13.3 inches, slightly above the historical average.



The gill net catch of 12-15 inch walleye was well below average for those size classes, reflecting poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005. The

catch of small walleye was above average, indicating the presence of strong younger year classes in the population. The gill net catch of walleye over 17 inches was also above average, especially on West Vermilion. These larger walleye are from strong year classes produced in 2002 and 2003. The walleye gill net catch was dominated by age 1 fish (2007 year class) and age 2 fish (2006 year class), which comprised 20.9% and 35.5% of the catch, respectively. Both the 2006 and 2007 year classes appear to be moderately strong. Strong year classes of walleye were also produced in 2002 and 2003, while poor year classes were produced in 2004 and 2005. A special walleye regulation went into effect on Lake Vermilion in 2006; a 17-26 inch protected slot with one fish allowed over 26 inches, and a four fish bag limit. A more restrictive regulation was adopted because of increased fishing pressure and walleye harvest. The regulation will help keep harvest at a safe level while allowing anglers to keep eating sized walleye.

The gill net catch of northern pike was 0.8 fish/net, slightly below the historical average. Gill net catches of northern pike have historically been fairly stable at a relatively low level. The mean length of northern pike sampled by gill nets was 26.7 inches, slightly above the historical average, although the sample size was only 15 fish. Reproduction of northern pike is usually fairly consistent from year to year, although it appears a relatively poor year class was produced in 2003.



A special regulation for northern pike went into effect on Lake Vermilion in 2003; a 24-36 inch protected slot, with one fish allowed over 36 inches. This regulation is part of a statewide initiative to improve the size structure of pike populations in a number of lakes across the state.

The gill net catch of yellow perch was 13.9 fish/net, the lowest perch catch since large lake sampling began in 1984. The low perch catch was due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004. Gillnetted perch had a mean length of 7.8 inches, well above the historical average. The large average size reflects low numbers of small perch in the gill net catch. The perch catch was dominated by age 3 fish (2005 year class), which comprised 36.6% of the catch. Strong year classes of perch were produced in 2001 and 2002, while a poor year class was produced in 2004.

The trap net catch of bluegill was 44.5 fish/net, well above the historical average. The bluegill catch was much higher on West Vermilion than East Vermilion, reflecting higher bluegill abundance in that lake basin. Trapnetted bluegill had a mean length of 5.8 inches, well below the historical average. The small average size was due to high numbers of small fish in the catch from strong 2005 and 2006 year classes. The bluegill trap net catch was dominated by age 3 fish (2005 year class), which comprised 37.4% of the catch. Strong year classes of bluegill were produced in 2002, 2005, and 2006, while a poor year class was produced in 2004.



The black crappie trap net catch was 1.4 fish/

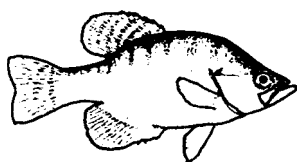
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## Summary of 2008 Fish Population continued from Page 3...

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net, slightly below the historical average. Crappie numbers have historically been relatively low on Lake Vermilion, although some areas of West Vermilion have higher numbers of fish. Trapnetted crappie had a mean length of 8.0 inches, slightly below the historical average.

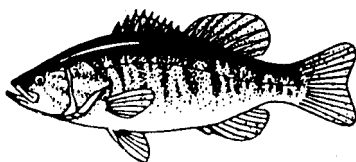


Above average numbers of small crappie were sampled from a strong year class produced in 2006. The catch of 8-9 inch crappie was also above average, reflecting the presence of a strong 2005 year class. The

crappie catch was dominated by age 3 fish (2005 year class), which comprised 67.5% of the catch. Strong year classes of crappie were produced in 2001, 2005, and 2006, while a poor year class was produced in 2004.

An electrofishing boat is used as the standard sampling gear for smallmouth bass because they are not often caught in standard assessment nets. The smallmouth bass electrofishing catch in 2008 was 54.3 fish/hour, well above the historical average and the second consecutive year of unusually high bass catches. Smallmouth bass sampled by electrofishing had a mean length of 9.9 inches, slightly above the historical average. High numbers of 12-13 inch bass were sampled from strong year classes produced in 2002 and 2003.

The bass catch was dominated by age 2 fish (2006 year class) and age 3 fish (2005 year class), which together comprised 56.5% of the total catch. It appears both the 2005 and 2006 year classes will be much stronger than average. Moderately strong year classes of smallmouth bass were also produced in 2001, 2002, and 2003, while a poor year class was produced in 2004.

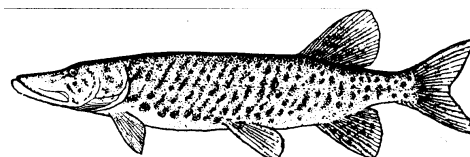


An electrofishing boat is used to sample young-of-the-year walleye in the fall to monitor reproductive success for the year. The fall electrofishing catch of young-of-the-year walleye was 130.3 fish/hour, slightly above the historical average. The mean length of young-of-the-year walleye sampled by electrofishing was 4.9 inches, slightly below the historical average. Growth of young-of-the-year walleye has proven to be a useful indicator of eventual year class strength. Past sampling has shown that large, fast growing young-of-the-year

walleye generally produce strong year classes, while small slow growing fish produce poor year classes. Taken together, the 2008 electrofishing catch and growth rate indicate the 2008 year class will be slightly weaker than average.

