

# the vermilion sportsman



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

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## *"Invasive Species"...* by Bob Wilson

If you have lived on a beautiful lake for a number of years and all of a sudden your favorite waterfront has been invaded, with let's say zebra mussels, and you have a fair understanding of the damage these mussels can do to your dock, your beach and your boat, it's a rather safe bet that you are angry! Two of the questions you would be asking yourself are why didn't our lake association, county or township organize to prevent this from happening and why hasn't the MN DNR done more to keep these "Aquatic Invasive Species - AIS" from spreading to our lake? Thousands of people in Minnesota have been asking these same questions over the past several years and some areas of the state have actually been doing something about it. Recognizing that the present prevention methods and laws have been inadequate, the DNR has been holding a series of meetings to collect and distill recommendations from the very people who have been affected or believe they will/could be in the near future. For the most part these people are active, vocal, angry, concerned and anxious about the future prospects of their water bodies and neighborhoods. The DNR calls them "stakeholders." I have been privileged to be a delegate from Northern Minnesota to this hard working group.

A total of four meetings have been held, suggestions and recommendations provided from the stakeholders and the ideas winnowed down to the eight most important and doable for quick action. These ideas were strictly from the meeting attendants outside of the DNR. It's important to mention that the total participants were from a variety of organizations such as: Lake Associations, County Governments, Anglers, Conservation groups, Businesses,

Watersheds, Tribes and of course the DNR. These are the eight primary recommendations formulated to-date:

1. Increase enforcement of AIS laws.
2. Increase penalties for violations.
3. Improve the inspection process for AIS.
4. Increase public awareness of AIS.
5. Aid AIS prevention actions at water accesses.
6. Require lake service provider training.
7. Focus on high use infested waters & prioritize.
8. Increase funding for AIS efforts.

While these ideas may seem rather simplistic for those familiar with the present day shortcomings of AIS enforcement and penalties, they actually involve a considerable step-up in the state's rules and regulations. Meanwhile, some people will only see possible civil rights issues, "big brother" problems and just plain inconvenience in this list. In Number 1 above for example, the committee recommended at least doubling the DNR enforcement hours on AIS prevention and improving and facilitating the quality and quantity of involved local AIS law enforcement which is essentially non-existent in most parts of the state. We also want to enhance the ability of officers to stop and inspect boats and trailers on the road and make it easier for the average citizen to report an AIS violation. *I will be talking about these recommendations in future newsletter issues and am not attempting to cover them all in detail here.*

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

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## Greetings friends and neighbors,

Normally, I look forward to the winter season and the opportunity to go snowmobiling, fish for lake trout in Canada, and cut some firewood down at the deer shack. This year has been different. Lake trout fishing and wood cutting have been replaced by snow blowing...lots of it. I have lost track of how many times I have used our snow blower since last November. Certainly, more often than I used the lawn mower last summer. I do know that I am on the third filling of our three-gallon gas can and I had to replace both the drive and the attachment belts to keep the machine operating. Besides blowing snow, removing the snow from the roof has added to the workload. And the winter is not over yet. Hopefully by the time this goes to print, we will have had a February thaw easing winter's grip somewhat.

Winter is also a time when the pace of life slows down. One has time to recharge for the warmer seasons ahead and to make plans for those things you would like to accomplish this year. Some call these goals their New Year's resolutions while others referred to them as their "bucket list". Whatever the case, anyone who loves Lake Vermilion should have on their list the goal of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into the lake. **This threat cannot be overstated.** Each year these unwanted invaders are discovered in additional waters of our state, some of which are not far from Vermilion. Board Member Bob Wilson has attended several statewide meetings hosted by the DNR aimed at developing an action plan to curb the AIS spread. His "Invasive Species" article in this issue of our newsletter outlines the group's recommendations to address this problem. On a personal level, you can help by making absolutely sure that your boat is clean before launching in Lake Vermilion. If your boat has been in infested waters, such as Rainy Lake, Mille Lacs Lake, St. Louis Bay, or others, it is imperative that the Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker clean boat standards be followed.

Outgoing DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten approved the Lake Vermilion State Park Master Plan in late December. This paves the way for the DNR to seek funding for development of the new park in the

upcoming legislative season. A copy of the Master Plan is available on the DNR website [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us). The final close-out meeting of the Park Citizen Advisory Committee was scheduled for February 7, 2011. The DNR plans to keep local citizens involved in the design and development stages of the new park.

Plans are starting to take shape for the second annual Take A Kid Fishing event this summer under the leadership of Board Member Ed Tausk. Planning meetings will begin in March with the event to take place in late June or July. More information will be provided in our May newsletter.

Membership Coordinator Jeff Lovgren reports that we continue to be ahead of last year's record-setting pace for both new members and renewals. We have already booked 35 new memberships for 2011, an unusually large number for the winter. And membership renewals stand at 870 households compared to 735 at this time last year. Donations are also up significantly. Many thanks to each donor as these funds are vitally important to all our programs, including our campaign to protect Vermilion from aquatic invasive species.

Our Records Improvement Committee (Renee Aro, Sheri Sawatzky, and Jeff Lovgren) along with help from volunteer member Terry Jones is making progress on our records improvement project. They are scanning our 40+ years of documents into electronic format and saving them in a web service called Google.Docs, where they will be searchable and protected for future use.

In our May newsletter we will be making an appeal for volunteers to help in the different programs carried out by our lake association. The time commitment to these activities is not huge, usually 10-15 hours over the course of the summer. The payback is not measured in dollars, but instead by the new friends you will make and the inner satisfaction that you receive by giving something back to this great lake we are privileged to use and enjoy.

Mel Hintz, President

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# Stop VHS With Safe Bait

Reprinted from *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, January - February 2011

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To help stop the spread of a deadly fish virus, anglers must carry proof that their cisco and rainbow smelt baits have been preserved by an authorized processor. Processors must obtain a permit and preserve all cisco and rainbow smelt in a way that kills VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia). The preserved bait rule, which took effect Oct. 4, 2010, is the latest effort to prevent VHS from infesting Minnesota's inland waters.

In June 2010, the DNR classified Lake Superior as infested with VHS. Harvest of any bait from Lake Superior is prohibited. VHS does not affect humans, and anglers may still legally keep Lake Superior cisco and rainbow smelt for personal consumption.

