

# ***the vermilion sportsman***



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

---

**Vol. 36, No. 2      2000 MEMBERS      COOK & TOWER, MN      MAY 2010**

---

***Mark your calendars and be sure to attend the  
Annual Meeting of the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion  
on Saturday, August 14, 2010 at Fortune Bay Resort***



The featured speaker will be renowned fishing guide and media personality, Tom Neustrom.

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

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

In February 2009, Tom was inducted as a "Legendary Guide" into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin. Tom was very humbled by his selection

and is very proud of the recognition by clients, sponsors and his peers who recommended him for the honor.

Tom has been appointed to the Minnesota DNR Fishing Roundtable, Red Lake Advisory Council and the State Walleye Advisory Committee. His expertise, dedication and passion for the sport he loves continually pushes him down a path of preserving and enhancing the opportunities for every angler to have positive memories of days on the water. Tom believes we should all be stewards of the waters we fish and be responsible for making fishing better.

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

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

New Ice-Out Record Set ..... Page 3  
Vermilion Safe Boater's Guide ..... Page 5  
Guide's Corner ..... Page 7

Sucker Trapping and Sales ..... Page 11  
Shore Lunch Site Map ..... Page 12  
Quick & Simple Walleye Recipe ..... Page 14  
DNR Fish Population Assessment ..... Page 15

---

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

---

## Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Ice out on April 6<sup>th</sup>. That is almost unbelievable when you consider just two years ago the ice left on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Parts of the lake were still ice covered for the fishing opener. Another interesting fact is that because of our cool summer last year, the warmest water temperature based on DNR data did not occur until September 17<sup>th</sup> which is well beyond the norm of mid-August. For me, this variability adds to the joy and the wonder of living on Lake Vermilion. In a sense it is part of the old adage that "variety is the spice of life".

Our legislature is making progress on the U. S. Steel property acquisition for the new Lake Vermilion State Park. The bonding bill has already passed giving the DNR authority to proceed with the land acquisition. A secondary policy bill to establish the new Park has been passed by the Senate and has been introduced in the House. Soon after the acquisition is completed, the DNR plans to reconvene the Vermilion Task Force to begin the process of obtaining public input in the planning process for the new park. Your SCLV is a member of this task force, so please feel free to contact any of the board members with your thoughts as to how the new park should be used and developed.

Sadly, former board member, Judy Moline passed away in late March following a long battle with ALS. Among other things, she was instrumental in developing the power point presentation commemorating the SCLV 40 year anniversary and in designing the invasive species placemats distributed to area restaurants. Judy was a kind, gentle person with an infectious smile that will be greatly missed by all.

Over the winter months, the SCLV Board has been active on many fronts in either planning for or carrying out programs to meet our goal of protecting and improving Lake Vermilion. Many of these programs are described in greater detail within this newsletter so they are just listed here: 1) spring sucker sale at the DNR Pike River Hatchery, 2) collaborating with the Lake Vermilion Resort Association and the Guides League to host a "Take a

Kid" fishing event on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3) securing a \$2300 state grant to promote Aquatic Invasive Species awareness, 4) annual loon count, 5) water quality measurements as a part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program, 6) developing improved signage at our six boat access shore lunch sites, 7) invasive species boat checks at public landings and 8) maintaining the lake-wide night navigation aids. These are in addition to our ongoing administrative tasks like printing the Newsletter, maintaining our website, managing our membership records, developing new publicity materials, and scanning our records from the past years.

All of these activities require volunteers and fortunately there are many SCLV members that have helped with one or more of these activities. In 2007, the St. Louis County Board granted us the "Volunteer Recognition Award" for our many years of service. On behalf of the Board, I would like to add a big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers.

I recently read an interesting quote on this subject: *"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in".* Another reason to volunteer is that several independent studies have established that there is a strong positive relationship between volunteering and health. Further, nothing brings people closer together than working side-by-side for a good cause. Lake Vermilion undoubtedly fits in this category.

Though we have many volunteers, we can always use additional help. Some of our immediate needs for assistance are listed in the Volunteer Opportunities section of this newsletter along with contact information. Or you may contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Renee Aro at raro@frontiernet.net.

Summer is the season when Lake Vermilion has so very much to offer to residents and visitors alike. Enjoy your time making new memories with family and friends.

Mel Hintz, President

# ***New Record Set!***

## ***Official Ice-Out Date This Year: April 6***

### **PREVIOUS YEARS LAKE VERMILION ICE-OUT FACTS:**

- The average ice out date is April 29th.
- The average ice-out date has varied by decades:

1920's	May 2
1930's	April 28
1940's	April 25
1950's	May 2
1960's	May 2
1970's	May 2
1980's	April 26
1990's	April 29

- The earliest ice-out was April 10, 1945. The latest was May 23, 1950.
- The ice has never gone out on April 15th. (Too taxing!)
- The percentage of time the ice goes out between the following dates:

24% -- April 27 - May 1  
 42% -- April 25 - May 3  
 56% -- April 23 - May 5  
 69% -- April 21 - May 7  
 80% -- April 19 - May 9  
 88% -- April 17 - May 11  
 92% -- April 15 - May 13  
 95% -- April 13 - May 15  
 97% -- April 11 - May 17

- The National Climatic Data Center and international standards require that climate "normals" (averages) be based on 30 year records. Thus, the "normals" from 1961 to 1990 are updated for years 1971 to 2000. The following table indicates "ice-out" trends using this standard on "ice-out" dates:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Ave. Ice-Out Date</u>	<u>Earlier/Later*</u>	<u>By Time**</u>
1923-1950	April 29	na	na
1931-1960	April 28	Earlier	2 hr. 3 min.
1941-1970	April 30	Later	32 hr. 0 min.
1951-1980	April 30	Later	19 hr. 12 min
1961-1990	April 29	Earlier	32 hr. 0 min.
1971-2000	April 28	Earlier	27 hr. 12 min.
* Earlier or later than previous 'ice-out' period.			
** Earlier or later by time from previous period (these times are relative, not absolute 'ice-out' times, and are presented for comparison purposes only. The average 'ice-out' time for all recorded years is 5 hours, 14 min. into the April 29th 24 hour clock)			
© January 2010 by: Iceman			

# Boating with Buoys & Safety

Don't rely entirely on buoys or channel markers. They can move off station due to wind, waves, current or other reasons.

Channel markers are the red & green buoys — always go between them.

White buoys with the orange diamond are hazard buoys meaning stay away, hazardous area. These buoys mark rocks, reefs and shallow water. They do not always sit right in the middle of the hazard area or directly on top of the rocks. Some hazardous areas are 100 to 200 feet in diameter and have only one buoy marking the whole area.

The buoys are placed in front of or alongside the hazard area because with the anchor weight, cable and buoy it all sets down about 4-5 feet in the water. This also allows for the movement of the buoy and cable due to wave action so it does not rub on the edge of the rock and break the cable or damage bottom of the buoy.

Generally the buoys are set to the heavier traffic side

of the hazard area.

REMINDER: all of your GPS navigation units state the warning "do not rely on this product as your primary source of navigation." The coordinates off the GPS maps are not always exactly on the rock pile or buoy markings.