Muskie population assessments have been done once every four years on Lake Vermilion, although future assessments will be done once every six years. East Vermilion and West Vermilion are done in different years due to the large size of the lake. Trap net catches of muskie have been gradually increasing since the first assessments were done in 1993 and 1994. The number of large fish has also been increasing. Over 15% of the muskie sampled in 2005 and 2006 were over 50 inches long.

The largest muskie sampled during the 2005-2006 assessments



was 54.7 inches long. The next assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2011.

I encourage anyone who has questions about fish populations on Lake Vermilion to contact me or stop by our office for a visit. The DNR office is located just west of Tower on highway 169.

Duane Williams, Large Lake Specialist  
MN DNR Section of Fisheries  
650 Highway 169  
Tower, MN 55790  
Phone: 218-753-2580 ext. 224  
e-mail: [duane.williams@dnr.state.mn](mailto:duane.williams@dnr.state.mn).

*If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.*

— Doug Larson

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# Summary of 2008 Creel Survey On Lake Vermilion

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The Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Section of Fisheries, conducted a creel survey on Lake Vermilion in 2008, as part of the statewide Large Lake Program. Creel survey is a scientific method of estimating fishing pressure and fish harvest from a series of boat counts and angler interviews. The surveys are a valuable tool for managing fish populations. Creel surveys are conducted on Lake Vermilion two consecutive years out of every six years.

Aerial boat counts are used in conjunction with angler interviews to make estimates of fishing pressure and fish harvest. On Lake Vermilion, creel survey is done from opening day of the walleye season through the end of September. The survey only includes boat anglers fishing during daylight hours.

There was an estimated 594,400 hours of fishing pressure on Lake Vermilion during the survey period. The fishing pressure was similar to that observed in the last surveys done in 2002 and 2003. A large increase in fishing pressure has been noted since the first creel surveys were done in 1984 and 1985. Some of the increased fishing pressure can be attributed to the muskie fishery that has developed on the lake. In 2008, 19% of anglers interviewed were seeking muskie. About 65% of the interviewed anglers were seeking walleye, while 13% were seeking either smallmouth bass or largemouth bass.

An estimated 74,300 walleye weighing 68,400 pounds were harvested in 2008, which was near the safe harvest target of 65,000 pounds for Lake Vermilion. Safe harvest targets were established for lakes in the Large Lake Program in 1996 to help protect walleye populations in these lakes. The walleye harvest in 2002 and 2003 was well above the safe harvest target, which resulted in the special regulation that began in 2006. An additional 39,500 pounds of walleye would likely have been harvested if the 17-26 inch protected slot had not been in place, pushing the harvest well above the safe harvest target. The walleye harvest included an estimated 2,300 pounds of release mortality and 3,500 pounds of fish that were in the protected slot and illegally harvested. An estimated 110,700 walleye were caught and released during the survey period. Fishing success for walleye varied widely between East Vermilion and West Vermilion in 2008. The walleye harvest on East Vermilion was the second highest ever observed on that lake basin, while the harvest on West Vermilion was the lowest ever observed. Poor walleye fishing on West Vermilion was due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005. Both the 2003 and 2005 year classes are stronger on East Vermilion, which resulted in better fishing on that lake basin.

An estimated 3,700 northern pike weighing 8,900 pounds

were harvested during the survey period, the lowest pike harvest ever documented on Lake Vermilion. Northern pike harvest is restricted by the special regulation that was implemented in 2003. Harvest of northern pike had been declining even before the special regulation went into effect. Declining harvest prior to 2003 may have been related to increased catch and release fishing and fewer anglers targeting northern pike. An estimated 34,700 northern pike were caught and released.

An estimated 5,000 smallmouth bass weighing 8,000 pounds were harvested in 2008, similar to the harvest in 2003. Harvest of smallmouth bass had been declining prior to 2003, but increased in the last two surveys. Higher harvest in 2003 and 2008 may be related to higher abundance in those years. An estimated 57,100 smallmouth bass were caught and released.

An estimated 1,200 largemouth bass weighing 1,700 pounds were harvested during the survey period. The harvest was similar to harvests in 2002 and 2003. Largemouth bass are more abundant in West Vermilion and most of the harvest came from that lake basin. An estimated 17,800 largemouth bass were caught and released.

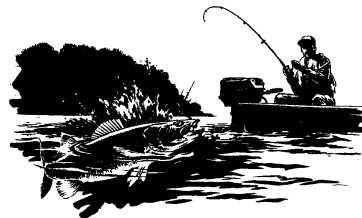
No harvested muskie were encountered during the survey, producing a harvest estimate of zero fish. It is known that a few muskie are harvested each year, although that number is believed to be quite low. An estimated 2,400 muskie were caught and released, similar to muskie catches in 2002 and 2003. The largest muskie reported during the survey was 53 inches long.

An estimated 4,800 black crappie weighing 3,900 pounds were harvested in 2008, similar to harvests in 2002 and 2003. Crappie are more abundant in West Vermilion and most of the harvest came from that lake basin. An estimated 2,500 crappie were caught and released.

The bluegill harvest was estimated to be 19,900 fish weighing 6,300 pounds. The harvest was similar to harvests in 2002 and 2003. Most of the harvest came from West Vermilion, where bluegill are much more abundant. An estimated 79,500 bluegill were caught and released.

I encourage anyone who has questions about the creel surveys to contact me or stop by our office for a visit. The DNR office is located just west of Tower on highway 169.