Cisco or rainbow smelt harvested from inland lakes may be used as bait after being processed and labeled by an authorized permit holder. Under the new rule, anglers must carry the label from any batch of cisco or rainbow smelt used for bait, regardless of where harvested. The label must include the processor's cisco and rainbow smelt preservation permit number, the bait lot number, and the processing date.

"We understand that people like to use frozen cisco and rainbow smelt for bait," says DNR aquaculture and fish

health consultant Paula Phelps. "We're looking at methods that would allow for this type of use while minimizing the threat of spreading VHS."

Cisco are known to carry VHS, and rainbow smelt are likely carriers. Both are commonly used as bait by anglers targeting lake trout, salmon, and northern pike. The popularity of cisco and rainbow smelt as bait, and the fact that they are readily caught in Lake Superior, poses a significant risk for spreading VHS, says Phelps.

VHS is a virus that attacks both saltwater and freshwater fish and can ultimately cause fish to bleed to death. The strain of VHS present in the Great Lakes region can affect at least 28 species. It has caused fish kills in muskellunge, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie, lake whitefish, freshwater drum, and round gobies. It can also infect other game fish such as walleye, northern pike, and trout. VHS has been present in the Great Lakes since at least 2003. In January 2010, researchers found VHS in Lake Superior. Active monitoring by the DNR has not detected the virus in any of the state's inland lakes.

Only DNR-licensed private hatcheries, aquatic farms, minnow dealers, minnow retailers, commercial netters, fish packers, and Lake Superior fishing guides may obtain a permit to preserve cisco and rainbow smelt. VHS can be destroyed by various methods, according to Phelps. One involves submersing baitfish in rubbing alcohol or mineral oil for 14 days. Another involves drying with salt and Borax for 14 days.

To learn more about VHS, visit [www.focusonfishhealth.org](http://www.focusonfishhealth.org). For information on permitting and authorized bait sellers, call 651-259-5213 or go to [www.mndnr.gov/bait](http://www.mndnr.gov/bait).

Michael A. Kallok, Associate Editor

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## • "Invasive Species"

(Continued from front page)

On February 9th the SCLV presented AIS information to our surrounding Town and Township representatives after our Board Meeting in Greenwood Township Hall. We want and need more people interested and active in preventing this potential problem on Vermilion, more boots on the ground to use a present day cliché. You can help! Become an active Sportsmen's Club volunteer. I'll report our meeting results in the next newsletter issue.



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*"Without love of the land,  
conservation lacks meaning or purpose,  
for only in a deep and inherent feeling  
for the land can there be dedication in  
preserving it."*

— Sigurd Olson

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# MEMORIES OF THE LAKE

by Frank Franson

I found Ed Woolverton's article very interesting. I met Ed when I worked at Grand View Resort during the summers of 1947 through 1950. Jesse Swanson was the owner of the resort then. His home was at the southwest corner of Niles Bay where Jack Jordan lives now.

In early June the boat slips would be packed with spawning shiners. The fishing guide, Tony Eichholz from Buyck and I would seine them and put them in a large screened-in box. Jesse thought the shiners were dying a lot sooner than they should and got Ed up to the resort to see if he could figure out why. Ed lay down on his stomach on the dock with his hands dangling in the minnow box for about a half hour. He came to the conclusion that wave action caused the shiners to scrape against the screen and lose scales. The scraped area caused sores to form and the shiners died shortly thereafter. He said it would be better to put fewer minnows in the box.

I can remember Ed's wife-to-be when she was still Marie Trucano. The Walt Johnson kids who lived across the street from me in Tower were her cousins. Marie had a younger brother John. Both of us were born on December 20, 1932. I think her brother Lawrence still lives on the Trucano farm a mile west of Tower. John lives in Virginia now.

Ed mentioned Leon Polley. In the middle of October 1950, Leon and I were on a manhunt together. I had graduated from high school that spring and I was still working for Jesse at his home. One evening we had just finished supper when Jesse got a telephone call from a woman who was very upset. Her husband, Nick Budovinich had gone partridge hunting and wasn't home yet hours after dark. She wanted Jesse to go look for him. They had a cabin in the area and Jesse knew who they were. He told her that he would try to find him.

Jesse knew that Leon was an experienced

woodsman and called him. We drove over to Polley's Resort a half mile away and picked him up. We had two good flashlights, a compass and matches. I had been roaming around in the woods near Tower since grade school and I was familiar with being in the woods.

We drove down the new road to Oak Narrows and found Nick's car. There was about a half inch of snow on the ground and it was easy to follow his tracks. Jesse stayed in the truck and honked the horn quite often. Leon and I started tracking. After a while we could see that the tracks were starting to go around in a circle. A half hour later we found Nick sitting by a fire. When it was getting dark he had come upon his own tracks and knew he was lost. He didn't panic and did the right thing. He found a big dry stump from an uprooted white pine. There was a lot of pitch on the roots. He had matches and used dry balsam twigs and branches to get the stump on fire. He was prepared to spend the night there.

He was very happy to see us. We headed north and came to the road about 300 yards away. We were a half mile east of his car. It was a happy couple who went to bed that night.

In the early 1950s, I met Dick Lavine who bought the lots on Oak Narrows from Ed. A group of us in our early 20s ran around all over the lake in our runabouts. Most of the boats were 14-ft. cedar strip Thompsons. All of our motors were 22-hp. Johnsons or Evinrudes. Dick and his wife Evie were starting to build Timbuktu Resort from scratch. Dick was a shop teacher in Aurora for many years and was a good carpenter. Sometimes we would stop there for gas or a six-pack of 3.2 beer. Dick had carved and painted a totem pole out of an 8-ft. log. It was mounted next to the store by the road.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Dick and I were involved with the building of the original Giant's

Ridge. We spent many hours on the hill cutting down trees and burning brush along with other skiers. Both of us were on the board of directors of Giant's Ridge Incorporated. One evening the entire board had a cookout at Timbuktu. We each brought our own steak to barbecue. Evie made potato salad and lettuce and tomato salad for us. Along with a few drinks, it was a good evening.

One year Dick and I and a skier from Biwabik went out to Red Lodge, Montana to ski during Easter vacation. I was teaching high school math and science then in Tower. We had five days vacation. We drove straight through taking turns driving and sleeping and we stopped once in a while to eat. We had three full days to ski. It was a good ski area and didn't have the "Hollywood" type of skiers like in Aspen, Colorado.

