

the vermilion sportsman



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Could the next world record musky come out of Vermil-



Over the past five years several giant muskies have been caught and released on Lake Vermilion that more than likely would have established a new state record. The requirement to get recognition for a state record fish includes weighing the fish on a certified scale, bringing the fish to a DNR office for positive identification and submission of a "state record fish submission form." Most musky fishermen today release everything they catch for they understand how rare it is for a fish to grow to record size. Especially when you consider the current state record caught musky still stands at 54 pounds, caught by Art Lyons on Lake Winnibigosh in 1957. That record has stood for 52 years.

On October 10, another potential state record musky was caught on Lake Vermilion by Randy Porubcan. That fish measured 59 inches with a 29-inch girth. A well-established and proven formula used by most musky fishermen today determines weight using length and girth puts this monster at 60 pounds. The angler reported this fish barely fit into a giant musky net and it took two

anglers to lift the fish over the side of the boat to get it in for measuring. They were trolling a 14-inch Jake Lure that resembles a whitefish. A musky this size comes as no surprise to the guides and dedicated musky fishermen of Vermilion, for most of them have stories of seeing fish this size over the last few years.

During the 1940s, northern Wisconsin (Hayward and Boulder Junction area) enjoyed a period of time where several record muskies in the 60-pound range were caught. The record muskies caught during those glory days brought a lot of media attention and helped build the tourism business those towns still enjoy today. In fact, Boulder Junction and Hayward fought in court claiming which town was considered "Musky Capital of the World." Boulder Junction won that battle, but today Hayward has now become "Home of World Record Musky" (as noted on their town's water tower). Since the glory days of musky fishing in northern Wisconsin, there has not been a 60-pound class musky caught in 60 years anywhere in the country. The most recent caught/killed/weighed/certified musky in the world was caught in 1988 in Georgian Bay, Canada, which was caught by angler Ken O'Brien and weighed 65 pounds. Some today considered this to be the current world record caught on hook and line. That fish was 58 inches in length and had a 30.5-inch girth. So if you consider Randy Porubcan's musky was not that far from O'Brien's fish in size and it's still alive today in Vermilion thanks to his willingness to let it go, it's not hard to imagine the next world record just might be caught in Vermilion in the next few years.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... 2010 GOALS

Greeting friends and neighbors,

It may seem strange to think of us as neighbors. However, considering that the nearly 2700 of us who own homes, cabins, or commercial properties on the Lake share a common lakeshore boundary we are, in a sense, part of the Lake Vermilion neighborhood. Accepting this premise is a good thing, because it promotes a sense of responsibility among the neighbors to insure that the neighborhood is well cared for. Further, the SCLV has been dedicated to providing assistance in meeting this responsibility for over forty years.

The past three months have seen considerable change in both the composition and the responsibilities of your SCLV Board of Directors. The Board is still in the process of recovering from the shock of losing long-time board member Paula Bloczynski who suddenly died in mid-July. Paula had served as Board Secretary for several years and earlier in her tenure was the SCLV President. Among her many accomplishments, the thing I will miss the most is the historical perspective Paula brought to our board meetings mixed with equal dosages of common sense and wit. A more extensive write-up on Paula's life of service is contained in this newsletter.

On a much more cheerful note, the Board is excited to welcome three new members: Sheri Sawatzky and Jim Mueller from the Cook end and Renee Aro from the Tower part of the lake. All three are "willing workers" who have volunteered to either lead or serve on various committees or elected positions. We also wish to thank outgoing members Judy Moline and Jack McCarthy for their contributions to our organization.

In September, the Board elected its new slate of officers who will be serving for the next two years. Those elected were: Mel Hintz-President, Dale Lundblad-Vice-President, Sheri Sawatzky-Secretary, and Bob Wilson-Treasurer. All races were uncontested! Past President Walt Moe, who informed the Board several months ago that this would be his last term as President, has served our organization tirelessly in his six

year tenure as President. The Board thanks Walt and Marcie for their many contributions during this time. Walt's farewell letter follows this message. He plans to continue serving as a board member.

Part of our October Board Meeting was devoted to setting goals for our organization for the upcoming year. My overall goal is that "we continue to work positively for the lake AND have fun doing it". More specifically, the Board identified the following as our goals for the next year: 1) Protect and improve water quality by continuing to gather baseline data, encouraging local enforcement of ordinances established to protect water quality, and educating property owners on measures we can adopt to limit storm water runoff. 2) Manage our six shore lunch sites to include regularly scheduled monitoring by volunteers, adding signage at each site identifying permitted activities, and working with the Bureau of Land Management to locate potential new sites. 3) Seek opportunities to educate new groups on the importance of limiting the spread of invasive species to Lake Vermilion. 4) Cooperate with the Bureau of Land Management in development of a land use plan for the federal islands in Lake Vermilion. 5) Develop a strategy for promoting/publicizing the SCLV as a first class lake association. 6) Modernize our record keeping/retrieval system by scanning our older records into digital format and storing them along with the newer records. 7) Review the locations of our night navigation lights, identify the criteria for new locations, and determine if any new lights should be added. 8) Increase membership by 5%. 9) Seek new volunteers to assist in SCLV programs.