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# *“Invasive Species”*

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by Bob Wilson



Here it is almost summer, but still before the lake’s annual big event: the FISHING OPENER. In the last issue of the “Vermilion Sportsman” I indicated what we were planning for the spring, summer & fall season to prevent Invasive Species from entering the lake. Almost everything we plan and actions we take hinge on educating the public about the dangers of Eurasian Milfoil, zebra mussels, Spiny Waterflea and Curly Leaf Pondweed. As a quick refresher, below is the list of our activities and plans for summer.

*Buying extra inspection time for the DNR at public boat ramps.*

*Print and distribute table placemats for local area restaurants with our Invasive Species message.*  
(See picture on page 8.) Actual placemat will be in color and 11 x 16 in size.

*Display the Invasive Species message as a public service announcement on a billboard on Highway 53 in Virginia, MN.* (See picture on page 7.)

*Provide boat inspection training for Resorts, Marinas and Volunteers.*

*Place invasive species public service ads in local papers.*

*Distribute Sport Fish & Invasive Species identification Cards.*

*Have volunteers conduct boat inspections at public ramps around the major summer holidays.*

*WELY will broadcast the Invasive Species message during Twins ball games.*

*Have fishing tournament directors communicate the need for “clean boats” to their participants.*

See you at the ramp or on the beautiful waters of Lake Vermilion.

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

**HELP PROTECT LAKE VERMILION**



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

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



**Clean**  
**Drain**  
**Dry**

**STOP Aquatic Hitchhikers!**



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# CLEAN LAKES DON'T JUST HAPPEN!

HELP PROTECT LAKE VERMILION FROM INVASIVE SPECIES



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL



ZEBRA MUSSEL



CURLY LEAF  
PONDWEED



SPINY  
WATERFLEA



## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ REMOVE aquatic plants, fish, animals and mud from boat, motor and trailer
- ✓ DRAIN water from boat, motor, bilge, livewell and bait bucket
- ✓ DISPOSE of unwanted live bait, fish parts, and worms in the trash
- ✓ RINSE boat and equipment with high pressure hot water on your way home or at home OR
- ✓ DRY everything for at least 5 days.



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

Presented by the MN Department of Natural Resources and Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion.  
For more information and to become a member, go to [www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.com](http://www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.com).

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# TO FORECAST THE WEATHER, GO BACK TO NATURE

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Want to give it a try? Read on — it might be fun, and maybe you can develop a “weather instinct” and bring these meteorologists to their knees.

Long before we had computers and radar, weather forecasting was done by observing natural phenomena like how animals and plants coped with the weather. The original and shrewdest practitioners were the Native Americans, the farmers and the seafarers, for often their forecasting was a matter of survival. They studied nature and its reaction to the weather intently. The knowledge they learned was passed down from generation to generation. Many of their discoveries and experiences were summarized in what they called proverbs. Many may say they are just old wives tales, but bear with me a bit.

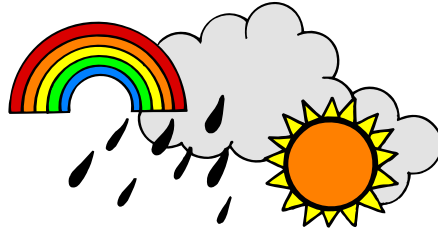
University of Minnesota professor of atmospheric physics, George D. Freier says 90% of the short range forecasts have basis in scientific fact! They deal with the weather conditions of just a few days, which is the average time it takes a weather system to move across the country. He believes that long range weather forecasting is bunk because we have insufficient knowledge about the physics of the atmosphere to make such predictions.

A good example of the ancient and accurate proverb that has stood the test of time is found in Matthew XVI, verses 2-3. The mariners simplified it and coined the phrase, “Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning. Red sky at night, sailors delight.” Or another proverb on the same vein, “Evening red, morning gray, send the traveler on his way.” Scientific fact: In the evening the concentration of moisture in the air near the horizon makes the sun glow red and as weather systems move from west to east, this evidence of evening moisture brings rain. Sunrise in the east would indicate it had passed.

From the ancient Greeks: “Ants usually go in a straight line before it rains.” Scientific fact: They lay down a trail of pheromones so the other ants can follow them, as when it rains the moisture mixes with the pheromones leaving a trail for them to follow. So much for the ancient proverbs that have stood throughout time.

The commercial fishermen on Lake Superior followed this proverb faithfully: “Seagull, seagull sitting on the sand, it’s a sign of rain when you’re at hand.” The fishermen always checked to see if the seagulls were flying or walking on the beach before they went out in their small boats. Scientific fact: Being that the seagull is a soaring bird, it needs updrafts under its wings. During periods of low pressure the thinning of air lessens the updraft that keeps them afloat. So sailors do not go out on the lake, but tend to chores on the land.

Here’s another proverb that sailors carry continually



in their memory: “Mackerel scales and mare’s tails make lofty ships carry low sails.” Scientific fact: When those long, feathery, high cirrus clouds are seen during a low pressure, high winds aloft bring approaching storms.

Here’s an old English proverb: “When the wind is from the east, weather’s no good for man or beast.” When a steady

wind blows, two days of unstable weather is coming. This is from observation.

“Smoke rising straight up from a cabin chimney means fair weather.” Scientific fact: Low pressure forces smoke downward and signals a change in the weather.

“If the North Star twinkles we will have rain.” Fact: It indicates turbulence in the air, turbulent air is unstable; unstable air makes clouds and clouds make rain.