I hadn't seen Dick in many years when he passed away in January of 2008. It had been many years since he sold Timbuktu. We never imagined that Giant's Ridge would be like it is today. We spent hundreds or thousands of dollars making improvements. The IRR has spent tens of millions of dollars.

*EDITOR'S NOTE - If you have favorite memories of Lake Vermilion and would like to share them with our members, please contact any SCLV board member and we would be happy to print your story in a future edition of the Vermilion Sportsman.*

*"There is nothing in the world more beautiful than the forest clothed to its very hollows in snow. It is the still ecstasy of nature, wherein every spray, every blade of grass, every spire of reed, every intricacy of twig, is clad with radiance.*

*— William Sharp*



This is a photo of me on the dock at Grand View Resort in 1949. The land in the background behind the dock is the island between Big Muskrat and Little Muskrat channels. The boat belonged to the owner of the resort, Jesse Swanson. He used it to bring groceries to the resort every three days and haul tourists back and forth from his home on Niles Bay (Swanson's Point). The boat slips could hold six boats, three on each side of the channel between them. The slips and docks were built by Bill Wilson from Tower in the mid 1940s.

A happy tourist had caught the big Walleyes and I was taking them to the fish-cleaning table to gill and gut them. After I did that, I shoveled some of the ice in the icehouse and laid the Walleyes right on the ice. After I did that, I shoveled some ice and then sawdust back on top of the fish and made sure they were covered good. I put a stake in the sawdust saying whose fish they were.

— Frank Franson

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# A Note from a Charter Member

*"This is my first membership card (a photocopy). I have admired the club's activities over the years. My sons have worked on some of the club's activities, especially the early ones. We have spent the summers at Vermilion (west end) since 1955, and there couldn't be a nicer place." — Robin*



## Correction to Loon Deaths Article

In the last issue of the Vermilion Sportsman, we printed an article entitled "Loon Fatalities Notice." The article should have stated that at the St. Louis County Commissioner's meeting held at Greenwood Town Hall, a petition was presented to set a "speed zone of 25 mph" in the Oak Narrows channel between the east and west ends of Lake Vermilion — NOT a "No Wake" speed limit. We apologize for the error.

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# Tracking Oil Spill's Effect on Loons

Stephanie Hemphill, Minnesota Public Radio — January 14, 2011

St. Paul, Minn. — When the loons make their return journey north to Minnesota from the Gulf of Mexico this year, wildlife watchers will be following them closely.

Researchers are looking for signs the loons may have been harmed by the Gulf oil spill.

One night last July, Kevin Kenow supervised a team of scientists from around the country as they launched a canoe onto a lake at St. John's University in Collegeville. They were there to capture loons and outfit them with satellite transmitters.

"Between the calls and the lights, it pulls the birds' attention enough that we're able to move in on it and scoop it up with the landing net," he said.

Carrol Henderson from the non-game wildlife program was on the lake that night. He said the satellite transmitters they used have to be implanted internally.

"You can't put a harness on a bird like a loon, because it impairs their diving ability," he said.

A surgeon from Florida was on the scene. He'd come north in his veterinary MASH unit, housed in a travel trailer. He implanted a small transmitter into a loon's abdominal cavity. An 8-inch wire antenna provides the connection with the satellites.

The wire sticking out the back makes the loon appear as if it's sporting a jaunty antenna -- which it is.

The bird also gets a geolocator tag fastened to a leg band. This records the bird's movements and also atmospheric pressure, showing how deep the loon dives for food.

Henderson and other experts think the Minnesota birds most at risk from last year's Gulf oil spill are loons and white pelicans. Young loons spend nearly three years in the Gulf, and white pelicans spend one year there before they fly north.

"So the loons that hatched in Minnesota in 2008 and 2009 were down in the Gulf during the time of the oil spill, and we don't know how many could have been lost," he said.

More than 100 loons were found dead or dying after

the spill, but Henderson said they're dense birds, more likely to sink to the bottom than float to shore. There could be longer-term risks, too, he said.

"Loons, which can dive to almost 200 feet to feed -- a lot of their feeding is actually on the bottom -- if they're feeding on bottom creatures that have been exposed to oiled sediment, this could be affecting the food chain or their metabolism in the long term as well," he said.



The scientists are taking blood samples of this and other loons, looking for residues of petroleum or the chemical dispersants used after the spill.

Right now they don't have any particular expectations, but they think it's possible the time the birds spent in the Gulf could affect their survivability, and their reproductive success.

On the DNR's web site you can [HYPERLINK "http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory\\_birds/loons/migrations.html"](http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html) track the movements of the St. John's loon since it was outfitted with the transmitter. At the office, the DNR's Lori Naumann sits in front of a computer screen and shows us what they've learned about the loon's movements.

"You can see that it starts early in July up here, and it's staying around its breeding lake, we're now up into September," Naumann says.

Each dot on the map represents a day in the life of the loon. The map shows the loon spent a lot of time paddling around the lake at St. John's -- until mid-October. The bird is then tracked to Lake Michigan where it stays for while before flying down to the Gulf of Mexico in early December.

"As of yesterday," she says, "it was still hanging right around this area just off the west coast of Florida."

When it flies back up this spring, the research team hopes to catch it again, download the GPS data, and check its blood.

They plan to fit more loons with transmitters and GPS tags this summer. They want people who find dead loons to contact the DNR right away so they can try to figure out the cause of death. And they're conducting similar in-depth studies of white pelicans.



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## Shed Antler Hunting...

### A Once in a Lifetime Experience... by: Mel Hintz

Some years ago, I became interested in hunting for shed deer antlers. Most of my shed hunting has been in early spring after snowmelt when I simply walk deer trails hoping to chance upon an antler shed by a whitetail buck sometime during the previous winter months. At times it seems like I have been looking for the proverbial "needle in the haystack" and on average it takes me at least eight hours of walking for each shed found. Though I have found antlers of different sizes up to my largest, one side of a ten pointer, I have yet to find a matched set, i.e. both antlers from the same buck. Finding a matched set from a trophy buck is the ultimate goal for any serious shed hunter.

My son-in-law, Jason Harinen, accomplished this goal in a most unusual way this past December. On the afternoon of December 2nd, Jason who lives and works in the Twin Cities was driving on County Hwy 96 in the northeast suburb of Shoreview when he saw a very large whitetail buck trotting towards the highway. The buck proceeded onto the roadway and ran into the side of a minivan that was traveling in the same direction and about 50 yards ahead of Jason's vehicle. In the collision, both of the buck's antlers were dislodged with one of them flying 6-8 feet into the air. The buck fell momentarily upon impacting the van, but then soon got up and ran back in the same direction from where he came,

albeit now a bit light headed! Jason made a quick U-turn and retrieved the prized trophy sheds which were lying together on the shoulder of the road.

