

the vermilion sportsman



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preservation and improvement of Lake Vermilion"*

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2100 MEMBERS

COOK & TOWER, MN

May 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Greetings friends and neighbors,

Think quickly! When did you first visit Lake Vermilion? When I ask people this question, two things stand out in their responses. First, their initial visit dates back to their early childhood and, second, it often involved a stay at their grandparent's cabin. For many of you, Lake Vermilion has long been a part of your life story. And in some cases, this story goes back two or three generations or even longer. Vermilion is that kind of lake. We are captured by its combination of beauty, size, diversity, and abundance of recreational opportunities. Vermilion lures us back time after time. It has created a legacy of countless life stories.

For many of us, we are now the grandparent in the above relationship. In all likelihood our children and grandchildren will remain connected to Lake Vermilion either as frequent visitors or perhaps, someday as property owners on the lake. Just as we have fond memories of happy times at the lake with our grandparents, it is now our turn to share the Vermilion experience with our offspring. And it is our small window of opportunity to instill some lake friendly values in them both through our actions and the conversations we have with them.

So when your grandkids visit this summer, I would encourage you to include activities and discussions aimed at instilling both an appreciation and a sense of responsibility for maintaining Lake Vermilion as a treasure for all to enjoy. A good place to start is with membership in the SCLV, because it signals to them that you care about the future of the lake. Consider also purchasing a membership for your grandchildren thus giving them a sense of belonging to the lake. They will receive our quarterly newsletter reinforcing

that connection throughout the year. If you are involved in a volunteer activity, such as a loon counter or as an invasive species boat checker, take one of your grandkids along. It can be a fun activity, and it allows them to participate in giving

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SPORTSMEN'S CLUB OF LAKE VERMILION, INC.

43rd Annual Meeting
and Dinner

Saturday, August 6
Fortune Bay Resort

*Please mark your calendar
and plan to attend.*

*SPEAKER - MN DNR Commissioner or Deputy:
Speaking about the new Lake Vermilion State Park
and Aquatic Invasive Species.*

*Entertainment - NE Minnesota's Men's Chorus
- "The Choralaires"*

*Watch for reservation information in the
August issue of the newsletter.*

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back to the lake. Even a small thing like stopping to pick up a paper cup that blew out of a passing boat sends a powerful message to your grandkids that you care about the lake. During those quiet times when you are out on the lake fishing or sitting on the dock or around a campfire, spend time talking to them about things like catch and release, loon behavior, how our activities impact water quality, the threat posed by aquatic invasive species, and other lake topics. These are just a few simple examples of the countless things we can do to promote lake stewardship. In many cases, our children and grandkids will be the next generation of property owners on Lake Vermilion. Our actions now are an investment not only in their future but also in the future of the lake.

Once again this summer, a hard working group of volunteers will be carrying out several SCLV programs to meet our goal of protecting and improving Lake Vermilion. Though we have many dedicated volunteers, we can always make room for a few more. Most of the activities involve between 10 to 15 hours over the course of the summer. If you are interested, our SCLV website HYPERLINK "<http://www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.org>" contains a link on how to volunteer. Following is a list of these programs and the contact person(s), if you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities:

Rough fish removal at the DNR Pike River Hatchery, Ozzie Lieciejewski 753-4114
"Take a Kid Fishing" event on July 20th, Ed Tausk 666-5418
Annual loon count, Claire Zwieg (west) 666-5008, Ellen Hintz (east) 753-2401
Cormorant survey, Walt Moe 753-3816
Shore lunch site monitor, Bob Wilson 753-5544
Invasive species boat checks, Bob Wilson (east) 753-5544, Gary Whitenack (west) 666-2153
Night navigation aids, Walt Moe (east) 753-3816, John Zwieg (west) 666-5008
Website maintenance, Jeff Lovgren 753-2413
Records improvement, Renee Aro 753-2129

Unfortunately, plans for development of the new Lake Vermilion State Park could be delayed as our elected representatives debate how to deal with the projected statewide five billion dollar deficit. The Senate has already cut \$3 million, which was dedicated to the park last year, and shifted the money to address broader funding issues within our state park system. Meanwhile, the funding is secure for work to begin this summer on the main park road which will follow the old Hwy 169 corridor including development of the park entrance in the vicinity of the Jasper Peak Road. Funding is also available for the Mesabi Bike Trail within the park where it will parallel the road corridor.