These goals are in addition to our longstanding annual programs such as the spring sucker sale, loon count, and the collection of Secchi disk readings to measure water quality as part of the MPCA Citizen Lake Monitoring Program.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist in meeting the above noted goals, please contact our volunteer coordinator Renee Aro (753-2129 or [HYPER-LINK "mailto:raro@frontiernet.net"](mailto:raro@frontiernet.net) raro@frontiernet.

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President's Message

(Continued from Page 2)

net) or include a note with your membership renewal form which will be mailed in early December. You may also contact any of the Board Members as listed in this newsletter.

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to gather with family and friends and be thankful for those things we treasure in life. Lake Vermilion is indeed one of those treasures. Those of us living on the lake are fortunate to share in this treasure every day. For others, experiencing the beauty of Lake Vermilion may be limited to a weeklong stay at a resort or a holiday weekend staying with friends or relatives. Whatever the case, the challenge for all of us is to afford Lake Vermilion the kind of care that insures that those who follow us can also experience this same treasure. Have a great holiday.

Mel Hintz, President

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all."
— Stanley Horowitz

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: November 2009 Farewell

After six years in office, it's a bit sad to write this final message. I have enjoyed being the president because I've had such a great group to work with. I believe in the mission of the SCLV and will continue to work with the group to improve the water quality of Lake Vermilion and the overall quality of life in the Northland. Some people have said the SCLV is a venerable organization that doesn't want to take on the tough problems facing our membership. I disagree! We have worked closely with the DNR, the MPCA, St. Louis County and various other governmental organizations to improve Lake Vermilion. Our membership has overwhelmingly complimented our efforts. I can only take credit for being president during this time. The board members deserve the credit for implementing and following through on the various projects we have in progress. Thank you all for the support and work we have accomplished over the past years. I also want to thank the membership for their support and volunteerism. With your help we have accomplished much and will continue to do so under the leadership of our new president, Mel Hintz. So long for now!

Walt Moe, Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS 2009-2010

(All phone numbers are Area Code 218)

COOK (55723)

Sheri Sawatzky, **Sec.**.....2750 Wakemup Village Road West.....666-5512
Dale Lundblad, **Vice Pres.** 9082 Little Sweden Road 666-2316 (B.I.C. 666-5352)
Gary Whitenack.....9140 Hibbing Point Road666-2153
Ed Tausk.....Vermilion Dam Lodge666-5418
Jim Mueller8782 Raps Road666-0588
Gary Lundquist.....PO Box 236.....666-2756

TOWER (55790)

Walt Moe3331 Nisen Drive753-3816
Mel Hintz, **Pres.**.....6119 Pike Bay Drive.....753-2401
Renee Aro.....P.O. Box 872753-2129
Bob Wilson, **Treas.**.....1501 Echo Point.....753-5544
Jeff Lovgren (Member Records).....2113 Birch Point Road753-2413
Mardy Jackson2065 County Road 77753-3549

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.

Paula Jean Bloczynski

In July, the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion lost a valuable member of its board, Paula Bloczynski, when she passed away unexpectedly after suffering a brain aneurysm. Paula had served on the board for the past 19 years. During those years she was also an officer, serving as president and most recently as the club's secretary. Paula volunteered



her time to handle many duties on the board. She was responsible for coordinating the arrangements for the annual meetings of the club held in August, as well as the annual appreciation dinners held in the spring to honor the club's volunteers. She also was a member of the newsletter committee and submitted many articles for the club's "Vermilion Sportsman." Paula's intelligent and wise counsel will be greatly missed by her fellow board members.

As you read the following obituary which appeared in the Tower News, you will see that the Sportsmen's Club was not alone in losing a dedicated volunteer, civil servant and good friend. We will always remember her as "one who loved the lake."

Stunned friends and relatives received the news late Friday, July 24, that Paula Jean Bloczynski of Lake Vermilion, Tower, a well-known figure in northern Minnesota, had passed away about five o'clock that afternoon at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. She was seventy-one years of age.

Paula had been taken by ambulance to the Virginia Regional Medical Center on Sunday afternoon, July 26, and had been transferred shortly thereafter to St. Mary's, where she was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm. Surgery was performed on Tuesday, but Paula never rallied.

Paula was born in Kansas City, Missouri on October 2, 1937, the daughter of Roy and Jean (Murray) Swanson. She attended school in Kansas City and following her high school graduation, she went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in English from Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. On February 27, 1960 she married Charles Edmond "Chuck"

Bloczynski at nuptial rites held in St. Peter's Catholic Church in Kansas City.

She held the position of director of Missouri Valley College until Chuck and Paula settled in this area in 1979, when they purchased Life of Riley Resort on the Cook end of Lake Vermilion. They operated the resort, in partnership with Rodney "Rock" and Lee Gillson, until 1985, when they sold the property to Rock and Lee. In 1980, Chuck and Paula purchased "The Tower News" from Franklin J. Burgess and Paula took over as publisher, operating the newspaper until 1985, when they sold the business to Anthony Sikora.

Paula was an enthusiastic, dedicated fan of the Twins, and during their season she made every effort to coordinate her schedule with the schedule of the Twins games. One of the most vivid memories of Paula will be her vocal support of the Twins.

Paula was a member of St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower, where she served as an elder, sang in the church choir and had been a member of the Session. She was involved in all phases of the church and was a willing, tireless worker in almost every event the church held. She was a member of the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, was a supervisor on the Greenwood Town Board, was a member of the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, was actively involved in politics and had worked on Paul Wellstone's campaign, was a member of the Tower Women's Civic Improvement Club, had served on the St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Board, was chairman of the St. Louis County Joint Powers Board and was a member of the Lake Vermilion Lodging Tax Board. Paula took membership in organizations seriously and worked tirelessly for each group, always being relegated the task of taking charge of the promotion of their events, in addition to her other duties. She also sang in the Tower-Soudan community choir.