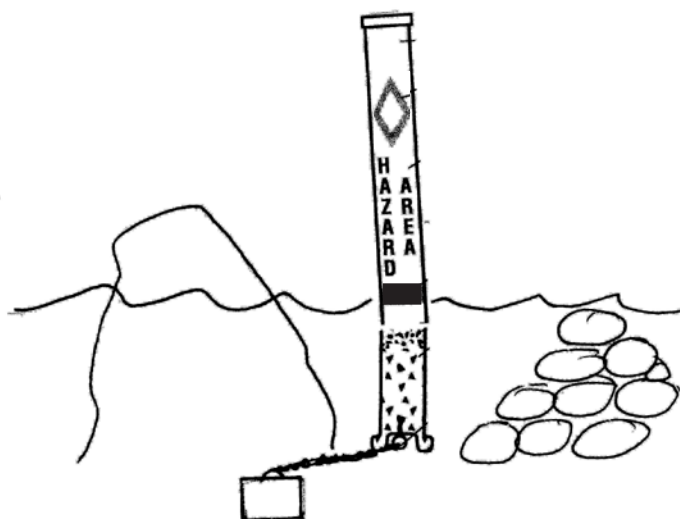
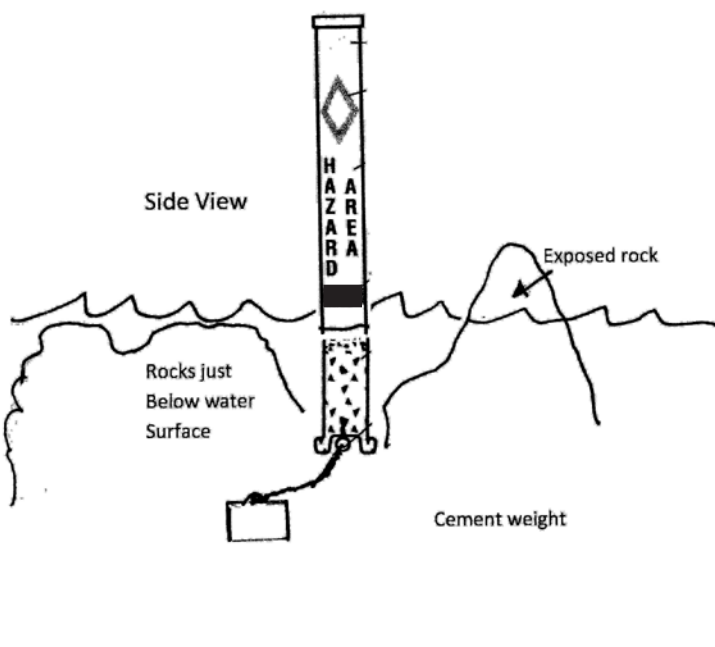
Remember that not every rock or reef pile is marked and when lake levels are lower these reefs are closer to the water surface.

When approaching a hazard buoy a good rule of thumb is a no-wave speed of 4-5 mph. or slower and trim up lower unit or motor approximately 10 boat lengths away (160 to 200 feet away)

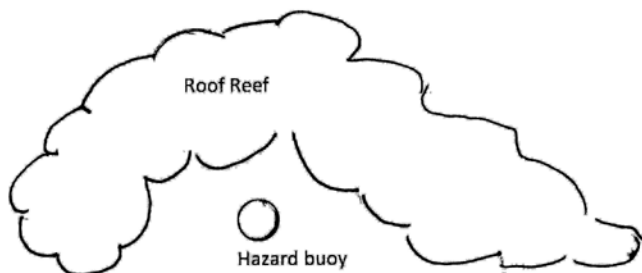
When accelerating you have to remember that your back end of the boat is auguring down in the water until sufficient speed to reach to set the boat to plane out. The larger the boat the deeper the auguring down several feet.

Fishermen should not tie their boats to buoys unless for emergency — this can cause buoys to move from their position and is a violation of statute.

## EXAMPLES OF THE LOCATION OF BUOYS SET TO HAZARDS IN THE WATER:



Top View



## Buoy Placement on Vermilion

Please report any damage to buoys or buoys that appear to have moved or broken loose. Also let us know if you see loose buoys or parts of buoys washed up on shore so we can pick up the debris and keep the lake clean.

Vermilion Barging  
Lauren & Sheri Sawatzky  
2750 W Wakemup Village Rd  
Cook, MN 55723  
218-666-5512

# **VERMILION SAFE BOATER'S GUIDE**

As you prepare to get out on the water for that first fishing trip or pleasure boat ride, it is important to know your responsibilities and be prepared to deal with any emergency situations. The following information will help you to protect yourself, your passengers and others who share the public waterways.

## **Responsibilities of a Vessel Operator or Owner**

Sharing the fun of your vessel with your friends and family is all part of the boating experience. When you are operating a vessel you have a responsibility to your passengers. You are also responsible when you let someone else drive your vessel. As the owner of the vessel, you could be held liable for any damage caused by it, no matter who is driving at the time.

## **Responsibility to Your Passengers**

As the operator of a vessel, you are responsible for ensuring that your passengers understand basic safety practices and laws. Use a pre-departure checklist to make sure you've taken the necessary safety precautions. Before departing, have a safety discussion with your passengers. Some of the things you should point out are:

- Locations of PFDs, fire extinguisher(s), VDSs, and first-aid kit
- The need for each passenger to wear their PFD, especially during times of high boat traffic, severe weather, or any other dangerous boating conditions
- Laws about reckless operation, required equipment and waste disposal
- Safety procedures if caught in rough weather, if someone falls overboard or if a fire erupts
- How to signal for help or use the VHF marine radio to make a MAYDAY call
- Risks of consuming alcohol

## **Responsibility to Others You Allow To Operate Your Vessel**

You should always make sure that anyone operating your vessel understands their responsibilities as a driver. Your attitude toward safe operation will help make them drive more safely and responsibly.

□ Before allowing anyone to operate your vessel:

- Make sure he or she meets the minimum age and education requirements for operation. *Review the state-specific information to find out what age, education, and licensing requirements apply in your state.*
- Make sure they know basic boating safety and Navigation Rules.
- Make sure they know how to use the lanyard of the ignition safety switch.
- Explain the importance of obeying "idle speed" or "slow, no wake" restrictions.
- Emphasize the need for staying alert. Beginning operators may concentrate on driving and not on paying attention to the surrounding traffic.

Have an enjoyable and safe season  
on Lake Vermilion!

Dale Lundblad - Board Member





---

# Boating Etiquette at the Boat Launch...

is as important as boating safety! Boat etiquette on and off the water is an ever-increasing issue. Ask any boater what they perceive to be the biggest issue on the water, and they will usually go into a story about an inconsiderate boater. Many times this will occur at the launch ramp before the boater even gets on the water. Boat ramp etiquette seems to be the biggest hot button of any boater.

Some of the problem comes from a boat operator's lack of experience, some from a lack of perception of what is going on around them and unfortunately some from simple disrespect for others.

Here are a couple of tips when using an access:

- Make the next launch easier - practice backing your boat trailer in an empty parking lot before venturing out to the lake or river.
- At the access, make sure your boat is ready to launch *before* you back your trailer onto the ramp – remove travel covers, tie-downs (except the bow winch line), tilt the motor or lower unit up, attach a control line to handle the boat during the launch and ensure your drain plug is in. Load fishing equipment, coolers, bait buckets, etc into the boat before moving into launch position.
- When it's your turn to launch, do it as quickly as you can do it comfortably, and move your boat aside, away from the launching side of the dock. This will allow the next boater to come in immediately after you and keep things moving when there is a crowd. It's even a good idea when you're the only boater. For one, it will get you in the habit, and second it's a good idea just in case another boater arrives before you return.
- When you retrieve your boat, please use your winch. Using the engine to "power load" the boat can create a hole at the end of the ramp resulting in trailer damage and costly repairs to the access.