No doubt many of you have heard complaints about the shortage of harvestable walleyes on the west end of the lake with more and more walleyes being caught in the protected slot between 17 to 26 inches. According to the DNR, poor survival rate for walleye year classes in 2003 and 2004 is the major cause for this problem and this occurred prior to implementation of the slot limit in 2006. At that time, the slot size restrictions and reduction of the daily bag limit from six down to four were necessary to curb the overharvest of walleyes which had been occurring during preceding years. Generally, the DNR prefers to allow slot size restrictions to remain in place for 10 years before making a change. However, some anglers feel the slot should be relaxed sooner to allow the taking of one fish in the slot up to 20 inches in length. Some west end resort owners have placed an online survey at HYPERLINK "<http://www.lakevermilion.com>" to gauge public sentiment on this issue. The postings show many different opinions on this topic.

In addition to the effect of the failed year classes, the

SCLV is very concerned over the negative impact the rapidly growing cormorant population may have on the walleye fishery. DNR nesting counts show nearly a tenfold increase in cormorant numbers between 2004 and last year. These fish eating birds are voracious feeders, consuming on average more than a pound of fish each day. Because of the potential impact of the fast growing cormorant population and the uncertainty of walleye spawning/stocking success, the SCLV supports a "yearly" review of the sustainable harvest projection and more flexibility in setting the slot size restrictions. As a first step, the DNR has agreed to bump up stocking levels on the west end beginning this spring. Additionally, they will explore other changes that could be implemented to address this issue.

Taking a much more aggressive approach to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species is part of newly elected Governor Mark Dayton's 2011 agenda for our state. The DNR website HYPERLINK "<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives>" provides the details of some of his new legislative initiatives to address this problem. On a local level, SCLV board member Bob Wilson is meeting with local government units around the lake to educate them on this potential threat to Vermilion and to seek their support in keeping them from invading our lake. When speaking about this issue, our Governor stated "What we are trying to protect here is truly priceless". I think we would all agree that Lake Vermilion falls within this category.

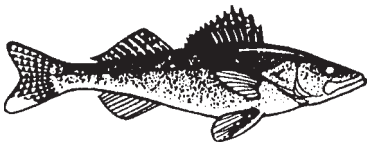
I hope you have a great fishing opener as you kick off another season of making new memories with family and friends.

Mel Hintz, President

2010 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 2010 was 12.2 fish/net, slightly below the historical average



for Lake Vermilion. It was the third consecutive year walleye gill net catches were below average.

Lower than average walleye catches in recent years were due primarily to poor reproduction in 2004, 2005, and 2008. Gillnetted walleye had a mean length of 14.0 inches, well above the historical average. The large average size was due to low numbers of small walleye in the catch and above average numbers of large walleye. Most of these larger walleye were sampled on West Vermilion and came from strong year classes produced in 2002 and 2003. The gill net catch of 13-16 inch walleye was slightly above average, indicating favorable angling prospects in 2011, especially on East Vermilion. The walleye gill net catch was dominated by age 3 fish (2007 year class) and age 4 fish (2006 year class), which comprised

39.5% and 21.4% of the catch, respectively. Both the 2006 and 2007 year classes are stronger than average. Strong year classes of walleye were also produced in 2002 and 2003, while poor year classes were produced in 2004, 2005, and 2008. One year of netting indicates the 2009 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 0.7 fish/net, slightly below the historical average. Gill net catches of northern pike have historically been fairly stable at a relatively low level. The mean length of northern pike sampled by gill nets was 29.8 inches, well above the historical average, although the sample size was only 14 fish.