Paula is survived by one brother, Charles Swanson of Kansas City, Missouri; an aunt, Nan Wolfe of Overland Park, Kansas, and Mrs. Wolfe's daughter, Lisa; a sister-in-law, Gerrie Bloczynski of Athens, Wisconsin; Rock and Lee Gillson and their children, Josh, Caleb and Sara, whom Paula considered an important part of her family, and her beloved dog, "Bear."

In addition to her parents, Paula was preceded in death by her husband, Charles "Chuck" Bloczynski, on February 18, 1992.

Paula loved animals, especially dogs, and she lavished love and attention on the various dogs who were fortunate enough to live with her throughout the years. Very few people were aware of Paula's periodic visits to the Mesabi Humane Society in Virginia, where she left supplies of food for the dogs.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday,

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Sportsmen's Club Shore Lunch Sites on Vermilion

... by Bob Wilson

In November I'm quite certain that having a picnic at one of our Shore Lunch Sites is the farthest thing from your mind. Depending on exactly when in November this issue arrives you might need a Hovercraft to get to the site. Nevertheless, this is a good chance to remind you that we have six beautiful and woodsy picnic sites available all summer long. Five of the sites are actually owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the sixth, Swedetown Bay, is located in a state park and managed by the MN DNR. The Sportsmen's Club has purchased the docks for these sites over the years and has had volunteers maintaining them. Having said that, what I'm leading up to is thanking our regular volunteers for a job well done and hope they can "pick up the ball" again next year.

- #1 North Shore of Norwegian Bay - Ron and Bev Kmett
- #2 North of Norwegian Point - Ron and Bev Kmett
- #3 Wolf Bay - Mal and Dawn Berg
- #4 Bystrom Bay - Howard and Jarri Ankrum
- #5 East end of Pine Island - Jim and Ann Gribble
On Mainland & East of Bear Creek
- #6 Swedetown Bay - Al and Rose Mazion

Special thanks also go to the following volunteers for repairing docks, clearing trees and brush, taking pictures of the sites, creating our site inventory book, providing additional site inspections and the placing of a new picnic table at the east end of Pine Island (North Shore on Mainland) courtesy of the Forest Service..

John Zwieg, Josh Gillson & helpers, Dale Lundblad, Mel Hintz, Judy Moline, Bob Wilson and Tim Engrav and staff of the U. S. Forest Service. The Forest Service says they will be upgrading some of the fire grates next year and perhaps place a new picnic table at Wolf Bay.

Thanks to everyone and apologies to anyone missed.



Entrance to Wolf Bay Picnic Site — Don't forget to visit next summer!

LAKE VERMILION NOW SAFER FOR LATE SEASON BOATERS

If you are among the increasing number of boaters who are out on Lake Vermilion during the cooler weather of October, there is good news. Whether you are Muskie fishing, angling for those big, late season Walleye, hunting or just using your boat access cabin later into the fall, you will notice some welcome enhancements for your boating safety.

Beginning this year, 2009, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, who is in charge of the hazard and navigation buoys, has made an important change to its contract with the buoy contractor. The Bid Specifications now contain the following language: "Contractor shall not commence removal of buoys on Lake Vermilion until October 25th or unless the water surface temperature reaches 35 degrees Fahrenheit." Boaters can, therefore, depend upon being able to safely navigate the lake for almost a month longer than in the past.

The docks at the Public Water Access sites are also now being left in the water until late October. DNR Trails and Waterways - Area Supervisor - Scott Kelling and his crew are charged with moving the docks on many area lakes in or out as the season dictates. Recognizing that the boating public is using these access points later into October, he and his crew have graciously altered their busy work schedule to leave these docks in as long as possible on Lake Vermilion.

The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion commends these two government agencies for addressing these important public safety issues.

2009 Buoys on Vermilion

This was our first year of having the buoy contract for Lake Vermilion, Shagawa and Burntside. We are very familiar with Vermilion, having experience on the lake for 25+ years either on building log homes, dock service business and now the barging business - Vermilion Barging Inc. The other two lakes were a learning experience with getting acquainted with the lake itself.

Things went well this year. We had the maps, GPS coordinates that the Sheriff's Department provided us with along with the navigational chip for Vermilion that also shows the buoys and channel markers. We tried to spend extra time graphing some of the channel areas to widen the channel to make it easier for boats to pass. We appreciated the calls to alert us that a few of the buoys were off and the help to get them set correctly. We ask that if you see any buoys or markers or partial buoys that have broken free from their anchors, to please call us so we can retrieve them to keep the lake clean.

Informational facts:

- Lake Vermilion has 215 buoys total (21 red, 21 green & 173 hazard)
- Of the channel markers there are 13 red & 13 green flashers

Vermilion Barging Inc.
Lauren & Sheri Sawatzky
218-666-5512
Bubba@accessmn.com



Off loading buoys and anchors.