- You should extend the same courtesies when you return to the dock to load your boat. Tie up on the opposite side of the launching pad. This way if anyone arrives to launch, before you return with your tow vehicle, you don't have someone waiting on you. Just because your boat is at the dock doesn't necessarily mean everyone else must wait.

One of the best ways to be certain you're not on the wrong end of one of these situations is to get yourself familiar with the protocol at a launching facility before actually launching your boat. This can be done at the time you get to a destination before launching, or by visiting the launch facility ahead of time to view the procedures. While boat launching and loading procedures are similar no matter what type of rig you have, individual facilities have their own little unofficial modes of operation that may have been developed over time.

In order to be aware of these little idiosyncrasies when you arrive at a launch facility, park your rig in an out of the way location, and take a few minutes to watch the activities around you before you commence launching your rig. It may take you a few more minutes to get on the water, but it could avoid personal embarrassment or an actual confrontation with another boater from your unintentional infringements.



---

## Guide's Corner

# Opening Day... by Tim (Buck) Lescarbeau

It was the opening day of the 1998 fishing season, and my first official guiding trip. Butterflies filled my stomach as I pulled up to the docks of this prestigious resort located in Wak-Em-Up Narrows. I had been preparing for this day for years and felt that a good catch would translate into more business and good "word of mouth". I desperately wanted to make a good impression.

In chatting with the resort owner prior to my trip, I mentioned that the plan was to head to the not so secret area of Black Bay. He pointed out that there would probably be a lot of other fishermen up there, he was just making conversation but in my nervous, somewhat paranoid state of mind, I took this to mean, "Take my people to a more wilderness type experience."

Plan "B" was to fish 6-15 ft. break lines next to known spawning areas in the Wak-Em-Up and Norwegian Bay areas. These are scenic areas and it was my belief that the walleyes in these areas would have recuperated from the spawn and be actively feeding. I was wrong. My worst fears were coming true; we were having an agonizingly slow day. As we tried spot after spot where the fish were supposed to be, the once joyful, giddy with anticipation group had become more and more sullen and deflated. It was 11:30 a.m. and we had not caught a fish. The low point came when one of the guys stated that he was clearly going to have to adjust his expectations for the day...downward. Not something you want to hear on your first guide trip.

I don't recall at what point in the day I began praying for a miracle, but one was seemingly about to occur. The plan was for the guys to have lunch at a local dining establishment but before we did this I wanted to try one more shoreline "hotspot." En route to this spot one of the guys informed me that he urgently needed to relieve himself of all the coffee he had drunk that morning. I tried to stop in a discreet location as possible, out of the way from shore, which put us in the middle of the West End main basin over 40 ft. of water. As the guy in front used the pee jug, the other fishermen and I noticed activity on the graph about 10-12 ft. off bottom. He asked what I thought they were and I replied that they were probably tulibeets. He asked if we could fish for them and I knew we'd hit rock bottom.

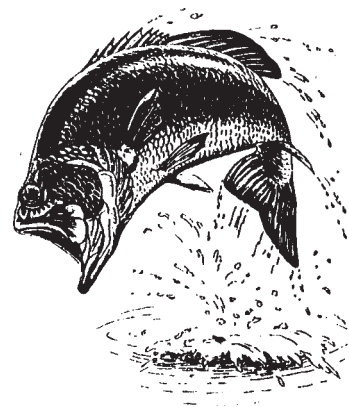
Here it was the Minnesota walleye fishing opener and I'd turned these gentlemen into tulibee fishermen.

As I half-heartedly rigged up with 3/8-ounce jig heads tipped with minnows, a glimmer of hope was observed beneath the suspended fish, swimming near the bottom was what appeared to be a lot of activity. I don't believe the clients jig even hit bottom before the soft thump; thump of a deep water walleye bite was detected. As I netted the beautiful 14 inch walleye the other guy also set the hook. His was also a keeper walleye and things were definitely looking up! Lunch was going to have to wait because the next 45 minutes was some of the fastest, most exciting action I've ever experienced. The fish we kept were in the horizontally challenged range of 12-15 inches but 12 walleye and 4 jumbo perch later it didn't matter, it was opening day, we were catching fish and the guys were having a ball.

As we proceeded to lunch it felt like the weight of the world had been lifted off of my shoulders and I couldn't help but feel extremely fortunate. We'd lucked into walleyes in one of the deepest holes on the West End in the early open water period. Surely it was an act of divine intervention or could there be something a little more logical going on down there? Don't get me wrong, I'll take help anywhere I can get it but as the fishermen had their lunch and I cleaned our catch, my mind began to reflect back to a couple experiences that helped me realize that this was probably not an isolated incident.

A few years prior I stopped off at a major main lake point on the East End with a sand bottom and 33 ft. of water to experiment with a new graph. Major activity was observed off the bottom but with water temps in the upper 40's (prime spawning temps.) I assumed the graph was still in demonstration mode or I purchased a resort model which seems to send fish across the screen on a regular basis...just to keep people interested. A lower jig

*(Continued on page 8)*



---

# OPENING DAY

(Continued from page 7)

and minnow was greeted by a dandy 15 inch golden walleye. Surely these fish were lost...they weren't where they were supposed to be.

The next incident occurred when I'd gone in search of early season crappies in the deepest area of a bay located in the central part of the lake that closely resembles a known crappie haunt on the West End. The graph revealed a thick band of fish in the bottom 4 ft. of the water column and I thought I'd hit the crappie jackpot. You guessed it, walleyes, lots of them, again in the 10-15 inch range. Could this be another fluke? Possibly, but more than likely it wasn't. Maybe the lake was trying to tell me something but I was too stubborn or set in my ways to listen.

Let's see, all of these experiences seem to have something in common. They had all occurred in deep water over soft marl (clay/sand mix) or sand type bottoms. We also hadn't caught a fish over 16 inches which seemed strange until later, speaking with the DNR Lake Vermilion biologist that confirmed my suspicions that these were probably juvenile walleyes. He explained that because female walleyes don't spawn until age five or about 17 inches and males until age four and about 14 inches, that these fish probably don't feel the instinct to go to the shallows to spawn.

Another important part of the puzzle was revealed as I continued to clean our fish and noticed that their stomachs were literally stuffed with mayfly larvae. These immature insects resembled 1 inch, light brown centipedes with tiny black eyes. They are not much to look at, especially in a partially digested, gooey mass but to small bait fish, eater size walleyes and the occasional jumbo perch they are a delectable, high protein delicacy. May fly larvae live in and around burrows made in the soft type bottoms described above and become prime targets in late Sept/early Oct. through the winter and on into at least the first few weeks of the open water

season. Sometime in June or early July, they rise to the surface as adults to start the one year cycle over again.

Prime larvae habitat appears to be where lake points hit the main basin and deep holes within the main basin. The bases of rock piles and rocky shoreline breaks usually have a marl or sand transition to all muck bottoms and are also worth a look.

All I knew was that these little immature insects had just saved, what for me, was a very important day. With a good catch of walleyes the pressure was off and our group spent the rest of the day searching for crappies. Basically soaking up what a beautiful opening day on Lake Vermilion has to offer; pine trees, crisp cool air and the deep blue open water we had been waiting months for.