Reproduction of northern pike is usually fairly consistent from



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

The gill net catch of yellow perch was 19.3 fish/net, well below the historical average. It was the fourth consecutive year of low perch catches. Low perch catches in recent years were due in part to poor reproduction in 2004,

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2010 Fish Population Assessment on Lake Vermilion

(Continued from Page 3)

2005, and 2007. Gillnetted perch had a mean length of 7.3 inches, which is near the historical average. Perch sampled on East Vermilion were considerably larger than those sampled on West Vermilion. The perch catch was dominated by age 2 fish (2008 year class) and age 3 fish (2007 year class), which together comprised 72.2% of the catch. It appears the 2008 year class may be near average in strength, while most other recent year classes are weaker than average. The last strong year class of perch was produced in 2002.

The trap net catch of bluegill was 21.6 fish/net, slightly below 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 5.5 inches, well below the historical average.



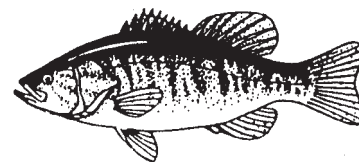
Over 76% of the bluegill catch was less than 6 inches long, reflecting strong young year classes in the population. The bluegill trap net catch was dominated by age 5 fish (2005 year class), which comprised 45.4% of the catch. Strong year classes of bluegill were produced in 2005 and 2006, while a poor year class was produced in 2004.

The black crappie trap net catch was 1.0 fish/net, slightly below the historical average. Crappie numbers have historically been relatively low on Lake Vermilion, although some areas of West Vermilion have higher numbers of fish. Trapnetted crappie had a mean length of 9.6 inches, well above the historical average. The catch of 10-11 inch crappie was well above average, reflecting the pres-



ence of a strong 2005 year class. The crappie catch was dominated by age 4 fish (2006 year class), which comprised 46.2% of the catch. Strong year classes of crappie were produced in 2005 and 2006, while poor year classes were produced in 2004 and 2007.

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 2010 was 38.6 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.



The large average size was due to high numbers of 15-16 inch bass in the catch from strong year classes produced in 2002 and 2003. The smallmouth bass catch was dominated by age 4 fish (2006 year class) and age 5 fish (2005 year class), which together comprised 51.5% of the total catch. Both the 2005 and 2006 year classes are much stronger than average. Poor year classes were produced in 2004 and 2007.

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 53.3 fish/hour, well below the historical average. The mean length of young-of-the-year walleye sampled by electrofishing was 5.5 inches, slightly above 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

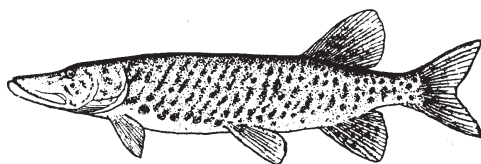
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that large, fast growing young-of-the-year wall-eye generally produce strong year classes, while small slow growing fish produce poor year classes. Taken together, the 2010 electrofishing catch and growth rate indicate the 2010 year class will likely be near average.

Muskie population assessments have been done once every four years on Lake Vermilion, although future assessments will be done once every six years. East Vermilion and West Vermilion are done in different years due to the large size of the lake. Trap net catches of muskie

have been gradually increasing since the first as-

sessments 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 2011 and 2012.



I encourage anyone with questions about fish populations on Lake Vermilion to contact me at the Tower DNR office.

Duane Williams, Large Lake Specialist
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
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Whitetail Deer Sheds Take First Place

The shed deer antlers described in the last edition of our newsletter won first place as the largest set of non-typical matched sheds entered in this year's Minnesota Deer Classic held in St. Paul during early March. The official scoring on the antlers was 178-3/8 inches. This score does not include the inside spread (widest distance between the two antlers). The buck likely had an inside spread of 20 to 22 inches meaning he was a 200-inch class buck. The antlers will be listed under Jason Harinen's name in the official records maintained by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association at: HYPERLINK "<http://www.mndeerhunters.com>."

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

Status of the Walleye Population on the West End of Lake Vermilion

The DNR Fisheries office at Tower has been receiving complaints the last couple of years about poor walleye fishing on the west end of Lake Vermilion, especially for eating-sized fish. Anglers often catch larger fish that are within the 17-26 protected slot that must be released, but have a difficult time catching smaller fish they can keep. I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss the status of the walleye population on the west end of the lake, explain why walleye fishing has been poor, and discuss what the DNR is planning to do about the situation.