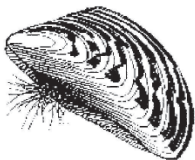
“Invasive Species”

by Bob Wilson



It's been a difficult summer in 2009 for some lake shore property owners as they watch zebra mussels multiply around their shoreline or are notified that they have been discovered in their lake for the first time. Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota's most popular fishing lake has seen zebra mussels increase tenfold. Last year an average of 0.4 zebra mussels were counted per square foot and this summer 4.4 were counted. Officials say they are increasing exponentially and they were only first discovered in 2005.

Pelican Lake, Minnesota, located southeast of Fargo-Moorhead, had an infestation of zebra mussels discovered in mid to late September of this year. Waters from this lake eventually flow into the Red River at Breckenridge, MN then flow north into Manitoba crossing the international border at Emerson. Officials on both sides of the border are extremely concerned as are the people on Pelican Lake and the Red River. Approximately 30 lakes in Minnesota have now been infested with zebra mussels.



ZEBRA MUSSEL

For these lakes anything in the water all summer long will most likely be coated with zebra mussels. That would include docks, boats, rocks and water intake pipes and as they die in about five years the sharp small shells could easily litter beaches. Walking on your fine sandy beach will probably now require shoes.

So the question always comes back to “what are we doing about this threat to Vermilion” and while I've been focusing on zebra mussels thus far the threat includes Spiny Waterfleas and Eurasian Milfoil. My answer to the question is “not nearly enough.” While the Sportsmen's Club has had a prevention and public education program going for several years we need to be joined by all of the towns and townships associated with the lake.

Using fire fighting as an analogy, we all understand the potential danger to homes, cabins, businesses and forests, fires can cause and each of the towns has geared up magnificently to handle them with volunteers and equipment. The increased property taxes we pay for fire fighting is like buying insurance to reduce economic distress, save human lives and save our homes and cabins. Yet, the introduction of Invasive Species into Lake Vermilion will also cause unending hardship to individual property owners, business owners and in particular economic hardship lake wide. While fires are clearly recognizable when spotted, invasive species are

much more insidious. One year your bay is weed free, the grandkids are swimming off your dock and fishing off the dock can be entertaining. Two years later your dock and beach are covered with zebra mussels and you dare not leave your boat in the water. The Eurasian Milfoil is thick in your bay and the grandkids aren't interested in swimming in it and on top of that your fish lines and anchor ropes seem to attract gobs of Spiny Waterfleas. *It is still not too late to prevent this from happening on Vermilion.*

My suggestion is the towns and townships adjoining Vermilion start treating the possible infestation of the lake as though there were going to be a horrendous fire. Why not appoint an Invasive Species Prevention coordinator in each of the towns much as a fire chief is appointed now? The job would be to continually remind their constituents to always keep a clean boat when fishing in other lakes. They would arrange to have exotic species prevention literature always available in the town hall. They might recommend that a portable boat washer be placed at a public ramp(s) in their jurisdiction and manned by volunteers at high traffic times. They could purchase electronic surveillance cameras and have them installed at the same ramps. Sure that smacks of “big brother,” but they are already in use in some lakes and have proven to be effective in deterring careless boaters. All of these ideas are not new and are currently in effect in some areas of Minnesota.

Townships, resorts, marinas and property owners won't you join the Sportsmen's Club in its effort to raise the effectiveness level of Invasive Species Prevention here on Vermilion? An invasion of zebra mussels in Vermilion could make a fire look like a very simple matter indeed. Fires will eventually stop, *AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WILL NOT, ONCE STARTED.*



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THREATS TO THE LOON FAMILY

Because loons spend so much of their life on and under the water, in some circles they are called the “feathered fish.” The loon family, Gaviidae, comprised of five species, all can be found in North America. They are the Common Loon which we have here (Gaviidae immer), the Yellow-billed Loon, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, and the Arctic Loon. For a time the scientists recorded the last two groups into the same specie, but later discerned the differences. All of these species nest in Alaska, and all but the Arctic Loon nest in Canada. The Common Loon is the only one that nests in the lower 48 states, also. The range of the Common Loon in North America spans most of Alaska across Canada, and south to many northern states such as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. They used to nest as far south as Iowa, Illinois and Pennsylvania, but partly due to destruction of habitat, human disturbance, and pollution those areas have been abandoned. While they nest mostly in North America, small populations also breed in Greenland and Iceland. Many “winter” in northern Europe and the British Isles.

In the mid 20th century it was thought that loons could only survive in clear wilderness lakes away from people. That has surely been disproved; goodness just look how they populate Lake Vermilion. No, it’s not being away from people, but the availability of safe nesting locations undisturbed by people. In addition they need good clear water (because they do their hunting by their eyesight) — and the availability of fish. Minnesota with its nearly 13,000 large lakes has more loons than any other state in the lower 48, also we have hundreds of thousands of small lakes. Maine is second with about 5,000. The population of the rest of the states is stable or growing.



Then in the 1960-1970 years, the loon population took a tremendous drop, the lowest ever. Many birds along with the loons were heavily contaminated by chemicals (DDT), heavy metals, and mercury. Our air and water pollution was at its worst. Besides

the above, here are some other threats to the loon population, we as a nation or we as individuals can minimize to help these beautiful birds:

1. Human disturbance is number one. Loons can nest and raise their young on lakes with a high density of human dwellings and a high degree of recreational activity as long as their nesting sites are undisturbed. Lake Vermilion is a good example. Other examples of our human disturbance are our domestic dogs and cats, the waves we create with our power boats and jet skis washing over nests and eggs.