My group's triumphant return to the resort was met with both curiosity and a heavy dose of envy as most had fished traditional opening day spots and done poorly. The secret to our success was kept to ourselves that day. With some fishermen's propensity (not me, of course) to stretch the truth, or to at least take great liberties with the facts, I seriously doubted that anyone would believe an opening day success story involving, too much coffee, little brown insects and 40 feet of water!

Tim (Buck) Lescarbeau

(218) 969-1022

lakevermilionguideleague.com

## 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, homemade crafts ... whatever you think would be appreciated by your fellow Sportsmen's Club members.

Donations can be dropped off with any board member.

---

*"The long fight to save the wild beauty represents democracy at its best. It requires citizens to practice the hardest of virtues, self-restraint."* — Edwin Way Teale

---

Been to our website lately?

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



# “Invasive Species”

by Bob Wilson



## Is anyone or any organization doing enough?

When riding past Vermilion Houseboats on highway 77 on the Tower end of the lake you are almost certain to see the Greenwood Township Smoky Bear sign warning of “Very High Fire Danger” and the vivid command sign posted to it, “Burning Ban, No Open Fires.” Our very early spring, little rain and related record ice-out (April 6) has temporarily left the grass and trees looking quite brown. The “green” of spring is just barely starting to show. In a “hats off” to the Greenwood Fire Department, they do a good job of informing all passersby of the potential danger we all share if a fire should take hold. There should probably be more signs like this one spread around the lake. It’s a danger that is easily absorbed into our consciousness as we have all seen in person or via TV the damage a forest or home fire can do. Every thinking person knows that being careful not to cause a fire is a “common good” for us all. Not nearly so well understood is the damage certain aquatic plant life, fish & mussels can do to Lake Vermilion. As I have said before, fires can be extinguished, exotic species usually cannot. The potential exists for “invasives” damage all year long and especially in the summer time when some of our visitors bring their boats and trailers to Vermilion from an infested lake.

By this time, with all of the publicity on the subject, you are familiar with the possible damage I’m talking about. Out of the many, I’m concentrating on just three. Eurasian Milfoil can grow so thick around your dock you may have difficulty navigating through it. Curly Leaf Pondweed can be almost as bad. Then there could be zebra mussels attached to the bottom of your boat and dock posts in such numbers that you will be required to spend an enormous amount of labor attempting to clean them off, perhaps frequently! And forget about walking on your beach barefoot if you are lucky enough to have one, those mussels are sharp, and well, you get the picture. Do you think your lake home has dropped in

value because of our current recession? Just think how you might be affected if the lake right in front of your place has the invasive species problems I’m describing.

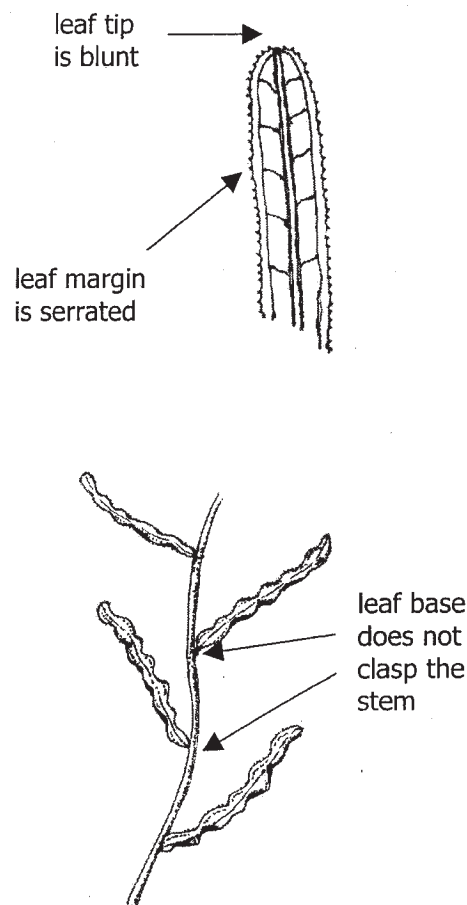
The “common good” for all of us lake property owners shouts out something more should be done to prevent this from happening. Or, as we all like to say occasionally, “there ought to be a law.” Of course there are laws on the books right now. It is an unlawful violation to carry any prohibited (aquatic plant life, fish and mussels) into or out of any lake in Minnesota on your boat and trailer or by any other means. The problem with this law is that enforcement is almost always too far away for the average boater to have to worry he/she might get stopped except possibly on lakes like Minnetonka where prevention security is heavier. Minnetonka residents and the DNR do not want zebra mussels to enter the lake or Eurasian Milfoil, which they have in abundance, to leave the lake on boat and trailer. In most cases I suspect infestations and law infractions are created by people unwittingly transporting these “invasives” from lake to lake.

The Sportsmen’s Club of Lake Vermilion (SCLV) of course concentrates its prevention efforts on Vermilion for the good of all property owners and visitors. We will pay the MN DNR \$2000 again this year to provide 333 hours of boat inspections at our public boat ramps. Our volunteers also provide boat inspections at some of the same ramps during the major summer holidays. In addition, we are having 15,000 placemats printed with an invasive species

message and a Vermilion map to distribute free to local area restaurants at a cost of approximately \$1000 to the Club. Plus, we are making 2000 fish & invasive species identification (ID) cards at a cost to the club of another \$2000. These

(Continued on page 10)

### CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED



# “Invasive Species” ... Continued from page 9

ID cards are for reminder hand-outs to boaters having their gear inspected and for use at resorts. We are partnering with the DNR on the ID cards and placemats via a grant they offer which lessens the financial burden on the club. Several other publicity generating activities are in our plans designed to educate the public concerning the potential “exotic infestation” problem Vermilion could suffer. However, we know that all of our combined prevention activities are not nearly enough.

I believe that every town and township having a piece of Vermilion within their boundaries owes it to their constituents to help protect the lake. Are they doing anything noticeable now? Not that I know of! Supposing each of these governmental entities (5) kicked-in \$2000 apiece the same as the SCLV? I’m not talking about a substantial amount here. The resulting \$10,000 plus the \$2000 from the SCLV totaling \$12,000 would buy us 2000 hours of boat inspections from the DNR under current grant rules. That could clearly help narrow the odds that an infestation will occur at a public ramp. How about it local governments, you should be interested? Certainly your constituents will wonder why you haven’t been helping if their waterfronts are invaded. They would probably ask what you are going to do about it. Helping when you already have the infestation is EXTREMELY expensive. Working on prevention is relatively inexpensive! Take note!

There are other solutions being discussed concerning the spread of invasive species at our legislature and elsewhere. MN Senator Bakk and Representative Dill have introduced legislative bills to halt new public accesses until July 1, 2015 on lakes that don’t have one. That would help some small lakes prevent “invasives” and may be worthwhile, but it won’t help Vermilion. We currently have 16 public water access points, several marinas with access and approximately 26 resorts with access. In other words, there is a tremendous potential for a further infestation of Vermilion in addition to our existing Rusty Crayfish and small amounts of Curly Leaf

Pondweed. The Sportsmen’s Club plans to take a look at all of the water access points this summer to see if we can identify any exotics. The earlier they are spotted the more likely something could be done about it - - maybe!