The DNR conducts annual fish population assessments on Lake Vermilion as part of the statewide Large Lake Program. Specially designed gill nets are set at standard locations around the lake each year in September. Fish catches from these nets provide information on species composition, abundance, size, age, growth, etc. The walleye population on West Vermilion has been dominated for several years by strong year classes produced in 2002 and 2003. The 2002 year class of walleye was the strongest produced on West Vermilion in over 25 years. Walleye from the 2002 and 2003 year classes are now 18-24 inches long, well within the protected slot limit of 17-26 inches. These are the larger slot fish that anglers have been catching in recent years.

The lack of eating-sized walleye in recent years was due to poor reproduction in 2004, 2005, and only fair reproduction in 2006. Poor reproduction in 2004 was probably due to cool summer weather and poor growth of young-of-the-year walleye. We have learned from our sampling program on Lake Vermilion that small, slow growing young-of-the-year walleye have poor over-winter survival and usually produce a weak year class. It is unclear why reproduction was poor in 2005 and only fair in 2006. On East Vermilion, the 2006 year class has been very strong and has supported the fishery in that lake basin for several years.

There is some good news to report. The 2007 and 2008 year classes both seem to be fairly strong in the Niles Bay area. Most of these fish are now 11-13 inches long and will grow about two inches by fall. Fishing for eating-sized fish should improve in the Niles Bay area over the next couple of years. However, the 2007 and 2008 year classes are not as strong in the Wakemup Bay/Head of Lakes Bay/Norwegian Bay area. The numbers of eating-sized fish in that area will likely remain below average over the next couple of years.

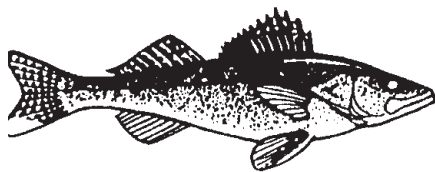
A special walleye regulation was implemented on Lake Vermilion in 2006; a 17-26 inch protected slot limit with a 4-fish bag limit. The special regulation was prompted by high walleye harvests in 2002 and 2003, which were well above the safe harvest target for the lake. The goal of the regulation was to reduce and maintain harvest at a sustainable level while allowing anglers to keep fish under 17 inches

long. Some anglers have suggested the special regulation caused the current size imbalance in the walleye population. However, the series of strong and weak year classes that led to the current situation occurred before the regulation began in 2006. Some anglers have suggested changing the regulation to allow harvest of one fish in the slot limit. Changing regulations is, by law, a fairly lengthy process which is designed to encourage a deliberate and thoughtful approach for making changes. Most special regulations are evaluated after 10 years, which is generally regarded as the minimum amount of time needed to properly evaluate the effects of a regulation change.

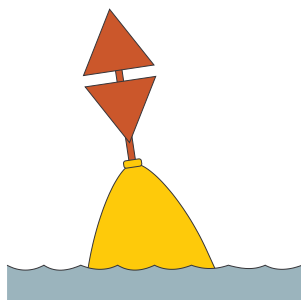
Lake Vermilion is part of an ongoing research project to evaluate walleye fry stocking on several lakes with egg-take stations. The project involves marking all walleye fry stocked back into the research lakes for five years. Walleye fry are marked by immersion in an oxytetracycline bath, which leaves a permanent mark on the fish's bony structures that can be identified at later stages of life. Population estimates of naturally produced walleye fry can then be calculated based on the ratio of marked and unmarked young-of-the-year walleye sampled by fall electrofishing. This research project has shown substantial numbers of walleye fry are produced naturally each year on Lake Vermilion. In addition, 10-20 million walleye fry are stocked into Lake Vermilion each year. Growth and survival of walleye fry is probably a more limiting factor on Lake Vermilion than the number of fry currently being produced naturally or stocked.