“Trout jump high when rain is nigh.” Fact: When pressure is low, bubbles expand in the water and stir up decaying material which minnows feed on and which, in turn, are chased by the trout.

There’s an old-timer up on the Gunflint Trail who, it is said, is one of the best natural science weather gurus, who firmly believes he could do a much better job of weather forecasting for our region by a close observation of nature and by the careful use of his senses than any distant meteorologist with millions of dollars worth of equipment and little sense of geography. He based his predictions simply on the wind — its direction’s strength, and took into consideration the topography. When he would wake up in the morning, he would lie in bed and concentrate on the sounds of the wind in the trees and the waves on the lake. All the varied sounds the wind makes across every surface are meaningful to him and are the things he analyzes and interprets that tell him all he needs to know about the coming weather.

If he hears waves lapping gently on the rocks along the shore and the dock, but hears no wind in the trees, he surmises it’s an east breeze. In the summer a steady east wind suggests two or three days of rain.

A west wind may rush through the trees along the shore dashing the waves against the rocks in long surges like ocean swells sending huge whitecaps down the lake clearing and drying the air. We will probably be in for fair weather and a three-day blow.

North winds don’t amount to much during the summer and won’t last long before they veer to the east (rain) or to the west (fair), but their effect is a constant lapping of waves, a steady sighing breeze in the trees and gusty rushes of cold air.

*(Continued on Page 13)*

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# WATER QUALITY REPORT RELEASED BY MPCA

By: Mel Hintz

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In early April, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) released their 54 page report detailing the results of last summer's water quality water monitoring program on Lake Vermilion. The full text of this report titled "Citizen Lake Monitoring Program: Advanced Volunteer Lake Monitoring on Lake Vermilion- St. Louis County" is available at: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-publications.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-publications.html). The report is also linked to the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion website at: [www.sportsmen-sclublakevermilion.org](http://www.sportsmen-sclublakevermilion.org). What follows are excerpts from the Executive Summary as well as other parts of the MPCA report which summarize their findings and provide recommendations for best management practices aimed at protecting the water quality on Lake Vermilion. The report was prepared by MPCA Research Scientists Jesse Anderson and Steve Heiskary.

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Minnesota's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) is the largest and oldest volunteer lake monitoring program in the country. Volunteers in the CLMP currently use a Secchi disk to measure the clarity on hundreds of Minnesota's lakes. The expanded program, including the collection of water chemistry samples for analysis along with Secchi transparency collection, was conducted in 2008 on Lake Vermilion. The study was conducted cooperatively with volunteers from the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion (SCLV) and staff from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A total of 8 sites were selected for monitoring in 2008. The MPCA last conducted a water quality assessment on Lake Vermilion in 2000. The Lake Vermilion watershed covers approximately 488 square miles (312,000 acres) spread out over several basins. The Pike River is the dominant tributary, contributing about 40 percent of the watershed area.

The Lake Vermilion sites were sampled once in May, and twice per month June – September. Most of the monitoring was conducted by SCLV volunteers.

MPCA staff sampled the lake in May, late July and late September (due to high winds on the late September sampling date, only 2 of the 8 sites could be sampled). Surface samples from volunteers were analyzed for: total phosphorus (TP), chlorophyll-a (Chl-a), pheophytin, and sulfate. Secchi disk transparency and user perception information was recorded at all sites. Volunteers also collected dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature profiles for each site. Samples were sent to the Minnesota Department of Health laboratory for analysis.

## SUMMARY FINDINGS

Of the eight sites sampled in 2008, three were also sampled in the MPCA's 2000 study – Pike, Big, and Wakemup bays. Based on this comparison there was no significant difference in phosphorus, chlorophyll, or Secchi transparency on a lake-wide basis. These data suggest that water quality in Lake Vermilion has not changed significantly from 2000 to 2008 – though algal response may vary somewhat between years. It is important for the SCLV and area management agencies to continue their excellent work in protecting the Lake Vermilion watershed. Potential threats to the lake are numerous; such as exotic species invasions, increasing lakeshore development, and global climate change.

Lakeshore best management practices property owners can do to protect Lake Vermilion's natural environment include:

1. Maintain buffer areas of natural vegetation between their lawns and the lakeshore and minimize removal of aquatic vegetation. These can filter runoff and benefit the fishery and aquatic life.
2. Minimize the amount of manicured lawns on your property. If you must use fertilizers, use those that do not contain phosphorus.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

3. Conserve water in your home or cabin. This will reduce stress on your septic system and the lake.
4. In the shoreland areas, setback and storm-water provisions should be strictly followed and the amount of impervious area (roads, rooftops, and parking lots) should be minimized. Studies have shown that the TP originating from these “non-point” sources can be greater than the TP originating from septic systems.

Once communities and property owners in the watershed take ownership in the quality of these lakes there is an increased likelihood that measures to improve the lakes will be undertaken. As an example, the St. Louis County’s septic system point of sale ordinance (which mandates a system functions properly or be replaced before a sale), has had a beneficial effect by reducing the TP load to Lake Vermilion. The improvement and protection of the lakes is essential not only for the future of the lake, but the community as well. This is well stated by Krysel, et al. (2003), “The evidence shows that management of the quality of lakes is important to maintaining the natural and economic assets of this region.”