In our last newsletter, Mr. Kim Chapman discussed identifying every Minnesota boat with a red tag or a blue tag. A red tag or license on your boat would only allow a launch into a lake already designated by the DNR as “infested”. A blue tag would allow you to enter only non-infested lakes. The problem for many would immediately become “individual freedom (I should be able to go anywhere anytime) vs. the common good (keep major invasives out of non-infested lakes)”. We seem to enter this political tug-of-war at every turn in the road these days. Where do you come down? I think a red tag, blue tag plan with some embellishment might actually slow down the spread of “invasives.”

Then there is a suggestion that a boat license would become less expensive if you kept your boat on the same lake all of the time. Boat and trailer owners that move from lake to lake (personal freedom again) would have to pay more for their license and the privilege. Apparently there is some bipartisan support for the “two-tier” license in the legislature. I have some doubts about the effectiveness of this proposal as, for example, many people on Vermilion never trailer their boats to other waters now and the avid fisher people will probably continue to visit other lakes — unless the price difference becomes prohibitively high. Cost/price would probably be the key. Where are you on this one?

Well, it’s absolutely gorgeous on this early April day on Vermilion. We should all be out boating except that most of us don’t even have our docks down. The marker and hazard buoys were just placed so we can better determine what spots we should avoid. When you arrive here you will find that’s very important and a great service as the lake water level is very low. We need heavy April showers right into May.

*See you on the lake. Do your part. Take care to protect Vermilion with a clean boat if you are towing it to multiple lakes and don’t forget to drain your bilge water before entering (way back on the ramp, not into Vermilion).*

## Is Your Membership Current?

You may have noticed that we’ve added a date after your name on the newsletter mailing label. We want to make it easy for you to know if your membership dues are up to date.

For example, “Pd 2010” indicates our records show you’re paid through calendar year 2010.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

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

# **2010 Pike River Hatchery Sucker Sale...** by Richard "Oz" Leciejewski

After a decent sales year in 2005 of 9,500 pounds of suckers, sales fell off for lack of fish availability over the next four years. Available sales records for 2007 and 2008 were 3,100 and 3,900 pounds, respectively.

This year we are pleased to report sales of 13,500 pounds with receipts totaling \$675. This was the first year in many that no one (interested in purchasing suckers) was turned away for lack of fish.

The sale period was from April 1 through April 10. Our best day was April 9, when we moved 2,900 pounds of fish, which was likely the result of a front page article in the Mesabi Daily News written by Mark Sauer. Thank you, Mark!

There had been some discussion this year about possibly raising the price charged for the suckers. The historic going rate has been \$5 per 100 pounds since sales first began. After discussion with several board members, I am happy to report that the rate will remain unchanged for the immediate future. This is a great deal for everyone interested in purchasing suckers.

Hats off to Duane, Joe, Andy and the rest of the DNR Fisheries staff. Without their hard work and support, this fundraiser would not be possible.

The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion also thanks the following media outlets for running "Sucker" public service announcements:

The Timberjay  
WELY Radio  
WEVE Radio

We had a total of 16 people volunteer their time this year. Alphabetically, they are: Don Johnson, Dick Johnson, Melanie, Oz and Rose Leciejewski, Jeff Lovgren, Steve Malesky, Walt Moe, Jim Mueller, Rollie Mueller, Curly Skogman, Bob Reed, Gary Whitenack, Anton, Herman and Rhonda Zuponic.

Any members interested in helping out at future sales are urged to contact Oz Leciejewski at 218-753-4114. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on scheduled days. It's a great way to meet a wonderful bunch of people.

Best wishes to everyone for a great summer — enjoy the lake and summer breezes!



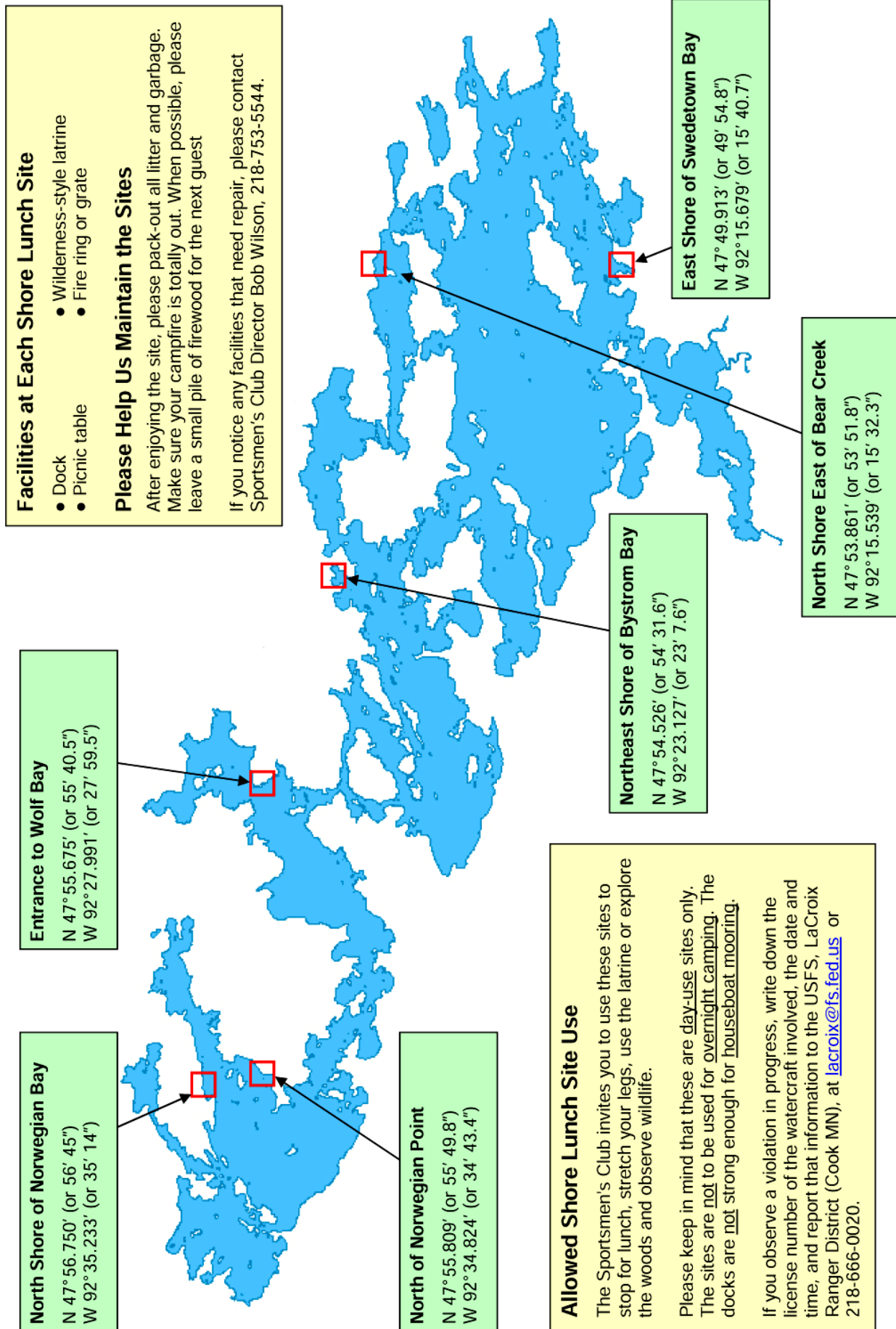
## **SUCKER FILLETS BAKED WITH SOUR CREAM**

1-1/2 pound fillets  
3/4 cup commercial sour cream  
3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese  
1/4 teaspoon tarragon  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon fine bread crumbs  
1 tablespoon butter  
lemon wedges  
1 teaspoon paprika

Heat oven to 350°. Arrange fish on pan. Mix sour cream, cheese, paprika, tarragon, salt. Spread over fish. Sprinkle with bread crumbs, dot with butter. Bake 15 to 20 minutes until fish flakes. Serve with lemon. Serves 4.