2. On shoreland nests the danger comes from skunks and raccoons, and nests anywhere by the gulls which feed on the loon eggs and baby chicks, and the large fish and turtles below.

3. Lead sinkers are the leading cause of adult loon mortality. One study showed that 52% of autopsied loons died from acute lead poisoning. They ingest lead sinkers when they swallow small stones (grit) from the bottom of the lake which helps them in digestion. Split shot sinkers are the perfect size and shape for the loons to confuse with grit. After ingesting the sinker the loon soon starts to show symptoms of lead poisoning and in a few days the loon dies — from only one split shot sinker!

4. Monofilament line is another danger. The discarded line gets caught up in the wings which renders the loon flightless, and to bills tying them shut, causing a slow starving death. In many areas this is the second highest cause of loon mortality.

5. Mercury poisoning affects the nervous system impairing vision and coordination. With reduced abilities to catch fish, the loon quickly becomes

weak and dies. A survey sampling loons in the Great Lakes region showed about 5-10%, and some New England states showed about 20%, of low levels of mercury, which reduce reproduction levels. Many of the loon observers in the country have noted a reduction of chicks, as we did on Lake Vermilion this year. Our total count for this year and last year was exactly the same at 281. But out of that total last year we had 42 chicks and this year only 29. This always fluctuates from year to year, but that was quite a drop.

6. Loons also have a high mortality rate in winter where they migrate to coastal waters, getting entangled in commercial fishing nets, boating incidents, oil spills, and being a meal or partial meal for ocean fish.

7. I received a call from Jim Charles, who used to be our warden here, and he shared some surprising news he'd read from a periodical he subscribes to. As we all know, loons are very territorial. We hear the males yodeling in the spring as they announce to other male loons, "Keep out, this territory is taken." That doesn't turn some loons away; that beautiful yodel we all love to hear is much more threatening than we knew. Jim's article says that between 5-8% of loon deaths are caused by one loon pecking the other in the head with their sharp, powerful bills. It's hard to think the loons we love so much and think are so beautiful could be such a vicious murderer.

Sick and injured loons are often found on land. For whatever reason, when a loon feels ill or is injured, it tends to head for land. If this is seen by someone, it should be reported to a local wildlife rehabilitator or wild animal clinic. My best guess would be to call the DNR to be directed to someone who could help or they may come for it themselves. If injured it may be cured, if it's sick and dies, it's important to report it so it can be autopsied to find the cause of death.

With all of the above it seems a little dim for the loon. But we have more understanding and respect than in the past. Loons are not dauntless and we can help by observing some of the dangers I've mentioned above. The Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, combined with widespread environmental education and good sound scientific studies, are making it possible for loons and other birds to make and maintain their recovery.

Now in the last days of October, we note our beautiful loons have lost the black and white plumage of their breeding colors and are beginning to molt. It starts on their head and travels down their

body. (The wing feathers don't molt 'til around January or February after they have reached the winter home.) They then return to their natural coloring, gray and white.

Lake
Vermilion
loons, we bid
you adieu.

Have a safe

flight, and we'll welcome you back come spring!

Mardy Jackson
Board Member



Paula Bloczynski's obituary

(Continued from page 4)

July 29, from St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower, with Pastor Bill Evans of St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower officiating. Organist was Carolyn Stevens. St. James Presbyterian Choir, under the direction of JoAnne Connell, sang "This Is My Story, This Is My Song" and "Faithful Servant," with Mrs. Jim Burgess as accompanist. Kathy Siskar, accompanied by Carolyn Stevens, sang "The Lord's Prayer." The congregational hymn was "Beautiful Savior." Active casket bearers were Merlyn Johnson, Dale Lundblad, Beverlee Lofquist-Hinsa, Randy Kladio, Ron Anderson and John Ziegler. Honorary casket bearers were Donovan Strong, Ellen West, Gerrie Bloczynski, Charles Swanson, Robin Bender, John Zwieg, Nan Wolfe, Lorraine Johnson and Arla Anderson. Conducting the private interment rites at the grave site in the Birch Hill Cemetery in Buyck, where she was buried next to her husband, were Josh Gillson, Caleb Gillson, Sara Gillson, "Rock" Gillson and Lee Gillson.

The love, respect and admiration in which Paula was held was evidenced by the hundreds of people who crowded St. Martin's Church for her funeral services.

Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home of Tower was in charge of the arrangements. Memorials are preferred to the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department, the Boy Scouts, the Girls Scouts or the Humane Society.



General ice thickness guidelines

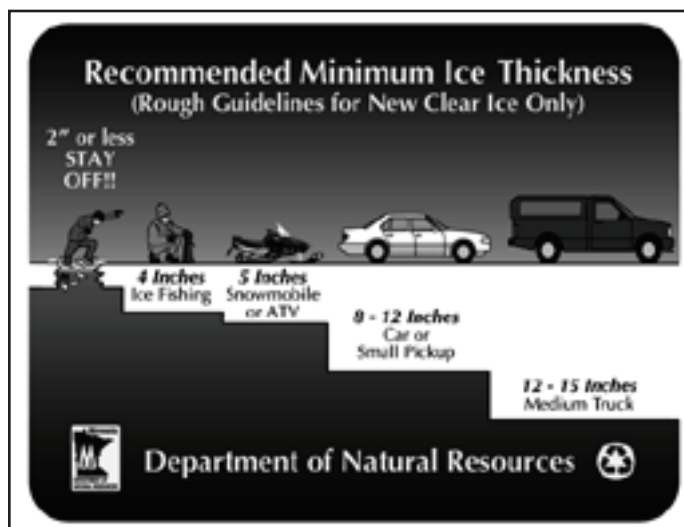
For New, Clear Ice Only

- 2" or less - STAY OFF
- 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" - Snowmobile or ATV
- 8" - 12" - Car or small pickup
- 12" - 15" - Medium truck

Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

Checking ice thickness

No matter what you are going to do once you get on the ice — like fishing, snowmobiling, skating or even ice boating — it's a good idea to contact a local bait shop or resort on the lake about **ice conditions**. It's also important to do some **checking yourself** once you get there. Several factors affect the relative safety of ice, such as temperature, snow cover and currents. But a very important factor is the actual ice thickness.



Traveling on ice

The following guidelines can help you make wise choices...

Check for known thin ice areas with a local resort or bait shop.

Test the thickness yourself using an ice chisel, ice auger or even a cordless 1/4 inch drill with a long bit.

Refrain from driving on ice whenever possible.

If you must drive a vehicle, be prepared to leave it in a hurry--keep windows down, unbuckle your seat belt and have a simple emergency plan of action you have discussed with your passengers.

Stay away from alcoholic beverages.

Even "just a couple of beers" are enough to cause a careless error in judgment that could cost you your life. And contrary to common belief, alcohol actually makes you colder rather than warming you up.

Don't "overdrive" your snowmobile's headlight.

At even 30 miles per hour, it can take a much longer distance to stop on ice than your headlight shines. Many fatal snowmobile through-the-ice accidents occur because the machine was traveling too fast for the operator to stop when the headlamp illuminated the hole in the ice.

Wear a life vest under your winter gear.

Or wear one of the new flotation snowmobile suits. And it's a good idea to carry a pair of ice picks that may be home made or purchased from most well stocked sporting goods stores that cater to winter anglers. It's amazing how difficult it can be to pull yourself back onto the surface of unbroken but wet and slippery ice while wearing a snowmobile suit weighted down with 60 lbs of water. The ice picks really help pulling yourself back onto solid ice. **CAUTION: Do NOT wear a flotation device when traveling across the ice in an enclosed vehicle!**



What if you fall in?

What should you do? **First, try not to panic.** This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps so that you can be prepared.

1. **Don't remove your winter clothing.** Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.
2. **Turn toward the direction you came.** That's probably the strongest ice.
3. **Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface.** This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.
4. **Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice.** If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.
5. **Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole** to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.
6. **Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area** and re-warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!



For more information, contact the Minnesota DNR for their free ice safety and hypothermia prevention brochures. Metro (651) 296-6157, or toll free in Greater Minnesota (888) 646-6367.

Donations for Annual Meeting Raffle

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

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

Donations can be dropped off with any board member.

Need a Christmas Stocking Stuffer?

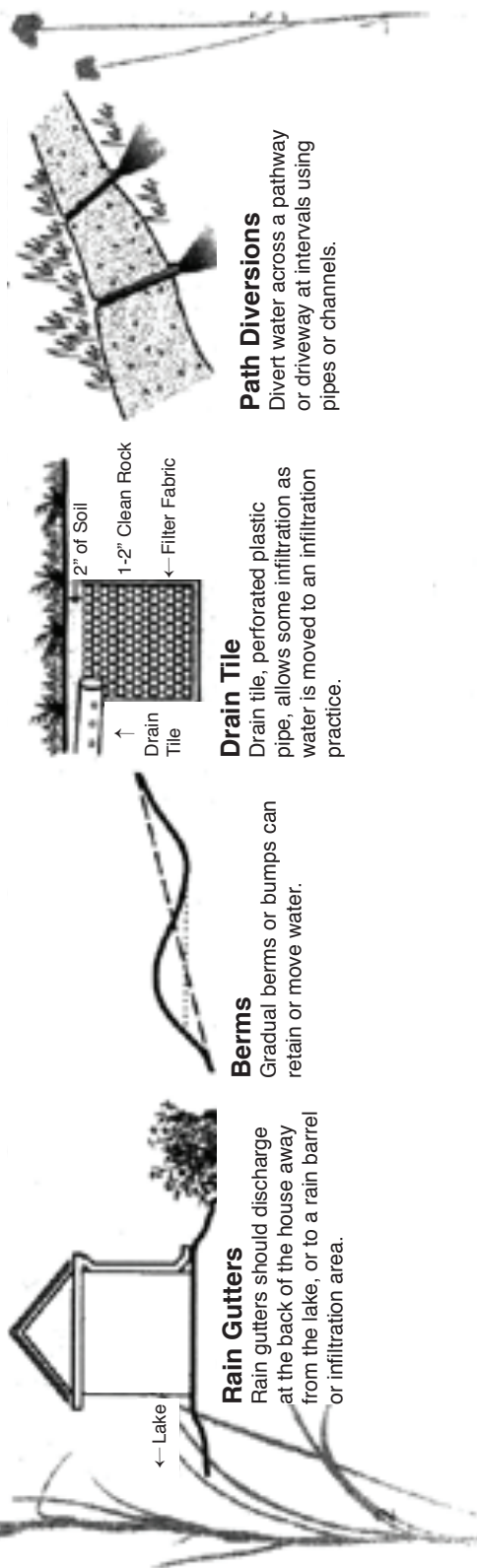
If so, we've got a suggestion. A gift membership to the Sportsmen's Club for friends or family members is a great way to keep them in touch with Lake Vermilion year round.