Close inspection of the antlers shows that they released from the buck's skull in the normal fashion and thus were not broken off. With the exception of one small point at the base of the left antler, the rack was not damaged in the collision. The 12-point antlers are huge; the size most hunters dream about, but never see except on the cover of sporting magazines. A co-worker of Jason's measured the antlers and estimated they would score roughly 190 inches typical. The G2 points are 12 inches long. Jason plans to enter the antlers in this year's Minnesota Whitetail Classic held during early March in St. Paul.

There is yet another interesting twist to this story. As it turns out, a friend of Jason's co-worker photographed this same buck from his office window about a week before the collision with the van. Some distinctive features of the rack leave no doubt that it is the same buck. In all likelihood, this big buck is well known in the neighborhood, but few know the manner in which he shed his antlers this year. Perhaps he should be named the "Hard Headed Buck." The manner in which Jason collected these sheds is truly a once in a lifetime experience. (See photos on next page)

## Playing on Lake Vermilion

The wonderful thing about Lake Vermilion is that you can enjoy it in so many ways. In the winter, there is ice-fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. In the summer, there is fishing, berry picking, swimming, water skiing, wake boarding, tubing, boating and more.

When we were kids, our choices of boats were pretty much the fishing boat or a canoe. Today, the

kind of boats is varied and seemingly endless. There is the pontoon boat, the specialized small water ski boat, the more hefty, specially outfitted wake boarding boat, the sleek and beyond fast cigarette boat, the paddle boat, and, more and more, the sail boat. The one I like most is the kayak.

The first time I took out my brand new red *Old Town* and paddled around our bay, I saw the lake in a different way. I saw it slowly and quietly. The shoreline looked so much more intricate with its varied compact growth. The trees towering above looked more majestic, and the lake more immense but not foreboding. I felt connected to the universe in a new way sitting in my kayak with the water moving under me. A cliché, I know, but I felt at one with the lake.

I like the independence I feel in my own kayak. But, it is the quiet and peacefulness I love most.

Renee Aro







**Jason Harinen holding the trophy sheds.**



**Photo of the same buck before antlers were shed.**

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# What do muskies eat anyway?

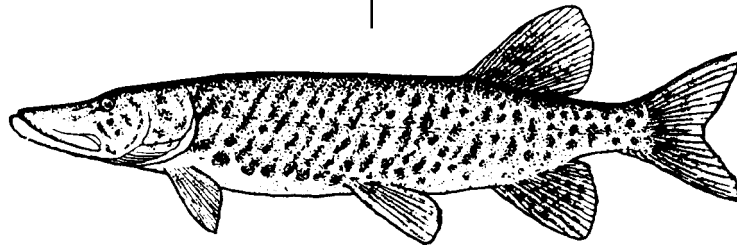
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## *Tower DNR Fisheries*

Muskie were successfully established in Lake Vermilion through a stocking program that began in 1984. The muskie population has done well and the lake is now known as one of the premier muskie fisheries in the Midwest. Some anglers occasionally express concern that the muskie introduction may have a negative impact on other fish species, particularly walleye. They are concerned that muskies will eat substantial numbers of walleye and reduce the walleye population. It certainly is wise to be cautious about introducing a new species into a lake; as such introductions are sometimes detrimental to the native fish community. The introduction of muskie into Lake Vermilion was done only after meeting stringent criteria for new muskie introductions and a thorough review of the possible consequences. Based on all the information available, it was decided that introducing muskies would provide a new trophy type of fishery while having minimal impact on other species. Since the introduction of muskie, the walleye population has continued to do very well. In fact, several of the highest walleye catches ever observed during annual population assessments occurred during the period 2000-2007.

The decision to introduce muskie into Lake Vermilion was based, in part, on the abundance of tullibee and white sucker in the lake, species that are known to be preferred prey items for muskie. Research has shown that muskie prefer prey without sharp spines in their fins, such as tullibee and sucker. Perch have also been shown to be an important prey

item, probably because they are small enough that their spines are not a factor and because they are found in stands of aquatic vegetation that muskie also inhabit. Walleye have not been known to be a major forage species for muskie, even in lakes with abundant walleye populations. Although muskie will certainly eat walleye occasionally, the numbers eaten are minor compared to other natural mortality and angler harvest.



A research project was conducted a number of years ago in Wisconsin that looked at the

food habits of muskie. Stomach contents were examined from 1,092 muskie captured in 34 Wisconsin lakes from July 1991 to October 1994. The muskie were captured throughout the open water season by trapnetting, electrofishing and angling. The muskie stomachs were flushed with water to disgorge the contents without injuring the fish. The captured muskie ranged in size from nine inches to 46 inches. Based on the number and size of consumed food items, yellow perch and white sucker were, by far, the most important prey species consumed by muskies. Only five walleye were found in the 1,092 muskie stomachs examined. Sunfish, crappie and various minnow species were eaten more frequently than walleye in the study lakes. Tullibee were not common in many of the study lakes and therefore were relatively unimportant as food items. However, previous research has shown that tullibee are an important food item for muskie in lakes where they are abundant, such as Lake Vermilion.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

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The Minnesota DNR conducted another study in 2007 to examine fish population trends in 41 lakes that had been stocked with muskie. The analysis did not show a significant decrease in any fish species, including walleye, after muskie were stocked. When lake survey net catches of individual species in individual lakes were examined after muskie were stocked, significantly more fish were caught in 16 cases, significantly less fish were caught in 9 cases, and net catches were essentially the same in 194 cases. The lack of consistent negative changes to fish populations after muskie stocking suggests muskie and other species generally co-exist quite well.

It is important to understand that muskie and walleye have co-existed in many lakes

across the northern United States and southern Canada for centuries. In fact, many of the premier muskie lakes in the region are also excellent walleye lakes. This would not be possible if muskie decimated walleye populations as is sometimes suggested. The most important strategies for maintaining walleye populations are to protect habitat, preserve water quality and prevent over-harvest. If anyone has questions about muskie or other fish species in Lake Vermilion please feel free to contact me at our Tower office.