# Shore Lunch Sites on Lake Vermilion





# Getting kids out fishing can have huge benefits

In August of 2008 the Sportsmen's Club Annual Banquet held at Fortune Bay included the MN 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 indoors playing a video game. He pointed at the photo and told the audience 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. His message was very clear that if trends continue the younger generations will not be replacing the fishermen, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who support our natural resources of today.

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 older generation fishermen as they approach the age where they retire from 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. In addition, the younger gen-

erations 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 that are contributing to why kids today are simply not taking an interest in fishing and the outdoors. The MN DNR has conducted studies

through focus groups and determined one main contributor is simply, "It's real busy schedules people have," per Pat Arndt, DNR Planning and Public Affairs manager. Other contributors are sport schedules, many kids growing up in single parent households where parents have limited time with their kids outside of school activities and events. In addition, it's very obvious that kids today do spend a lot of time indoors seeking leisure time entertainment through computers, televisions, Internet, and communications electronics. It appears the problem is not

that kids just don't enjoy outdoor activities, but they are simply not getting enough exposure to see if they have an interest. We know there is a fair amount of kids growing up in our lake community area who have never been out on the lake fishing.

The Minnesota DNR has taken the lead on educating the public on this problem with billboard ads, programs like Take-A-Kid Fishing Day, direct mailers, public meetings, and programs all targeted at getting kids into fishing. Numerous organizations around the state have also developed events, programs and educational tools to help get kids out fishing. One leader is the Bemidji, Minnesota Chapter of Take-A-Kid Fishing. They identified this problem long ago for they have had an annual event to introduce kids to fishing for 23 years. That event has been very successful and has a huge turnout every year.

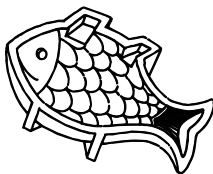
*(Continued on page 14)*



## Need Extra Copies of the Shore Lunch Site Map?

If you'd like to print a color map of the shore lunch sites on Lake Vermilion for your tackle box or your boat's glove box, please go the Shore Lunch Site section of our website. You'll find it easy to download and print the PDF-format map on your home computer.

## Quick and Simple Walleye



For a mild, less fishy flavor soak skinned and rinsed walleye fillets in milk and fresh lemon slices for about 20 minutes before cooking. Lay pre-soaked fillets on a lightly oiled broiler or barbecue grill pan. Brush fillets with a light layer of mayonnaise to retain moisture and sprinkle with Lemon Pepper seasoning to taste. Broil in the oven or grill on the barbecue until done. Cover with aluminum foil for 3-4 minutes before serving to retain moisture and enhance flavor. This simple recipe makes a light, tasty, and delicious meal and can be adapted to pan-frying, steaming or sautéing fish fillets. Lemon Pepper, rather than fresh lemons, provides a delightful, zesty and delicate flavor.

## Getting kids out fishing

*(Continued from page 13)*

A committee has been formed from the Lake Vermilion area to plan and hold a Take-A-Kid Fishing event on Lake Vermilion in 2010. The committee members include local guides, resort owners, business owners, Sportsmen's Club members, local residents, Fortune Bay, Cook and Tower chambers of commerce and several volunteers. They have planned the first annual 'Let's-Take-A-Kid Fishing' event.

The event invites kids within a 50-mile radius of Lake Vermilion. (Kids visiting the area are welcome.) No cost to kids participating. Kids' age limit: 10-15 years old. Local guides and volunteer boat operators are donating their time, boat use, gas, and bait. Application/sign-up required for kids and volunteers. Event to be held at Frazer Bay Public Landing on June 23, 2010, from noon to 5 p.m., followed by a complimentary shore lunch style fish fry for parents, kids, sponsors, and volunteers.

For more detailed information: go to Lake Vermilion Home Page or <http://lakevermilion.com/kids/>.

Phone Contacts:

Phil Bakken (Lake Vermilion Guide): 218-780-2286  
Ed Tausk (Vermilion Dam Lodge): 218-666-5418

## DEER TICKS

Deer ticks, also known as blacklegged ticks, are just one of 13 known tick species in Minnesota. They are most common in the east and central areas of the state and are found in hardwood forests and wooded and brushy areas. Deer ticks are potential carriers of Lyme disease, human anaplasmosis and babesiosis.

### Risk timeframe

Primarily risks are from mid-May through mid-July when the smaller nymph stage of the deer tick is feeding. Risk is present, but lower, in early spring and again in the fall (late September-October) when the adult stage of the deer tick is active.

## DEER TICK BITES

### Prevention

Check and re-check for ticks when you are in tick-infested areas.

1. When in deer tick habitat, walk in the center of the trail to avoid picking up ticks from grass and brush.
2. Wear light colored clothing so ticks will be more visible.
3. Create a barrier to ticks by tucking pants into socks or boots and tuck long sleeved shirt into pants.
4. Use a repellent containing DEET or permethrin, and carefully follow the directions on the container.
5. After being outdoors in tick habitat, get out of your clothes immediately, do a complete body check, shower and vigorously towel dry. Wash your clothes immediately as to not spread any ticks around your living area.
6. Pets should also be checked for ticks.

### Tick removal

The risk of getting a tick-borne disease is small if the tick is removed soon after it becomes attached. Deer ticks must remain attached one to two days to transmit Lyme disease, and about one day for the other diseases.

1. Take precautions when in tick habitat, but don't panic if you find a deer tick on you. Not all ticks are infected, and prompt tick removal can prevent illness
2. Use tweezers to grasp the tick close to its mouth.
3. Gently and S-L-O-W-L-Y pull the tick straight outward.
4. To avoid contact with the bacteria, if present, do not squeeze the ticks' body.
5. Wash the area and apply an antiseptic to the bite.
6. Watch for early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease.

# Summary of 2009 Fish Population Assessment

## On Lake Vermilion

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 2009 was 13.4 fish/net; slightly below the historical average for Lake Vermilion. It was the second consecutive year walleye gill net catches were below average. Lower than average walleye catches in recent years was due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005. Gillnetted walleye had a mean length of 14.0 inches, well above the historical average. The large average size was due to high numbers of 17-20 inch walleye in the catch from strong year classes produced in 2002 and 2003. Most of these larger walleye were sampled on West Vermilion. The gill net catch of 14-16 inch walleye was below average for those size classes, reflecting poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005. The

walleye gill net catch was dominated by age 2 fish (2007 year class) and age 3 fish (2006 year class), which comprised 28.7% and 31.3% 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. One year of netting indicates the 2008 year class will also be weaker than average. 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 1.1 fish/net; slightly above 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 27.2 inches, slightly above the historical average, although the sample size was only 22 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

*(Continued on page 16)*



---

# Summary of 2009 Fish Population... *(Continued from page 15)*

to improve the size structure of pike populations in a number of lakes across the state.

The gill net catch of yellow perch was 17.0 fish/net; well below the historical average. It was the third consecutive year of low perch catches. Low perch catches in recent years were due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005. Gillnetted perch had a mean length of 7.4 inches, which is near the historical average. The perch catch was dominated by age 3 fish (2006 year class), which comprised 50.9% of the catch. Although the 2006 year class dominated the perch catch, it is only average in strength. Poor year classes of perch were produced in 2004 and 2005. The last strong year class of perch was produced in 2002.