Walleye populations naturally fluctuate over time in response to weak and strong year classes. When walleye populations are low, they generally recover in a relatively short period as new year classes move into the population. However, poor walleye reproduction on West Vermilion has been unusually persistent in recent years. The DNR will continue to work to improve fishing on West Vermilion. Walleye fry stocking will be increased this spring. Some additional sampling will be done to improve our monitoring program. Fisheries Research staff will try to better define why reproduction has been poor in recent years. Potential management actions will be evaluated that might improve the walleye population. DNR staff will work closely with Lake Vermilion stakeholders to get input during this process. Hopefully, West Vermilion will quickly recover from the current size imbalance in the walleye population and regain its status as a great walleye fishery. If anyone has questions about the walleye population on Lake Vermilion, please feel free to contact me.

Duane Williams, Large Lake Specialist
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SAFE BOATING AROUND HAZARDS



The boating season is approaching and we all want it to be a fun and a safe experience. There are just a few rules to remember when navigating the lake.

The hazard or channel buoys are placed on the lake to assist the boater by marking channels, denoting unsafe areas, directing traffic and protecting resources. There is a general view that most of the hazard buoys are marking only one hazard right at the buoy. The hazard buoy can be marking a single larger boulder or a rock reef. These rock reefs can be anywhere from 50 ft to 200 ft in diameter and have only one or two buoys marking the whole reef. It is important to stay 10 boat lengths or 200 ft away from the hazard buoy. When approaching a hazard area, a good rule of thumb is to slow down to 4 to 5 mph, a no wave speed and trim up the motor. The buoys need to be in 4 to 5 ft of water so they will not always be right on top the hazard area.

Here are a few other reminders: Don't rely entirely on buoys or channel markers. They can move off the mark due to wind, waves or current. Also do not rely entirely on your GPS navigation units. Pay attention to the warning statement — "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.

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

The buoys are placed in front of or

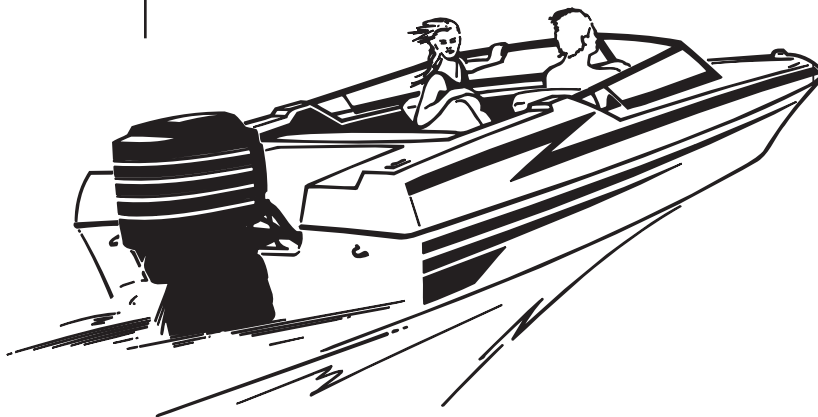
alongside the hazard area because with the anchor weight, cable and buoy, it all sets down about 4 to 5 ft in the water. This also allows for the movement of the buoy and cable due to wave action, so it does not rub on the edge of the rock and break the cable or damage the bottom of the buoy.

Please remember that not all rocks or reefs are marked on the lake. Those placing the buoys have tried to mark the major hazards on the main boat routes. Also remember that as the lake level rises or falls, the ability to see these hazards vary. If the boater is in an unfamiliar area, they should always be on the safe side and travel at a slower speed.

Another general safety issue is when pulling water skiers or tubers/water toys, please stay out of the main traffic areas because if the skier falls or the tuber falls off, it is not easy for the other boaters or barges to see them or to stop on a dime.

With all the different kinds of water activities on the lake, we hope that everyone has fun, enjoys themselves and stays safe.

Sheri Sawatzky



Buoy Placement on Lake Vermilion:

If you come across a buoy that has come loose or drifted off the hazard area or is damaged, please call Vermilion Bargaining Inc. — Lauren & Sheri Sawatzky at 218-666-5512 or email: Bubba@accessmn.com Have a great summer!

LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER RUTH E. MURPHY PASSES

One of the Sportsmen's Club's most energetic and influential former board members recently passed away at the age of 91.