## DETAILED FINDINGS

Distinct thermal and dissolved oxygen (DO) stratification was evident at the deeper sites; whereas the shallower sites exhibited variable or well-mixed conditions. Epilimnetic DO concentrations consistently exceeded 5 milligrams per liter (mg/L) throughout the monitoring season, a level necessary to maintain healthy cool water fisheries. Carlson’s overall Trophic State Index (TSI) on the entire lake indicates mesotrophic conditions. The individual TSI estimates for phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and Secchi transparency align very well on a lake-wide basis. For Pike Bay, these measures were not in synch. Due to the naturally tannin-stained water, Secchi transparency and chlorophyll-a were lower than is expected at its given phosphorus concentration. In general, phosphorus is slightly lower and Secchi is higher in the West basin as compared to the East. The near record high water levels in the first half of the monitoring season did not

appear to have a consistent affect across Lake Vermilion. The relatively stable phosphorus concentrations in Pike and Big Bays in 2008 may be the combined result of a steady influx of phosphorus from the Pike River, as well as wind resuspension of fine particles (e.g. clays) from shallow water sediments (which would include all of Pike Bay) throughout the summer. As lake in-flows and levels dropped by late summer, internal recycling and wind resuspension may become even more important in serving to maintain phosphorus concentrations in the shallow windswept bays. Sulfate concentrations in Lake Vermilion were relatively high in 2008 as compared to other lakes in the Northern Lakes and Forests ecoregion. The lake-wide average (10.6 mg/L) slightly exceeded the water quality standard of 10 mg/L. Concentrations were highest in Big Bay, and were lower and below the standard in the western arm of the lake. Further monitoring may be needed to fully discern the source(s) of excess sulfate and cycling of sulfate within the lake; however it seems likely that the Sandy River (a tributary to the Pike River) is an important source.

The Minnesota Lake Eutrophication Analysis Procedure (MINLEAP) computer model was used to predict the TP concentration, Chl-*a* concentration, and Secchi disk transparency of the lakes based on lake area, lake depth, and the total area each lake watershed. Pike Bay was modeled separately from the main basin of the lake. Additional information about this model can be found in the modeling section of the report or a complete explanation of this model may be found in Wilson and Walker (1989).

The BATHTUB model (Walker, 2004) provides a further basis for estimating water and nutrient budgets for Lake Vermilion using a combination of runoff and P export coefficients based on land use in the watershed and data from similar systems in this ecoregion. This model allows for the “routing” of water and nutrient loads between the basins. In this fashion improved estimates of nutrient and water exchange can be obtained and improved estimates of in-lake condition should be possible.

*(Continued on Page 12)*

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# Water Quality Report Released by MPCA

*(Continued from Page 11)*

The MINLEAP model was run individually for Pike Bay and the whole lake, as was also done for the 2000 assessment report. Conclusions were very similar compared to 2000, since water quality conditions and model inputs did not significantly change between those years. The BATHTUB model provides a further basis for estimating water and nutrient budgets for the Lake Vermilion watershed using a combination of runoff, phosphorus export coefficients based on land use in the watershed, and data from similar systems in the Northern Lakes and Forests ecoregion. For this effort, we divided the lake into two distinct basins: Pike Bay and the main-basin, versus four basins in our 2000 model run. This was done to simplify inputs, since water quality did not significantly vary among the main basin sites and we lacked actual monitoring data for inflows to the various sub-basins. As has been previously discussed, Pike Bay has unique hydrology, morphology, and water quality and warrants separation from the rest of the lake. To make the 2000 and 2008 model runs as comparable as possible, model inputs were not changed unless new information and data became available to increase the model's accuracy. In general, there is good agreement between observed and predicted chlorophyll-a and Secchi values for each basin. This suggests Lake Vermilion is generating the amount of algae we would expect based on measured phosphorus and standard regression equations. Pike Bay represents about 1.5 % of the volume of Lake Vermilion but receives runoff from about 40 percent of the watershed via the Pike River and East and West Two Rivers. These three rivers account for the vast majority of the external phospho-

rus loading to Pike Bay and about 60-65 percent of the total phosphorus loading (external plus internal). In comparison, on-site septic systems and the Tower wastewater ponds discharge contributed on the order of five percent of the phosphorus loading. According to data from St. Louis County, there are approximately 2,950 residences on Lake Vermilion - a 21% increase since 2000. It is very likely that this increase in development (and phosphorus load) has been offset partially by the County's septic system point of sale ordinance. When the internal loading estimates are removed from the phosphorus budget, the total phosphorus loads are very similar from 2000 to 2008 - about 12,500 kilograms. Of the source-categories we have noted, some might be considered controllable (subject to management) while others are not. Sources which would generally be considered not controllable would include: atmospheric deposition of phosphorus on the lake, background runoff from forest and wetland areas (typical of this landscape), and diffusive sources (mixing within the lake). Those sources that can be viewed as controllable would include: a portion of the septic system effluent that leaches to the lake, wastewater discharges, a portion of the urban runoff (stormwater) that drains to the lake from driveways, parking lots, rooftops, lawns and other surfaces which contribute runoff and phosphorus to the lake. While septic systems appeared to be a small contributor (on a lake-wide basis) it may be among the most "controllable" portion of the phosphorus loading to the lake considering that atmospheric and natural background loads cannot be reduced.

The similarity in measured (i.e. monitored) and modeled water quality in 2000 and 2008 and the lack of significant trends in the long term datasets provide multiple lines of evidence that Lake Vermilion's water quality is relatively stable, generally within typical ranges for area lakes and meets Minnesota's Northern Lakes and Forest ecoregion lake nutrient standards.