The trap net catch of bluegill was 39.0 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, slightly below the historical average. Over 80% of the bluegill catch was less than 7 inches long, reflecting strong young year classes in the population. The bluegill trap net catch was dominated by age 4 fish (2005 year class), which comprised 42.6% of the catch. Strong year classes of bluegill were produced in 2005 and 2006, while a poor year class was produced in 2004.

The black crappie trap net catch was 1.9 fish/net; slightly above 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 8.5 inches, slightly above the historical average. The catch of 8-9 inch crappie was well above average, reflecting the presence of a strong 2005 year class. The crappie catch was dominated by age 3 fish (2006 year class) and age 4 fish (2005 year class), which comprised 44.6% and 50.0% of the catch, respectively. Strong year classes of crappie were produced in 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 2009 was 37.3 fish/hour, which is near the historical average. Smallmouth bass sampled by electrofishing had a mean length of 10.6 inches, well above the historical average. High numbers of 13-15 inch bass were sampled

from strong year classes produced in 2002 and 2003. The bass catch was dominated by age 3 fish (2006 year class) and age 4 fish (2005 year class), which together comprised 63.4% of the total catch. Both the 2005 and 2006 year classes are much stronger than average. 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 52.9 fish/hour; the lowest catch since sampling began in 1988. The mean length of young-of-the-year walleye sampled by electrofishing was 4.6 inches, well 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 2009 electrofishing catch and growth rate indicate the 2009 year class will likely be very poor. Unusually cool spring and summer weather in 2009 probably had a negative effect on reproductive success of walleye and many other fish species.

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@state.mn.us](mailto:duane.williams@state.mn.us)



---

# Summary of 2009

## Creel Survey On Lake Vermilion

---

The Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Section of Fisheries, conducted a creel survey on Lake Vermilion in 2009, 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 580,400 hours of fishing pressure on Lake Vermilion during the survey period. The fishing pressure was similar to that observed in other recent creel surveys. 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 2009, 16% of anglers interviewed were seeking muskie.

About 67% of the interviewed anglers were seeking walleye, while 9% were seeking either smallmouth bass or largemouth bass.



An estimated 68,800 walleye weighing 53,900 pounds were harvested in 2009, the lowest walleye harvest observed on Lake Vermilion since 1996. The low walleye harvest was due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005; and the protected slot limit which reduced har-

vest of larger fish, particularly on West Vermilion. The walleye harvest was well below 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 47,000 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 esti-

*(Continued on page 18)*

---

# Summary of 2009 Creel Survey... *(Continued from page 17)*

mated 3,200 pounds of release mortality and 1,400 pounds of fish that were in the protected slot and illegally harvested. An estimated 181,853 walleye were caught and released during the survey period. Fishing success for walleye varied widely between East Vermilion and West Vermilion in 2009. The walleye harvest on East Vermilion was near average, while the harvest on West Vermilion was one of the the lowest ever observed. Poor walleye fishing on West Vermilion was due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004 and 2005. In addition, the 2006 year class is stronger on East Vermilion, which resulted in better fishing on that lake basin.

An estimated 3,600 northern pike weighing 7,500 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 31,900 northern pike were caught and released.

An estimated 4,300 smallmouth bass weighing 7,300 pounds were harvested in 2009, similar to harvests in 2003 and 2008. Harvest of smallmouth bass had been declining prior to 2003, but has increased in recent surveys, probably because of higher abundance. An estimated 39,700 smallmouth bass were caught and released.

An estimated 950 largemouth bass weighing 1,900 pounds were harvested during the survey period, similar to harvests in other recent surveys. Largemouth bass are more abundant in West Vermilion and most of the harvest came from that lake basin. An estimated 21,700 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 1,600 muskie were caught and released, slightly below the catch in 2008. Many muskie are caught at night and during late fall; and these fish are not documented during the survey. The largest muskie reported during the survey was 53 inches long.

An estimated 8,300 black crappie weighing 5,700 pounds were harvested in 2009, slightly above harvests observed in other recent surveys. Crappie are more abundant in West Vermilion and most of the harvest came from that lake basin. An estimated 4,400 crappie were caught and released.

The bluegill harvest was estimated to be 14,500 fish weighing 4,800 pounds, slightly below the 2008 harvest. Most of the harvest came from West Vermilion, where bluegill are much more abundant. An estimated 51,300 bluegill were caught and released.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lake Vermilion anglers for their cooperation during the 2008 and 2009 creel surveys. The interview process may be a little inconvenient, however the information gained is very valuable. Creel survey clerks who have worked during our 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 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@state.mn.us](mailto:duane.williams@state.mn.us)

# THE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB REMEMBERS BOARD MEMBER JUDY MOLINE

---



On March 25, 2010, former SCLV board member Judy Moline of Lake Vermilion died at the Solvay Hospice home in Duluth, Minnesota. In 2007 Judy learned that she had ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and in 2009 completed her final term as a SCLV board member.

The SCLV board feels so fortunate to have had Judy as a member as her keen intellect, great sense of perspective, wealth of skills, and her

enthusiasm coupled with her drive to get the job done were great assets for our board's activities.

Her computer skills, artistic talent (she was an excellent watercolor artist), and organizational discipline (she was also a math teacher and school counselor) were evident in board activities. Whether it was an invasive species placement design, badges for board members, or a DVD highlighting the SCLV's accomplishments and shown at our past two annual meetings, Judy's talent was appreciated.

In Judy's home was the following plaque and it captures how Judy chose to live her life. Our thanks from the SCLV board for having Judy as a member.

*"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving with an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and screaming "Whoo hoo, what a ride!"*"

Thanks, Judy, for being part of the SCLV on your life's ride.





# Minnesota's Shoreland Rules: *Standards for Lake and River Conservation*

## ***Executive Summary***

The Minnesota Legislature directed the DNR to commence rulemaking to update the statewide minimum shoreland conservation standards (Chapter 6120). Local governments are responsible for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of shoreland zoning ordinances that meet or exceed the state's standards. These local ordinances affect shoreland property owners and the use and development of shoreland areas.

Since January 2008, the Shoreland Rule Update Project worked with citizens to assess shoreland conservation standards by reviewing the science related to shoreland conservation, development, and management. The DNR conducted an open process with a high degree of public input and oversight. Five advisory committees were convened to provide advice to the DNR. These advisory committees met regularly and discussed the merits of numerous policy and regulatory options. Twelve open houses were conducted to gain public comment on development standards for lake and river protection, and the DNR talked to over 500 citizens. The DNR convened a series of 10 work group meetings across the state to gain feedback from stakeholders on resort-specific items, and over 250 attendees participated in the resort meetings, including resort owners, resort association representatives, and elected and appointed officials from state and local government. Three agricultural forums were held to review and discuss agricultural use standards with over 200 participants, including farmers, producers, and local and state government officials.

As part of this project, the DNR also decided to assess the feasibility of integrating the rules governing Minnesota's state-designated Wild and Scenic Rivers (chapter 6105) with the proposed

shoreland conservation standards. While there was no advisory committee specific to the Wild and Scenic River rules, the DNR received considerable

comments and feedback on the potential to merge the statewide standards and criteria of the Wild and Scenic River rules with the shoreland conservation standards. The primary purpose for integrating the two sets of standards was to simplify administration by eliminating inconsistencies and reducing duplication. In addition, several material changes to the wild, scenic, and recreational river rules are proposed, which include using the shoreland framework for DNR review of local land use decisions, inclusion of stormwater standards, and guidance for conservation subdivisions. The end result of the proposed rules is a unified set of standards that simplifies management while enhancing resource protection.