Duane Williams, Large Lake Specialist  
DNR Fisheries

Phone: 218-753-2580 ext. 224

E-mail: [duane.williams@state.mn.us](mailto:duane.williams@state.mn.us)

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Joe Geis (pictured on the left, receiving acknowledgement from President Mel Hintz) was recently honored by the Sportsmen's Club board, at a luncheon held at the Wayside Café. Joe has been the Area Fisheries Supervisor at the Department of Natural Resources since 1988. He and his staff have partnered with the Club on many important and productive projects over the years. He is retiring after a 37-year career with the DNR.

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# Club Member Names Canadian Lake

*A story of four Erie Mining employees, Jerry Kurpius, Jim Edgeton, Larry Wobbe and Jack Mausolf, who ventured into the wilds of Canada to test their skills against one of North America's largest game animals, the moose. Kurpius describes their adventure in the following story.*

After a year of planning, the trip was finally under way. Full from a big breakfast at Larry's, a last minute check of transportation, equipment, food, licenses, etc., we were at the start of some 500 miles of road travel to the landing from which another 20 miles of water would take us to our base camp.

With a full week to spend before the Ontario moose season opened, our first stop was at One Sided Lake for some duck shooting. One evening and the next morning of shooting found the waterfowl population somewhat less in number but far from extinct.

Breaking camp about 10 a.m., we again headed north. The car loaded with two canoes and pulling a two-wheeled trailer, which contained the bulk of our equipment, took the sometimes uneven roads and hills with little effort. Jim, whose car it was, did most of the driving. Larry, Jack and myself spent a good deal of the day working over a three handed smear game.

Ignace, Ontario - After checking in with lumber company officials, we were on the last 120-mile leg to camp. We were now entering prime moose country. Deer signs became less evident as the large prints of the moose began showing up in the soft sand of the road. At Churchill River, some hunters were setting up camp for their assault on the moose.

At nine p.m. darkness found us in Savant Lake, a small village on the C N Railway. We set up a hasty camp on the edge of town from which, after an early breakfast, we stocked up on a few last minute items from the General Store.

Noon found us loading the canoes at Wiggle Creek, which took us to Koshawigama Lake. The canoes, though loaded heavy, rode well on the almost smooth water. After shooting the rapids from Koshawigama into Fairchild Lake, we were at base camp.

The next two days were spent hunting grouse and fishing for camp meat. Ruffed grouse were

plentiful along with the ever present spruce hen, which we passed up for the more palatable "ruffed." Fishing at the base of the rapids in 20 feet of water, produced all the pike needed to satisfy our needs.

With season opening on Sunday, Thursday and Friday were spent checking the area. Saturday was a day of map reading, gun cleaning and planning. Cards were cut for partners and areas. Larry and Jack chose a small unnamed lake not far from camp while Jim and I were to go up the lake.

Sunday, October 1 - Jim and I, the canoe stripped of its motor, paddled against a brisk wind for about two hours into a large bay, which let us relax and really begin to glass the shoreline and those areas of the woods which the binoculars would penetrate.

Noon lunch of canned stew, bread and fruit found us some 10 miles from camp. So far we had seen nothing but rock, water and spruce trees. The wind was picking up, and the sky began to bank up in the west. Rain for sure.

It hit about 2:00 p.m. as we were on our way back toward camp. A cold, driving rain that seems to find its way clear through a man. No moose in his right mind would be out in that weather so we headed for some dry clothing and hot food.

When we hit camp, Jack and Larry were already there. Congratulations were in order. Jack had put down a two-year-old bull. They had covered about half the lake staying some 50 yards off shore to gain some protection from the wind. Jack, hearing movement from behind him, turned in time to see the bull going into the brush. A well placed neck shot and the work of dressing him out began. After quartering him out and hanging them to the keep the small animals from the meat, they marked the map and called it a day.

That evening it calmed down but turned cold with a few snow flurries just before the usual evening of smear.

Monday was Larry's day in the "Golden Chair." With muscles a little stiff from the paddle, Jack and he went back into the same areas as the day previous. A slow breeze coasted them from the portage inlet out into the lake proper. It wasn't a matter of if there were any moose but a matter of which one to take. By glassing the shoreline, five moose could be seen. A particularly large rack of horns some 600 yards away was picked for the target. Keeping a small island between the canoe and the moose, the slow, silent stalk began. The island was cleared just as the big bull left the water out of shooting range.

After a 20 minute wait, being assured he had gone into the bush, Jack eased the canoe back to the center of the lake to start after a large cow some 400 yards away when a good sized bull came out of the bush, proceeded to make his way across the shallows on the south end of the lake. Larry put him down with three well placed shots.

Tuesday morning was the start of a perfect Fall day. The sun and light breeze forced the frosted leaves from the trees, and we could see large flocks of snow geese overhead on their journey from the Arctic and James Bay Region.

Jack and Jim left early for the village to pick up a few supplies we were short of. Larry and I decided to try a different lake about 3 miles from camp. It was a hard, sand bottom lake and bordered by jack pine and spruce with not too many signs of moose feed. We had covered about 2 miles of shoreline staying about 400 yards off shore when Larry spotted him, standing 20 yards off the lake in the shade of a large spruce tree. Other than the antlers, it took me some time to distinguish the body from the shadows and thick alder brush. Larry paddled the canoe slowly toward shore as I accustomed my eyes to the scope. The sun, just breaking to the tops of the pines, created a reflection in the scope which made it difficult to focus on the animal. About 125 yards out, he turned and looked toward us and fearing that he would break for cover, I fired my first and second shots through the brush. He turned and started for the timber. As he went over an old spruce deadfall, he raised himself above the alder where I could make a clear shot, and he went down. We found him down but still alive, so Larry finished him with a shot behind the head. The fun was over, and the work began. Two and one-half hours later, he was cleaned and quartered. Too much for one trip, we covered three quarters with plastic and spruce boughs to keep it

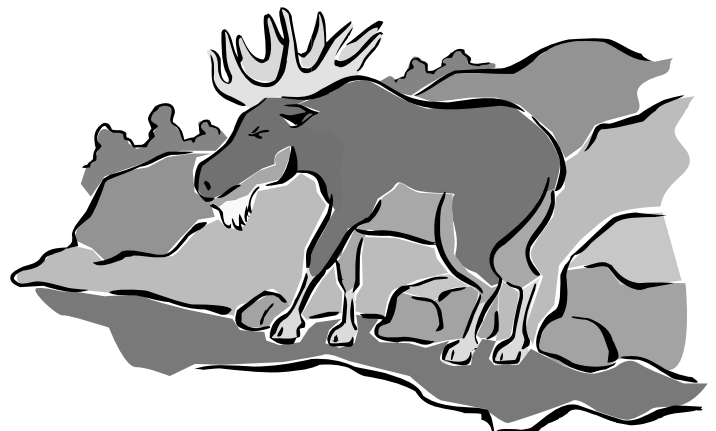
from the whiskey jacks, which can carry away as much as a full grown bear or so, it seems. Dragging was impossible so Larry cut an eight foot pole from which we slung one piece at a time and made our way back to the shore. You have heard of guys carrying swinging beef but you should try swinging moose while walking in muskeg up to and sometimes over your knees with brush and a few deadfall spruce thrown in for good measure.