Ruth Murphy was a charter member of the Sportsmen's Club and became a board member shortly after moving to Birch Point on Lake Vermilion in 1977. Through her position as a County Health Nurse, she was able to convince the County to test, in their Duluth lab, water samples taken from the public swimming beaches on the lake. Over the following years, she was able to add more samples to the County testing program as additional locations of concern were identified. Ruth was, therefore, instrumental in establishing the Club's extensive and long running water testing program. Because of her pioneering work, she deserves significant credit for the fact that the water quality in Lake Vermilion has steadily improved since those early days.

Because I joined the board shortly after Ruth did, I had the pleasure of working with her for many years. What I remember most about her was her intense love of the lake and her untiring commitment to cleaning it up and making it better for both people and wildlife. One thing that really bothered her was the trash left by careless people as they had picnics or shore lunches on islands or on the portages into neighboring lakes such as Bass and Wolf. She organized major "cleanup events" in which she solicited the donation of garbage bags from local grocery stores and then directed small armies of volunteers as they traveled to these sites and removed appalling amounts of trash. She possessed an impressive ability to recruit and motivate volunteers. Perhaps the unique manner in which she communicated and promoted her important ideas contributed to this.

She was also committed to protecting the loons, which have always been an important symbol of the pristine nature of Lake Vermilion. She was one of the original volunteers for the annual loon count, which was initiated by another influential Club member, Mardy Jackson, back in 1980. Ruth and her daughter Patty Borgstrom participated, as a team, in that count for decades. Because of these early efforts, Lake Vermilion enjoys the



Ruth, pictured with her granddaughter Danielle and great-granddaughter Jade.

unique distinction of having the longest, continuously conducted annual loon count of any lake in Minnesota.

Ruth's commitment to improve the fishery led her to help organize and participate in the Club's rough fish removal efforts each spring. Many of us remember Ruth and her daughter Patty overseeing the sale of thousands of pounds of suckers at the Pike River Hatchery over the years.

Ruth Murphy was a major force in the shaping of the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion into the important organization which continues to "promote and enhance the outdoor experience of Lake Vermilion for present and future generations." She will be sadly missed, but her legacy will live on.

Dale Lundblad - Board Member

FIREWORKS AND COMMON SENSE

As we approach the annual 4th of July celebration of our country's independence, many of us look forward to watching the numerous and exciting fireworks displays which are put on around the lake. Participating in this time honored 4th of July tradition is as American as Mom and Apple Pie.

Because fireworks and their use have become so common here over recent years, many of us assume, mistakenly, that they are all legal. Most commonly used fireworks are, in fact, specifically prohibited under Minnesota law. While it is not our intent to discourage the reasonable and safe enjoyment of fireworks, some common sense practices can help keep us from getting into trouble with our neighbors or with law enforcement:

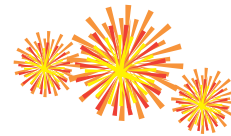
- 1.) Familiarize yourself with the laws. (A summary of them appears at right.)
- 2.) Limit fireworks use to one week before and one week after July 4th. Your neighbors expect explosions and bright flashes during that time period. The farther past that time period, the less such nighttime "surprises" are appreciated or tolerated.
- 3.) If you rent your lake home out to summer visitors, make it a stated policy that fireworks are only to be used during that time period. This will help you to avoid problems with your neighbors and possibly with law enforcement or the local planning and zoning commission.
- 4.) If you use rockets or other aerial types of fireworks, be careful to fire them out over the water and be mindful of the direction of the wind so the hot embers do not fall into docked boats, onto boat-lift covers or back onto land where dry brush could be ignited.
- 5.) Please try to avoid using fireworks near known loon nesting areas or where other wildlife might be frightened away by the noise and leave their young unprotected.

Have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July!