The DNR concluded that revisions to the existing shoreland conservation standards are warranted; in fact, they are necessary to address important economic and environmental issues. The state is growing fast, and the rate of development in shorelands is predicted to increase. Many people are concerned about the consequences of poor development on water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Better development practices can protect water quality, while increasing property values. In addition, the existing shoreland standards needed to be modernized to provide flexibility in use of various tools to address water





quality declines and habitat losses and to reflect the diversity in local resource conditions and needs. The Shoreland Rule Update Project was guided by the mission statement from Minnesota Statute 103F.201 which calls for the development of standards that: (1) provide guidance for the wise development of shorelands of public waters and thus preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters; (2) preserve the economic and natural environmental values of shorelands; and (3) provide for the wise use of water and related land resources of the state.

The proposed standards include, but are not limited to:

- *Better water quality protection standards achieved by improved rainwater runoff management, increased drainfield setbacks, and higher shoreline buffer standards for undeveloped lots;*
- *Greater protections for vulnerable areas (e.g., sensitive lakeshore, trout streams, bluffs);*
- *Improved planned unit development standards;*
- *Specific resort standards that allow for expansion and improvements while addressing water quality and habitat concerns;*
- *Higher standards for new developments and new lots (e.g., impervious surface, natural areas, shoreline buffers);*

- *Advanced subdivision controls, including promotion of conservation subdivisions and other creative developments over conventional (lot & block) subdivisions;*
- *Revisions that allow easier local government implementation, while protecting natural resources and the interests of the general public.*

These proposed state standards incorporate the latest reliable knowledge. It is believed these standards are pragmatic tools for use by local governments to adapt to specific needs and contexts.

For more information, visit:  
<http://mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html>.

*“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”*

*~ Aldo Leopold,  
 A Sand County Almanac*

## 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 Road ..... 666-2153  
 Ed Tausk ..... Vermilion Dam Lodge ..... 666-5418  
 Jim Mueller ..... 8782 Raps Road ..... 666-0588  
 Gary Lundquist ..... PO Box 236 ..... 666-2756

### TOWER (55790)

Walt Moe ..... 3331 Nisen Drive ..... 753-3816  
 Mel Hintz, **Pres.** ..... 6119 Pike Bay Drive ..... 753-2401  
 Renee Aro ..... P.O. Box 872 ..... 753-2129  
 Bob Wilson, **Treas.** ..... 1501 Echo Point ..... 753-5544  
 Jeff Lovgren (Member Records) ..... 2113 Birch Point Road ..... 753-2413  
 Mardy Jackson ..... 2065 County Road 77 ..... 753-3549

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

---

# Your Household Waste and Where it Goes

Those of us who reside in St. Louis County benefit from a truly comprehensive waste management system that is available to all. In the portion of St. Louis County outside the metropolitan Duluth area there are 78 organized and 44 unorganized townships, and 20 cities served by the Environmental Services Department Solid Waste (SW) Division.

Currently the SW Division operates 20 canister sites and five transfer facilities placed in convenient locations around the County. Waste from those facilities is transferred to the Regional Landfill near Virginia. The Landfill was constructed in 1993 as an EPA Subtitle D facility for disposal of solid waste generated by the more than 39,000 households and businesses within the SW Division's Solid Waste Management Area.

The SW Division also manages operation of a demolition debris disposal system, two Household Hazardous Waste facilities and mobile collection system, and 48 recycling drop-off sites, and oversees curb-side recycling in five cities. The County has a recycling processing facility and contracts for processing of recyclable materials generated in curbside and roll-off recycling programs.

The management of solid waste is regulated through State law and rules set out by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SW Division updates Solid Waste Ordinance 45 to more closely reflect any changes in these statutes and rules. Complaints about illegal dumping and other solid waste compliance issues are handled through the SW Division, which has a cooperative agreement with the County Sheriff's Office for enforcement of the Solid Waste Ordinance 45.

Funding for operations of County solid waste disposal facilities is raised through tipping fees for disposal of municipal solid waste, demolition debris, ash and industrial solid waste. Other funding for programs like our compost bin distribution and special waste collections is generated through the Solid Waste Service Fee assessed to improved properties located within the SW Division's service area. In addition, the Division receives funding from the State for some recycling costs.

Many special wastes pose health and environmental concerns if disposed of improperly. The Solid Waste Division provides a means of disposal for special waste

items that are restricted by law from being placed into the landfill. These items include:

- appliances
- fluorescent tubes
- tires
- scrap metal
- car batteries
- used motor oil and filters
- TV's and computer monitors



The SW Division accepts most of these special wastes free of charge from residential customers at many locations around the County. Where regulations allow, some special wastes are also accepted from businesses.

There are many common household products that should not be put in with your regular garbage when you don't want it anymore. If the container has "Danger", "Corrosive", "Poison" or other words of caution on the label it is most likely what is called a 'Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)' and should be brought to a special collection for proper disposal. The SW Division has two year-round facilities to collect HHW, one located near Hibbing, and the other just east of Virginia. During the summer months we send a trained crew out around the County so you can drop off your HHW during scheduled times. We have three collections scheduled near Lake Vermilion this summer:

**Thursday, June 10 at the Cook Transfer Station –  
10am – 2pm**

**Wednesday, July 7 at the Soudan Canister Site -  
10am – 2pm**

**Wednesday, August 25 at the Cook Transfer Station  
– 10am – 2pm**

If you would like more information about our services and locations for dropping off recycling and waste give us a call at 749-9703 or go on-line to [www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle](http://www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle).

Mary McReynolds — St. Louis County  
Environmental Services Department

# Volunteer Opportunities

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

## Loon Counters

The 28th consecutive year for monitoring the loon population on the entire area of Lake Vermilion will be conducted on Monday, July 12th. Wednesday, July 14th, will be the weather back-up date. On our 21 territories we sometimes need alternative counters and, occasionally, territories need to be filled by volunteers. The data we compile is not only important to our members, but also valuable to the Minnesota DNR in studying the fluctuations in loon populations and the causes for them.

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

## Volunteers for Let's Take-a-Kid-Fishing

Many volunteers are needed for the first annual *Let's Take-a-Kid Fishing on Lake Vermilion* event to be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, from noon to 5 p.m. If you would like to participate in this wonderful program to expose youngsters to the sport of fishing, go to <http://lakevermilion.com/kids> and click on *Volunteers Needed* to find a spot where you can help. You may have as much fun as the kids! Or more!

## Record Improvement: Looking for Volunteer to Scrapbook the History of SCLV

Wondering if anyone would be interested in putting together a scrapbook of some newspaper clippings, pictures and memorabilia on the history of the club. Call Sheri Sawatzky, 218-666-5512, or email [Bubba@accessmn.com](mailto:Bubba@accessmn.com).

## 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](mailto:rwilson2@frontiernet.net) (east end), or Gary Whitenack at 218-666-2153 or [aaw1947@aol.com](mailto:aaw1947@aol.com) (west end).

## 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](mailto:lovgren@frontiernet.net).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **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 \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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!**



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
AUTOCR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
COOK, MINN.  
Permit No. 25