Thursday, we woke up to a warm, cloudy and rainy day. Fearing that our meat would spoil, we packed up and headed for home, well satisfied with what we feel was a very enjoyable and successful moose hunting trip.

Looking over the map, Jack decided that the lake where Larry and he had shot their moose should have a name, so he combined the "moose off lake," which they had put on the map to mark his moose and his name, and it came out "Moosolf Lake." Using a piece of 2 x 4, his hunting knife and a hot poker, he constructed a portage sign which we nailed on a large pine at the base of the rapids.

Upon return home, he sent a recommendation to the Lands and Forests of Ontario of his act, and a confirmation was received in July of 1966 that this lake is now officially "Moosolf Lake."

*Footnote: If you type Moosolf Lake on your Google search page it will come up. It is located about 100 miles north of Ignace, Ontario, Canada. This was in 1965 and the second year of which there was a road to this area other than railroad.*



# Vermilion Ice Road Alert!!

## Attention: Snowmobilers and Ice Road Makers

Every winter Lake Vermilion becomes very busy with numerous snowmobile enthusiasts having a wonderful time exploring the interesting shoreline, bays and staked trails set-up courtesy of the Vermilion Penguin Snowmobile Club. At the same time, many folks are trying to establish an easy route across the ice to reach their fish house, cabin and island home by plowing a temporary ice road. You can quickly understand how this combination can occasionally threaten life and limb. The snowmobilers can't always see the ice road banks in advance, can quickly become airborne at even slower speeds, fall off their machines, injure themselves and possibly damage the snowmobile. It's happened many, many times on Vermilion. So, while there are no laws that we know of covering these various situations, we are **recommending** that the ice road makers find a way to mark their road banks particularly in areas that might see heavier snowmobile traffic. We've seen some banks marked with tree branches & reflectors - many thanks to those road makers. Any reasonable markings should be better than nothing in an effort to protect a life and/or prevent a damaged machine. And by the way, please pick up the markers at the end of the season. Thanks for your cooperation. Sportsmen's Club.



## SNOW LOAD ALERT

Many of you own homes or seasonal cabins on Lake Vermilion. If you live here or have been here for one or more visits this winter, you know that we have received a near record amount of snow. If you have not been here or do not have someone checking on your property, it would definitely be prudent to do so. There is already



3-4 feet of snow on the roofs of some unheated cabins and buildings and heated cabins or homes may have some major ice dams building up. Both of these situations have the potential to cause serious structural or water damage. A number of commercial and private storage type buildings have already collapsed under the weight of the snow. Many residents and seasonal property owners have contracted with workers here to clear the snow from their roofs. If you have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to do so or, at least, have a qualified person inspect your property to determine the extent of the snow load situation. The months which typically have the greatest snowfall are yet to come. There are many contractors and individuals who are making themselves available to provide this type of service this winter.

Dale Lundblad - Board Member

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# VERMILION SAFE BOATER'S GUIDE

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While the Lake Vermilion boating season is still months away, it is never too early to learn about some boating practices which will keep us safe while encountering situations in which our responsibility as the person in command of a power-driven vessel may not be obvious. The following are examples of possible situations and the rules governing them according to The United States Coast Guard - Navigation Rules for Inland Waters:

- 1.) A power-driven vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:
  - a.) a vessel not under command (This could be a vessel which has lost the ability to maneuver because of a mechanical problem or other exceptional circumstance.)
  - b.) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver (This could include a construction barge which is transporting building materials or equipment or is laying submarine cable or pipeline or is setting, repositioning or recovering navigation or hazard buoys. It could include a DNR electro-fishing boat which is engaged in shocking fish to study the fish population. It could include a Sportsmen's Club volunteer's boat engaged in the placing or servicing of navigation lights. It could also include a vessel which is engaged in a towing operation which would restrict its ability to deviate from its course.)
  - c.) a vessel engaged in fishing (This refers to vessel fishing with nets, trawls, or other fishing apparatus which restricts maneuverability and not a vessel fishing with trolling lines or other apparatus which do not restrict maneuverability. This could include a DNR boat engaged in test netting for Muskies or other fish.)
  - d.) a sailing vessel (This could include any vessel under sail propulsion alone and providing that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used. This could be a sailboat which has an auxiliary propulsion motor. Once the motor is being used for propulsion this would become a power-driven vessel and come under the rules governing those vessels.)
- 2.) A sailing vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:
  - a.) a vessel not under command
  - b.) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
  - c.) a vessel engaged in fishing
- 3.) A vessel engaged in fishing when underway shall, so far as possible, keep out of the way of:
  - a.) a vessel not under command
  - b.) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver



4.) A seaplane on the water shall, in general, keep clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their navigation. In circumstances, however, where risk of collision exists, she shall comply with the Rules of this part. (This could include any aircraft designed to maneuver on the water. A seaplane on its final approach to land or on its takeoff roll or while taxiing could be considered to be a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver for that brief period of time. Other power-driven vessels should, therefore, keep out of her way.) Minnesota rules are much more specific. According to information provided to me by DNR Enforcement Officer, Dan Starr; "aircraft have the right of way." As is stated in MN Rule 6110.1200 Subpart 2, B: "No person shall operate a watercraft in any manner as to intentionally obstruct or interfere with the takeoff, landing, or taxiing of any aircraft." Part A of the rule, however, states: "No person shall operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass, or unnecessarily interfere with any person or property." What that does is to take the "INTENTIONALLY" out of the equation. The wake obviously causes safety issues with planes so the boat operator can be charged criminal, even if the intent is not there. DNR Officer Starr also wants boaters to get the message that "you own the wake you cause" and can be held legally responsible for any damage or injury it causes.