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

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

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# Sunset Creek Northern Pike Spawning Area

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Each year the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries and the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion operate the Sunset Creek Northern Pike Spawning Area on the west end of Lake Vermilion. Located near the public landing in Head-O-Lakes Bay, the Sunset Creek is blocked off with stop logs to create a rearing pond for northern pike.

A fish trap is placed in the creek in early April when the northern pikes start their spawning run. Club volunteers check the trap twice a day and release the northern pikes in the rearing pond to spawn. Approximately 20 females and 40 males are transferred to the pond — the calculated number of fish the pond will support.

When this number is met, the trap is removed by the DNR. After the adult fish have spawned, they return to the lake over the dam. Then sometime in the first part of June, DNR Fisheries contacts club volunteer Rick Pearson and he begins removing the stop logs, one each day until the pond is lowered. Rick reports he props up one end of the log in the morning and lets the water flow through, then later comes back to remove the stop log. If he's quiet when he returns, he can sometimes see a large mass of northern fry suddenly go over the dam when they sense the current. The fry are three to four inches long by then and as Rick says, "Half of that is head!"



**Club volunteer Bill Gruska digs out a beaver dam in the Sunset Creek culvert under Highway 24. This has been an ongoing battle to keep the creek open for the spawning area. The club thanks Bill for volunteering his time and equipment every year to remove the beaver dams.**

The purpose of the rearing pond is to give the northern fry a chance to grow, giving them a better survival rate once they return to the lake. The DNR estimates the Sunset Creek Rearing Pond produces 10,000 to 15,000 fry each year.

This year the northern trap was put in on April 14. The trap was manned by club volunteers Gary and Alberta Whitenack, Ron Johnson and Dale and Nan Lundblad. By April 17 volunteers had transferred 43 males and 22 females to the rearing pond to spawn.

## *To Forecast the Weather, Go Back to Nature...* (Continued from Page 9)

If the wind gushes and rushes through the tops of the big pines and aspens, but the waves along the shore are silent, he believes a south wind will bring a thunderstorm.

Well now, with all this information at hand, a degree in meteorology would be quite useless to us. So if you test your newfound skills and "weather instinct" against those

TV guys, I'm sure you'll put them to shame.

Happy Forecasting,

Mardy Jackson

Board Member

Information gathered from the book "Gunflint" by John Henriksson

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# Getting Kids out fishing can have huge benefits

Last summer the Sportsmen's Club Annual Banquet held at Fortune Bay included the DNR Commissioner as the guest speaker to talk about the new proposed Park on Lake Vermilion. At the start of his presentation he posted a photo of kids sitting around a laptop computer. He pointed at the photo and told the audi-

ence that our younger generations are not getting exposed to the outdoors and it's showing in the decline of Fishing and Hunting licenses sales. He went on to explain the plans of the new proposed State Park will include design features to encourage getting families to experience the outdoors. The new park would become a prototype for all the State Parks for future upgrades.

As a resort owner, I became very concerned about this issue for the future generations of fishermen are our future customers. As I worked several Sport Shows this winter I took notice of the estimated ages of the people walking down the aisles and it was very clear that the average age at those shows were people in their 30s and above with very few kids attending. Also, when the Lake Vermilion Fishing Survey Report from 2008 came out there were 4,821 fishing parties surveyed on the lake. Not surprising 72% of all the anglers stopped were over the age of 35. In addition, only 13% under 25 years old. This goes right along with what the DNR Commissioner told us at the banquet. Further



research on the internet proved that this problem is nationwide for Fishing Licenses sales dropped on a national level 12% from 1996 to 2006. Again the shortfall was identified as younger generations not buying licenses.

Minnesota boasts the highest number per capita of people who fish with license sales that total \$1.3 to

\$1.5 million per year. That might sound good but you have to consider the number of licenses sold per year has not changed in 10 years. In addition, the state's population has grown in those 10 years. The DNR reports that 10 years ago 40% of Minnesotans age 16 and over purchased a fishing license. Today it's less than 28%. The bottom line is younger generations are not replacing the aging anglers of today as they leave the sport.

Long-term impact of this alarming trend will directly affect the financial resources of the DNR to exist or to have the funds to continue management of the state's beautiful lakes like Vermilion. The business impact is very clear there will be a decline in Resorts, Hotels, Tackle Shops, Boat Dealers, Guides, etc. There will be more supply than the market demands due to lack of fishermen. In addition, the younger generations growing up disconnected from nature/outdoors will be the same people making decisions and passing laws concerning the environment for the future.

There may be many reasons why kids today are simply not taking an interest in fishing and the outdoors. I think it's safe to say kids today are spending a lot of time indoors with computers, video games, chat rooms, internet communications, etc. But what might contribute as much if not more is simply kids are not getting exposed enough to the outdoors for them to decide if they like it or not. When you consider the high percentages of single parent households today, where the kids are usually living in the mother's house, it's not hard to understand why it would be difficult for single parent mothers to get her kids into fishing, given that traditionally this was something the father did as part of his family role. This is not to say single parent family households are the blame, but it's very clear how it directly can contribute.

The Minnesota DNR has taken the lead in educating the public on this problem with billboard ads, programs like Take-a-Kid Fishing Day (allows 18-year-olds or older to fish for a day without a license as long as they are fishing with a minor), direct mailers, public meetings, and programs all targeted at getting kids outdoors and exposed to fishing. Numerous organizations around the state have also developed events, programs and educational tools to help get kids out fishing. One leader for this cause is the Bemidji Minnesota Chapter of Take-a-Kid Fishing. They identified this problem long ago for they have had annual events to introduce kids to fishing for 23 years.