Just send us the recipient's name, address and dues when you send in your own membership renewal for 2010. And we'll send you a certificate to stuff in that lucky friend or family member's stocking!



**North St. Louis Soil and Water
Conservation District**
Northland Office Building
307 1st St. South, Suite 114
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 742-9505

Water diversion practices Create ways for water to flow to an infiltration practice and/or away from the lake.



Rain Gutters

Rain gutters should discharge at the back of the house away from the lake, or to a rain barrel or infiltration area.

Berms

Gradual berms or bumps can retain or move water.

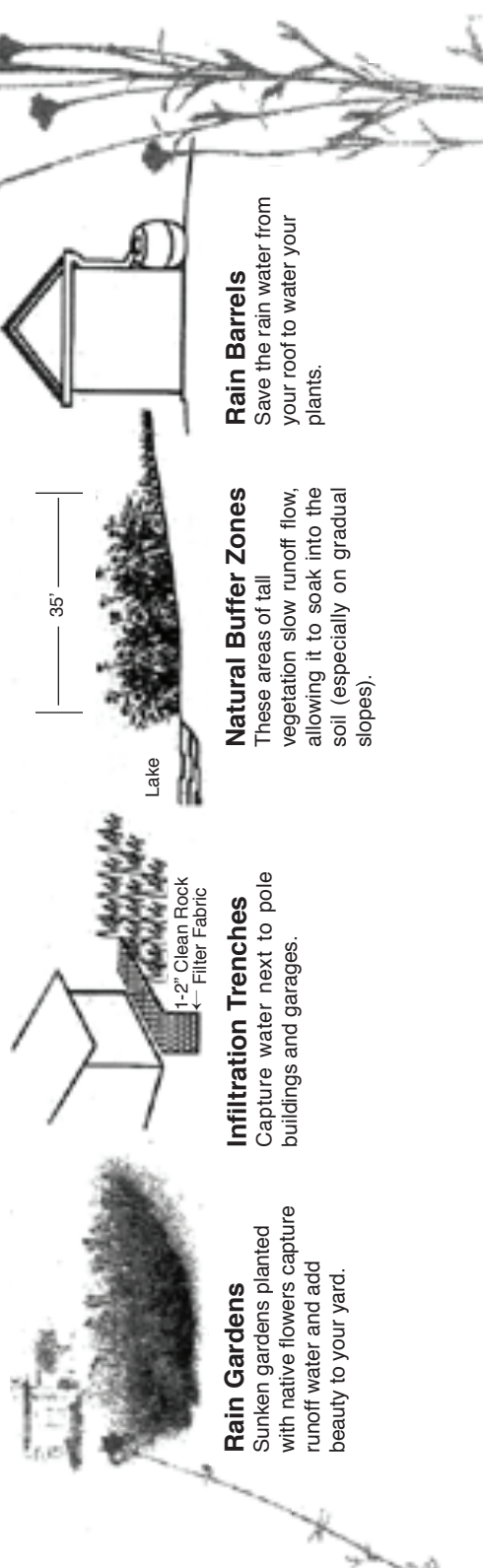
Drain Tile

Drain tile, perforated plastic pipe, allows some infiltration as water is moved to an infiltration practice.

Path Diversions

Divert water across a pathway or driveway at intervals using pipes or channels.

Infiltration practices Create places for water to soak into the soil.



Rain Gardens

Sunken gardens planted with native flowers capture runoff water and add beauty to your yard.

Infiltration Trenches

Capture water next to pole buildings and garages.

Natural Buffer Zones

These areas of tall vegetation slow runoff flow, allowing it to soak into the soil (especially on gradual slopes).

Rain Barrels

Save the rain water from your roof to water your plants.

Thinking of Renting Out Your Lake Home?

Explore Minnesota Tourism website offers advice on rules and regulations.

Reprinted from Minnesota Waters, Fall 2009 Issue

ST PAUL (July 13, 2009) — Vacation home owners now have a valuable resource as they sort through the rules and regulations that affect their properties. Explore Minnesota Tourism (EMT) has created a Web page with information from regulatory and enforcement agencies across the state.

“Vacation home rental property is a real growth area for Minnesota tourism. That’s why we felt it was important to create a communications vehicle for all of the health, tax and other regulatory rules that affect vacation home rental properties in Minnesota,” said Explore Minnesota Tourism Director John Edman. “While vacation home rentals are not well-defined in Minnesota law, there are many rules and regulations that affect owners of these properties, and there are many common courtesies that can make neighbors more comfortable with these properties.”

“The rental of privately-owned vacation homes is common throughout the world and is a growing practice in Minnesota. Vacation home rentals are offered through companies that specialize in this business, or directly by the home owners. The number of vacation homes offered for rent in Minnesota is unknown, but hundreds of Minnesota homes are promoted on various vacation home rental Web sites. There are more than 100,000 seasonal, recreational or occasional use homes in Minnesota.

The vacation home rental Web page is the result of a task force headed by EMT. During the 2008 legislative session, EMT was asked to study vacation home rental lodging in Minnesota, and propose how the state should handle these properties. This task force submitted a report to the Legislature this year.