FIREWORKS LAWS

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Specifically Permitted	Wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of pyrotechnic composition per item. Ground-based sparkling devices which are non-explosive and non aerial, and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 200 grams or less for multiple tube items and include: fountains, cones, illuminating torches, wheels, ground spinners, flitter sparklers, flash / strobes, and novelty devices including snakes, glow worms, trick noisemakers, party poppers, and snappers.
Specifically Prohibited	Firecrackers, torpedoes, missiles, skyrockets, bottle rockets, roman candles, daygo bombs, mines and shells, chasers, and parachutes.
Selling Period	No restrictions on time of year for sale, possession, or use.
Age of Purchase	18 years



DISPLAY FIREWORKS

Display Permit	Apply to municipal clerk in the municipality where the display will take place at least 15 days before date of display or county auditor if display will take place outside a city.
Insurance	Required, in amount deemed adequate by fire chief.
Operator	Must be state certified by written exam from State Fire Marshal and proof of experience.

MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION

State and local permits required to manufacture.

SALE, POSSESSION AND USE OF FIREWORKS

Prohibited except as otherwise provided in Sec. 624.20 to 624.25.

ENFORCING AUTHORITY

State of Minnesota
Department of Public Safety
Division of State Fire Marshal
444 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-215-0500
www.fire.state.mn.us



LAW NUMBER

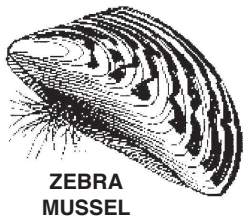
MN Statutes 624.20 et seq.
2003 MN State Fire Code, Chapter 33

“Invasive Species”

by Bob Wilson

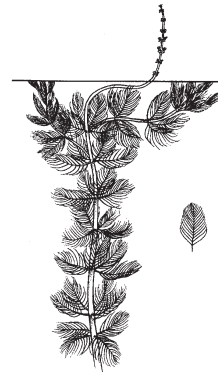


In the last issue of the Newsletter (March), I listed eight areas for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) improvement that the MN DNR was going to address with updated regulations and in the law. Without further adieu I'm listing these eight items again as a reminder so you won't have to retrieve your March newsletter. You are not discarding them are you?



**ZEBRA
MUSSEL**

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.



**EURASIAN
WATER MILFOIL**

My timing in elaborating on a few of these in more detail in early April is a bit off as the DNR, the DNR Commissioner, the Governor and the legislature are still in session over them. However, Governor Dayton and Tom Landwehr, the Commissioner, have both stated that they support the strengthening of AIS rules which should result in positive action.

I've selected a few of the items above to explain what seems to be happening to-date.

Increase penalties for violations:

- For transporting aquatic macrophytes on all roads: \$100, was \$50 (think macrophytes=plants).
- For placing or attempting to place into waters of the state water related equipment that has aquatic macrophytes attached: \$200, was \$100.
- For unlawfully possessing or transporting a prohibited invasive species other than an aquatic macrophyte: \$500, was \$250 (includes zebra mussels).
- For placing or attempting to place in state waters equipment that has prohibited invasive species attached when the waters are not designated by the commissioner as being infested with that invasive species: \$500.
- For intentionally damaging, moving, removing or sinking a buoy marking Eurasian Water Milfoil: \$100.
- For failing to remove plugs, open valves and drain water from water related equipment, other than marine sanitary systems, before leaving waters of the state: \$100.
- For transporting infested water off riparian property (located on the bank of a river or lake) without a permit: \$200.
- A civil citation that is issued to a person who has one or more prior convictions or final orders for violations is subject to twice the penalty amounts listed.

Increase funding for AIS efforts:

"The DNR is responsible for managing AIS and implementing actions to prevent their spread. These efforts are funded primarily through the general fund and dedicated funding from the Invasive Species Account (ISA)." The general fund was increased by \$1.35 million during the second year of the 2008-2009 biennium for this purpose. Since then the fund declined \$53,000 due to the budget deficit. The ISA funding comes from a \$5 surcharge on MN registered watercraft and a \$2 surcharge on non-resident fishing licenses. Nevertheless, the ISA had a deficit in the 2010-2011 biennium corrected through a one-time transfer of funds from the water recreation account in the natural resources fund. Currently, the ISA generates approximately \$1.6 million per year which is less than the appropriation of \$2.142 million. Increased revenue would come from increasing license surcharges as follows: \$5 for canoes, \$15 for boats under 17 feet, \$20 for all other watercraft and \$3 for non-resident fishing licenses. These surcharges would be added to your boat license fee every three years. These initiatives would increase ISA revenues to 3.155 million in fiscal year 2012 and \$4.407 million in fiscal year 2013, a major help in the fight to control AIS.