Recently there have been several discussions on this issue with Lake Vermilion Resort owners, guides, Sportsmen's Club members and people who live and work in the area. The consensus seems to be that we should work together to establish an annual event on Vermilion that will promote getting kids exposed to fishing. Maybe something similar to the Bemidji Event that includes a Take-a-Kid Fishing Day where volunteer guides and fishermen take out kids for a day combined with some fishing instruc-

tions and a family fish fry. Most important is that our Lake community starts doing something to help plant the seeds for future generations to share the same love we do for the outdoors and Lake Vermilion. If you would like to participate in planning an event on Vermilion or if you want to submit some ideas on this issue please contact:

Ed Tausk, Vermilion Dam Lodge, 218-666-5418  
email: [ed@vdl.com](mailto:ed@vdl.com) or

Eric Hanson, Pehrson Lodge, 218-666-5478

By Ed Tausk,  
Board Member

Been to our website lately?

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

# Minnesota officials on alert after Wisconsin reports emerald ash borer near La Crosse

*Officials urge Minnesotans to avoid transporting firewood*

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 7, 2009 - With today's news that Wisconsin state officials confirmed an emerald ash borer infestation south of La Crosse, officials in Minnesota are stepping up monitoring efforts and alerting residents about the destructive tree pest's ability to spread by hiding in firewood.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees. Since its accidental introduction into North America, EAB has killed millions of ash trees in 10 eastern states. While it has not been found in Minnesota, the beetle was found in Wisconsin for the first time near Lake Michigan last summer. Today's announcement marks the first time EAB has been found in western Wisconsin. The new infestation is near the town of Victory, on the east bank of the Mississippi River just 1 mile southeast of the Minnesota-Iowa border.

With an estimated 900 million ash trees, Minnesota is a prime target for EAB. In response to the Wisconsin finding, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has sent inspectors to Houston County to determine if the infestation has spread into Minnesota. MDA will also step up EAB monitoring in southeastern Minnesota in the coming weeks. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working closely with the MDA, as well as the states of Iowa and Wisconsin, to help coordinate a joint response. MDA and DNR

officials are working together to alert stakeholders of the development.

The metallic-green adult beetles are a half inch long, and are active from

May to September. Signs of EAB infestation include one-eighth inch, D-shaped exit holes in ash tree bark and serpentine tunnels packed with sawdust under the bark. EAB larvae kill ash trees by tunneling into the wood and feeding on nutrients inside the tree. While EAB spreads slowly on its own, it can hitch a ride to new areas when people transport firewood or other wood products infested with the larvae. More information about the pest and its impact can be found on the MDA website at [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us). DNR also is offering more information on its forest health site at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest\\_health/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest_health/index.html).

MDA and DNR officials urge Minnesota citizens to take several steps to help keep EAB from spreading:

- **Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota.** Don't bring firewood along on a camping trip. Buy the wood you need locally from an approved vendor. Don't bring extra wood home with you.
- **Don't buy or move firewood from outside Minnesota.** If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source of the wood. If it came from outside Minnesota, don't buy it.
- **Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees.** If you suspect your ash tree could be infested by EAB, visit [www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab) and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist.



Photo by David Cappara



Photo by Howard Russell

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# May 18 kicks off Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week

## Citizens asked to help prevent infestations by not transporting firewood

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Emerald ash borer may not be attacking Minnesota trees yet, but the state's estimated 850 million ash trees are prime targets for the invasive pest.

With the pest now known to infest trees as close as northern Illinois, public officials are stepping up efforts to inform citizens about steps they can take to minimize the risk of EAB accidentally being imported into the state inside infested firewood or other products. The week of May 18-24, 2009, has been designated "Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week" in Minnesota.

All ash species in North America are susceptible to emerald ash borer, and more than 30 million ash trees have been killed since the insect was first introduced to the continent in the early 1990s. Emerald ash borer has been detected in seven states (Michigan, Ohio, Maryland, Indiana, Illinois, Penn-

sylvania, West Virginia), and is found in new areas each year. The insect moves slowly on its own, but it can hitch a ride to new areas when people unknowingly move firewood, nursery products or other infested items.

Citizens can minimize the pest's impact on Minnesota ash trees by delaying its arrival as long as possible and quickly identifying it once it arrives. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has established a statewide monitoring program to detect any EAB infestations. This year, the University of Minnesota Extension, the MDA and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recruited more help by training 180 people throughout the state as emerald ash borer "First Detectors." The First Detectors will serve as public contacts for information and help resolve reports of potential infestations.

## Creel Survey Scheduled for Lake Vermilion in 2009

The Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Section of Fisheries, will be conducting a creel survey on Lake Vermilion during the summer of 2009. Creel survey is a scientific method of estimating fishing pressure and fish harvest from boat counts and angler interviews. The surveys are a valuable tool for managing fish populations. Creel surveys are conducted on Lake Vermilion as part of the statewide Large Lake Program, and are scheduled two consecutive years out of every six years. Previous creel surveys were done in 1984-1985, 1990-1991, 1996-1997, 2002-2003, and 2008. The creel survey in 2009 will be the second year of the current two year cycle. A DNR aircraft will be used to count boats at scheduled times throughout the summer. Two DNR creel survey clerks will be interviewing anglers by boat to gather information on the numbers and sizes of fish caught, time spent fishing, methods of fishing, and other pertinent information. They will ask a series of questions and may measure fish the angler has caught. They may also take a few scales from some of the fish for age analysis. I would like to take this

opportunity to thank Lake Vermilion anglers for their cooperation during the survey. The interview process may be a little inconvenient, however the information gained is very valuable. Creel survey clerks who worked during previous surveys were very impressed with how cooperative and friendly Lake Vermilion anglers were. That cooperation is much appreciated.