The following are General Definitions contained in The United States Coast Guard - Navigation Rules for Inland Waters:

- 1.) The word "vessel" includes every description of watercraft, including nondisplacement craft and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.
- 2.) The term "power-driven vessel" means any vessel propelled by machinery.

*(Continued on Page 17)*



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# SO YOU WANT TO BE A FISHING GUIDE - EH!

By: Phil Bakken

"Boy I worked hard today...yea right" came the reply from a friend. "I sure wish I had your job," he said. Well, if I have heard those words once I have heard them a thousand times. "Well, if you have got some time let me tell you about my job."

First off, I am retired and really do not want another full time job nor could I physically handle the rigors of full time guiding. Full time guiding is not a job for someone looking to support a family, unless he or she has a spouse who has a fairly decent paying job that can supplement their income.

Before I look at a typical day for a guide let me discuss some of the things that take place in preparation for the summer season. There are a few of the guides who have winter ice fishing houses that they rent but that is a whole different game. Drilling holes, moving ice houses, plowing roads, etc. involves a great deal of work for those who choose to play the winter game...not me, thank you!

Preparation begins as soon as the season ends. For most, that is just before ice is on the lake. This involves cleaning the boat, making the small repairs that are needed immediately and looking for what has to be replaced before the next summer. In my case, I have to replace my driver seat pedestal and a kicker motor...if I can keep it under \$2000 for just those two items I will be happy. Then it is winterizing the motor/motors and tucking it away someplace nice until around April. Now I am finished for a little while anyway. The ice fishing guides are getting their ice houses ready, filling their propane tanks, charging batteries, sharpening auger blades and checking all their rods, reels and tackle so they can get out to their favorite early ice spots...usually out in front of McKinley Park somewhere. My ice fishing consists of driving out in my warm truck and walking into one of my friend's houses, which is like a living room with holes in the floor.

Around the end of February we take an inventory of tackle, rods, reels and other miscellaneous items that we use so we can place our orders in March and April. I need to replace three rods, a couple of reels, some new line and some miscellaneous terminal tackle. Many of the guides are affiliated with rod and tackle manufacturers so much of what we buy is discounted somewhat. Thank goodness!

In March we place our orders and start to putz with our existing stuff getting it a little organized for the big day coming up in May. Meanwhile the ice fishing guides are getting their ice houses off the lake in whatever shape they are left. Depending on conditions they often have to do a lot of chiseling and prying to get them loose...way too much work!

By April we are all itching to get on some "soft" water. Many of us take trips to the Rainy River in search of some of those "hog eyes" that can be so abundant just after ice out on the river. Some also chase Sturgeon, the real mon-

sters of the Rainy River. It also gives us a chance to test out new equipment and see if everything is in working order.

By the first of May, we are ready to start the season. We all have some new equipment, which is usually something that is guaranteed to catch fish which we will never use. I think most guides are like me, and only use a very small portion of the enormous amounts of tackle we have. Reels are cleaned and spooled with new line, tackle boxes are organized at least for the first few weeks of the season anyway. Log books are read and re-read, a multitude of conversations are held regarding the upcoming opening day and how many pre-bookings we have so far for the season. Many of the guides are multi-species and have to have different rods, reels and tackle for each different species. Muskie guides usually have thousands of dollars invested in those giant lures they toss around all day and several special heavy duty rods that can handle those big toothy critters.

A full day with clients begins early. We usually pick them up at a public landing or at one of the resorts they are staying at. More and more of the guides are starting their full day as close to 7 a.m. as possible. That means that the night before or in the morning before the boat has to be gassed, oil checked, cleaned and ready to go. Rods rigged, bait and ice, pop and water on board. Life jackets for everyone, cameras, insect repellent, sunscreen and first-aid kit are just a few of the many articles that we carry with us on our trips. Once we are on the water the search begins, hopefully we will have found the right spot the day before or have talked to another guide who was out previously as well, so we have a starting point. I usually am on the water by 6 a.m. to check out a few spots before I pick up my clients. Many of us have marine radios and share information on where the fish are or have been. We have to use a code now as many other an-



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glers have marine radios and love to hear the guides talking about the “hot-spots.” Lake Vermilion is a tremendous fishery and we usually manage to find some fish. At the end of the day which usually runs 8 to 9 hours of fishing and up and down baiting hooks, netting fish, getting lines off the prop or tangled together, telling stories, cleaning and packing fish, and seeing to it that the clients have a memorable experience on the water...we are pooped. I don't care what anyone says, while we all love our jobs, it is a lot of work.

The Lake Vermilion Guides League was formed in April of 2009 with 15 charter members who primarily guide on Lake Vermilion. It is a 501c(3) non-profit organization formed to: “Foster the development and promotion of fishing and associated activities by providing the means for education, preservation and conservation of those natural resources that are important to fishing and to the enhancement of fellowship and camaraderie among fishermen”. A code of ethics was also established in order to ensure that resorts and individuals hiring a member of the Guide's League would have a professional who is prepared to provide a great and safe experience on our beautiful lake.

The Lake Vermilion Guides League is extremely proud to be major sponsors in two events each year, one in the winter and one in the summer. These events are focused

on young people throughout our area. The youngsters are paired up in the summer for an afternoon of fishing followed by a traditional shore lunch. In the winter they get a chance to fish with a guide in a heated ice house and learn some winter fishing tactics. Of course they also get to eat all the hamburgers and hot dogs they want! These events could not take place nor be as successful without the participation of the Guides League members, resort owners, the Sportsmen's Club, Fortune Bay Resort and Casino, local businesses and community volunteers.

Being a guide involves a lot of time and expense, fishing in all types of weather, having to deal with all types of people...but we still have “the best office in the world.”

If you would like information on any of the kid's events please contact a Guides League member. Our web site is: [www.LakeVermilionGuidesLeague.com](http://www.LakeVermilionGuidesLeague.com).

Good fishing!