The Web page is at:
industry.exploreminnesota.com/vacationhome

ABOUT EXPLORE MINNESOTA TOURISM

As the state’s tourism office, Explore Minnesota Tourism pursues an entrepreneurial approach, leveraging the state’s tourism investment with increased involvement by the private sector. A council of representatives



from the state’s tourism industry strongly connects Explore Minnesota Tourism with tourism businesses and organizations.

Tourism is an \$11 billion industry in Minnesota, a key sector of the state’s economy. The leisure and hospitality industry, a major provider of tourism services, employs more than 248,000 Minnesotans.

More information can be found at:
www.industry.exploreminnesota.com.

Footnote:

In the past few years, rental of private homes and cabins has become common on Lake Vermilion with many offered for rent through the internet. Rapidly escalating property taxes are the likely catalyst causing owners to rent their properties. In some cases, the tenants occupying these rental units have caused conflicts with neighboring property owners who have then lodged complaints with local governmental units about this practice. The state of Minnesota is considering adding regulations to address this issue, but this is at least a year away. The SCLV is concerned about home/cabin rentals because they may potentially impact water quality if their on-site sewage treatment systems are not adequate to handle the heavier usage by rental clients.

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

Recently an acquaintance who learned that we live road-less or boat access asked, "What about fall freeze-up and spring thaw?"

My response to anyone who asks is: hovercraft. Not an airboat, but a hovercraft. An airboat is one of those things that run around in the southern U.S. swamps. A hovercraft has a motor and a propeller to force air under and lift itself off the surface, be it earth, water, ice.

We bought our lake property for and as a seasonal place. After we built our cabin we decided to leave the city and return to our rural "roots." The lake place became home. We moved in the spring and spent the early part of soft water becoming acquainted with our new life. June or so we started to think about ugly ice - late fall / early spring transportation. I had heard of some individuals who strapped long boards to their feet and walked across thin ice. After 3-4 seconds of thought I said, no way! Somehow hovercraft came to mind, so I checked the Internet and emailed Hovercraft Inc. To my delight they emailed back and informed me that their smallest hovercraft was a 180-passenger ferry. However, they forwarded my specs (up to six passengers) to another company. They emailed me shortly thereafter and informed me that their smallest would carry a squad (18?) and cost approximately 80,000 pound sterling, including spare parts. Interesting, but out of budget.

After more searching, I found a small company located in S.E. Minnesota that manufactured the type of hovercraft that we were after. The company was not in production at that time, but they gave us the name of an owner who wished to sell. I called and made the deal. Did you know that you can drive for 10-12 hours one-way and still be in Minnesota? After inspecting and purchasing the hovercraft, trailering back, being stopped by a highway patrolman curious as to what was behind my truck (it is different looking), we made it back to Lake Vermilion just before freeze-up. Did I mention this hovercraft has two motors with propellers each, one for lift and one for thrust? Two throttles, no wings, no brakes, and no instructions? WOW, the first trip was memorable! There used to be a kill switch on the dash. I punched it through the second or third trip, haven't seen it since.

Ice formation (fall) and ice melting (spring) are obviously other ends of the seasons, but they share a common thread: speed, or the lack of. We've had 1-1/2 inches of ice form within a few hours and within a day go from ice to water. And

then sometimes it can take forever, but that's what the hovercraft is for.

We use a small boat and motor (8-hp.) until the ice becomes too thick (1 inch or so). Two years ago our son-in-law and grandson were up for the national err ... Minnesota err.. fall holiday of deer opener. It was the son-in-law's first experience at busting ice in a small aluminum boat. The gunnels of the boat have his knuckle imprints — it's very noisy. The reason we wait for some ice before we use the hovercraft is water spray. The lift motor and prop create a lot of spray and at near freezing temps it can get real uncomfortable when you hit the throttle and the wind picks up.

Awhile back I was talking with some friends. One turned and said to the other, "Gary uses a hovercraft to get back and forth." The other turned, looked me in the eye for a moment and said, "I've never wanted to get to work that badly." Hmmm. Good point.

Seriously, if you are going to be on the lake at ice in - ice out, you need to be sober and have someone "kind of" know what you are up to. OH! And most important, make sure you point the bow of your boat out away from shore. You can't back up against ice. I've tried, it's a lot of work. Be careful and enjoy our great Lake Vermilion.

GARY LUNDQUIST

PS: Ice is Never Trustworthy

Membership Renewal for 2010

It's that time again! In early December, you'll receive a letter requesting that you renew your membership for 2010.

Please check your dues status and contact information shown in the letter. Let us know of any errors. We don't want you to miss a single newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Website Editorial or Technical Support

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

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

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

Loon Counters

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

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

Promotion/Publicity Committee Members

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

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

Invasive Species Boat Inspectors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.

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

Membership year runs from Jan 1st through Dec 31st

☐ 2010 New Member ☐ 2010 Renewal

Membership level

☐ \$10.00 Individual ☐ \$20.00 Family
☐ \$15.00 Couple ☐ \$50.00 Business or Organization

Member Name _____

Spouse Name _____

Email (optional) _____

Phone (optional) _____

Main Street _____
Address City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Seasonal Street _____
Address City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

Become a Member

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

Not sure? Check us out at our website www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.org. We're pretty sure you'll like our vision for the future and the work we have under way now to make Lake Vermilion even better.

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

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

HELP US MAKE A BEAUTIFUL LAKE EVEN BETTER!



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