I encourage anyone who has questions about the creel surveys to contact me or stop by our office for a visit. The DNR office is located just west of Tower along highway 169.

Duane Williams, Large Lake Specialist  
MN DNR Section of Fisheries  
650 Highway 169  
Tower, MN 55790  
Phone: 218-753-2580 ext. 224  
e-mail: [duane.williams@dnr.state.mn](mailto:duane.williams@dnr.state.mn)

# Early season locations and tactics for Lake Vermilion walleyes

By Cliff Wagenbach, Cliff's Guide Service, Lake Vermilion

The 2009-2010 walleye fishing season is rapidly approaching! Here are a few pointers that I hope will make your walleye season more enjoyable and more productive.

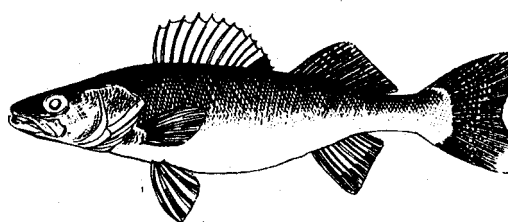
There are two types of live bait presentations that I use the most early in the season. They are: live bait rigging and lead head jigs. Usually referred to as "rigging & jigging." The first thing I will go over is the fishing gear that I have found best suits my type of fishing.

Rods and reels: For bait rigging I prefer using a medium light action, 6-1/2 foot to 7 foot, graphite bait casting rod that has a fast tip. This type of rod is very sensitive and yet has plenty of backbone to handle larger fish. I like the fast tip for jigging because you need a little stiffer rod to get a good hook set with jigs. A spinning type rod/reel with the same configuration also works well if that is what makes you most comfortable. Spool both types of reels with 8 lb. to 10 lb. test Power Pro line or Fire Line Crystal line. I prefer the braided lines because

they will give you a much better feel than the mono lines. Now that you have your rod & reel ready you can rig your terminal tackle!

For jigging you can tie your jig directly to the braided line or if you prefer, you can tie a small swivel to the braid, add a 2 foot section of 8 lb. test mono leader, and then tie on your jig. The live bait rig is made by first sliding a 1/4 oz. to 3/8 oz. egg sinker onto the braided line, tie on a small swivel and tie in a 3 ft. to 6 ft. section of 6 lb. to 10 lb. test mono. I prefer

Cajun Red Line and then tie on a Gamagatsu bait hook. I like to use a red or green hook and at times will also add a red, green, pink or glow bead or two on the leader above the hook for extra added attraction. Hook size will vary according to the type of bait you are using. As a general rule I use size 6 to size 2 for minnows, size 6 for leeches, and size 4 for crawlers.



*(Continued on Page 19)*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS 2008-2009**

(All phone numbers are Area Code 218)

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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.

Early season walleyes are hungry and can be found in water as shallow as 2 feet to water as deep as 42 feet. They are there for only one reason, that's where their prey lies. That's mainly minnows in the shallows or mayfly larvae in deep water/mud. Early in the year I like to find areas that are mostly sand or gravel and change into a mud bottom. Fish the transition areas early in the morning and late evenings and the mud at mid-day. Rock to gravel transitions and weed lines are also very good spots to target at times.

There are three basic ways to present your jigs or bait rigs to the fish; trolling, drifting, and casting. The key thing to remember is to keep your presentations moving as slowly as possible and to keep it right on the bottom! The walleye bite can mostly be very tentative on many days so you have to pay attention to your line! With the live bait rigs I like to drop the rod back towards the fish as soon as I feel anything that even feels "different". Wait until the line tightens up again and if you feel any extra weight, set the hook with a moderate hook set. With jigs the bite may be light or at times quite aggressive. When I get a bite on a jig I like to hold the rod steady for a couple of seconds and then slowly lift the rod until I feel the weight increase and then set the hook. "FISH ON!"

If an area is not producing fish you have to be willing to move! Do not sit on a spot just because it produced yesterday!

Please, release all walleyes in the protected slot (17 in. to 26 in.), and keep only what you need for a meal. Take note also that a new law revision this year allows you to have only one walleye over 26 inches in your possession on Lake Vermilion!

Good Fishing and have a great summer!

Contact info:

[www.cliffsguideservice-lakevermilion.com](http://www.cliffsguideservice-lakevermilion.com)

218-753-2005

cwagenbach@ hotmail.com

Fishing provides that connection with the whole living world. It gives you the opportunity of being totally immersed, turning back into yourself in a good way. A form of meditation, some form of communion with levels of yourself that are deeper than the ordinary self.

—Ted Hughes

## **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

2009 New Member

2009 Renewal

Membership level

\$10.00 Individual

\$20.00 Family

\$15.00 Couple

\$50.00 Business or Organization

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Use seasonal address during this period:

Do this every year

Just for upcoming year

Contact me to discuss when to use seasonal address

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

## **Become a Member**

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

Not sure? Check us out at our website  
[www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.org](http://www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.org).

We're pretty sure you'll like our vision for the future and the work we have under way now to make Lake Vermilion even better.

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

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

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



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