*Phil Bakken: Retired professional, is currently Chairman of the Lake Vermilion Guides League. Phil has been guiding for Walleyes on Lake Vermilion for nine years, while he has fished the lake for almost 30 years. Phil does not guide full time and enjoys the teaching aspect of guiding and meeting and becoming friends with many of his clients.*

## Vermilion Safe Boater's Guide... (Continued from Page 15)

- 3.) The term “sailing vessel” means any vessel under sail provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used.
- 4.) The term “vessel engaged in fishing” means any vessel fishing with nets, lines, trawls, or other fishing apparatus which restricts maneuverability, but does not include a vessel with trolling lines or other fishing apparatus which do not restrict maneuverability.
- 5.) The word “seaplane” includes any aircraft designed to maneuver on the water.
- 6.) The term “vessel not under command” means a vessel which through some exceptional circumstance is unable to maneuver as required by these Rules and is therefore unable to keep out of the way of another vessel.
- 7.) The term, “vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver” means a vessel which from the nature of her work is restricted by these Rules and is therefore unable to keep out of the way of another vessel; vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver include, but are not limited to:
  - a.) a vessel engaged in laying, servicing, or picking up a navigation mark, submarine cable, or pipeline
  - b.) a vessel engaged in dredging, surveying, or underwater operations
  - c.) a vessel engaged in replenishment or transferring persons, provisions, or cargo while underway
  - d.) a vessel engaged in a towing operation such as severely restricts the towing vessel and her tow in their ability to deviate from their course
- 8.) The word “underway” means that a vessel is not at anchor, or made fast to the shore, or aground.
- 9.) The words “length” and “breadth” of a vessel means her length overall and the greatest breadth.
- 10.) Vessels shall be deemed to be in sight of one another only when one can be observed visually from the other.
- 11.) The term “restricted visibility” means any condition in which visibility is restricted by fog, mist, falling snow, heavy rainstorms, sandstorms, or any other similar causes.

As you might have concluded from reading the above rules and definitions, operating a vessel on an inland waterway, even one as seemingly quiet and uncongested as Lake Vermilion can be challenging or, at least, a bit more complicated than you previously thought. Hopefully, the scenarios I have presented will help you to enjoy boating on Lake Vermilion in a safe and responsible manner.

Dale Lundblad - Board member

# Boating Safety Course home-study packet

This free home-study course allows boaters ages 12-17 to earn their watercraft operator's permit. Adults can receive a certificate of completion (mandatory to operate a boat in some states and Canada) plus discounts from many boat insurance companies.

Although you may send in your application, workbook, and test year-round, you can beat the rush and delayed processing time during the spring and summer months by sending in your materials during the period from September through March.



## To get the Operator Test Packet:

- **E-mail**  
[info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)  
(please be sure to include your name and address)
- **Call**  
(651) 259-5400 or toll free 1-888-646-6367  
[Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (651) 296-5484 or toll free 1-800-657-3929]
- **Write**  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Boat & Water Safety Section  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4046

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(All phone numbers are Area Code 218)

### COOK (55723)

Sheri Sawatzky, **Secretary** ..... 2750 Wakemup Village Road West  
Phone 666-5512 ..... Email: [bubba@accessmn.com](mailto:bubba@accessmn.com)  
Dale Lundblad, **Vice President** ..... 9082 Little Sweden Road  
Phone 666-2316 ..... Email: [lundblad@accessmn.com](mailto:lundblad@accessmn.com)  
Gary Whitenack ..... 9140 Hibbing Point Road  
Phone 666-2153 ..... Email: [aaw1947@aol.com](mailto:aaw1947@aol.com)  
Ed Tausk ..... Vermilion Dam Lodge, PO Box 1105  
Phone 666-5418 ..... Email: [vd1@vdl.com](mailto:vd1@vdl.com)  
Jim Mueller ..... 8782 Raps Road  
Phone 666-0588 ..... Email: [hjmueller@comcast.net](mailto:hjmueller@comcast.net)  
Warren Anderson ..... 3242 Phillips Rd.  
Phone 666-5919 ..... Email: [jaw@lcp2.net](mailto:jaw@lcp2.net)

### TOWER (55790)

Walt Moe ..... 3331 Nisen Drive  
Phone 753-3816 ..... Email: [walmoe@frontiernet.net](mailto:walmoe@frontiernet.net)  
Mel Hintz, **President** ..... 6119 Pike Bay Drive  
Phone 753-2401 ..... Email: [mehintz@frontiernet.net](mailto:mehintz@frontiernet.net)  
Renee Aro ..... P.O. Box 872  
Phone 753-2129 ..... Email: [raro@frontiernet.net](mailto:raro@frontiernet.net)  
Bob Wilson, **Treasurer** ..... 1501 Echo Narrows Lane  
Phone 753-5544 ..... Email: [rwilson2@frontiernet.net](mailto:rwilson2@frontiernet.net)  
Jeff Lovgren (**Member Records**) ..... 2113 Birch Point Road  
Phone 753-2413 ..... Email: [lovgren@frontiernet.net](mailto:lovgren@frontiernet.net)  
Howard Ankrum ..... 1878 Everett Road South  
Phone 753-2936 ..... Email: [howiela@yahoo.com](mailto:howiela@yahoo.com)

**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.

# Shoreland & Wetland Training for Contractors, Realtors & Landscapers

offered by the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District

**(218) 742-9504 — [www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org)**

Register **now** for this valuable training! Continuing Education Units offered to participants.

**Date: Thursday, March 10, 2011**

**Location:** Mesabi Range Community &  
Technical College (Virginia Campus)  
**1001 West Chestnut Street**

**Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

This workshop is being offered to help Contractors, Realtors and Landscapers better understand the shoreland and wetland regulations that are in place to assure our northeastern Minnesota landscapes remain appealing.

Degrading water quality due to poor shoreline management ultimately leads to decreased property values. Disturbed shorelines also result in fewer birds and amphibian species and an overall change in fish species composition. Preferred management practices will be reviewed with tips for recognizing sensitive areas.

Various natural resource professionals will share their experiences in the field and explain the different types of wetlands we have in St. Louis County.

We aim to clarify county and state regulations, with an opportunity to ask agency representatives questions.

Natural aquatic vegetation plays an important role in water quality protection in the land of 10,000 lakes.

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## Affordable Trees and Shrubs Available

The North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting orders for a variety of trees and shrubs until April 15. The 3-4 foot deciduous shrubs or trees are being offered in bundles of 10 for just \$35. They are all hardy varieties which will do well in our climate and in a range of soil types and degrees of sun exposure. They are excellent for revegetation of the shoreland buffer zone of your lake lot as well as attracting wildlife or providing shade or screening.

Call the NSLSWCD at: 218-742-9504 or download the order form from the website: [www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org).

### 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

☐ 2011 New Member      ☐ 2011 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!

## **Membership Renewal for 2011**

In early December, you received a letter requesting that you renew your membership for 2011.

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.

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



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