Increase public awareness of AIS:

With the additional funding available to the DNR I would expect the AIS public awareness campaign to be broadened and stepped-up from previous efforts. More TV and radio ads, billboards and newspaper ads warning of the dangers of an AIS infestation in your/our lake would be appropriate. However, here is a device I had not heard of before; an AIS Rules Decal. It requires that watercraft owners and operators have a decal on board that lists invasive species rules. The decal must be physically attached to the watercraft and be in full view of the operator. Decals would be available free of charge and will help with the education efforts aimed at preventing the spread of AIS. The DNR, in cooperation with other stakeholders, will distribute the decals and inform watercraft owners and operators about the new requirement. The DNR would no doubt like the rule to go into effect before the open water season begins, but this goal would seem to be uncertain for the time being. In any case, only written warnings will be utilized for violations until July 1, 2012.

Require lake service provider training:

Lake service providers that, for example, engage in dock and lift services, boat transport, etc., would be required to apply for and obtain a permit from the DNR before providing their services. To qualify for the permit, the service provider must complete an invasive species training course and pass an examination. The permit would be valid for three calendar years. A \$50 application and testing fee would be required.

The DNR has been supporting training of lake service providers in some areas during 2009 and 2010. Several training sessions were held in Brainerd and at Lake Minnetonka. A grant was awarded Minnesota Waters to help develop training materials in partnership with the DNR staff and publicize training sessions in several areas of the state this 2011. The "provider permit" would be similar to the requirement for "bait harvester" permits for those working in infested waters. It is expected that the DNR will continue to conduct these training sessions whether required or voluntary.

By the next newsletter issue, more concrete information should be available. More next time.

ATTENTION: Volunteer boat inspectors. The SCLV plans on checking boats on Friday, May 13 (your lucky day) just before the opening of the fishing season. We will staff the usual public ramps and I'll be calling to see if you can help. Gary Whitenack will call the folks on the west end. If you want to become acquainted with boat checks let Gary or me know. It can actually be interesting, rewarding and certainly helpful for the lake. We can always use more inspectors and we will provide some OJT.

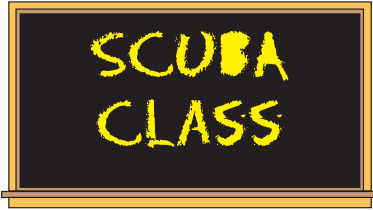


**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

BENEATH THE WAVES

by Mardy Jackson



It all started from a sign in the lobby of the Hotel la Playa Mazatlan in Mexico a zillion years ago. The sign read, "Scuba lessons given in

hotel pool, information at the desk." Ten minutes later we were signed up for lessons at 8:30, which was the beginning of half a lifetime of underwater adventures.

In answer to Bob's first question, Carlos said, "No hablo Ingles." Looking at Bob's expression I burst out laughing — then reminded him I'd studied Spanish and thought I could translate. Lesson went well, and Carlos invited us to dive in the Pacific Ocean. I knew I wasn't ready for that, so I manned the anchor while Bob went down and came up with his prize — a Starfish. The second lesson learned from that experience, there's a dead animal in that shell, is it took two weeks to completely air out Bob's luggage after packing the starfish, his prize, home.

We went ahead with our six-week course at the Minneapolis Y.M.C.A., testing our strength and endurance, but we passed and received our certification. Without it one can't buy compressed air for your tanks, and the certification is accepted anywhere in the world. We couldn't wait to begin our underwater adventures.

Early that spring we made plans with our friend, Dr. Bill, who was a diver. We met him at his home on Lake Le Homme Dieu near Alexandria, MN, a very clear lake. I'll always remember my first impression of its other worldliness. It was beautiful. Sun shining through the clear water, we went down about 12 feet. The weeds were like an enchanted forest, growing about a foot apart, with the long straight stems and glistening green leaves reaching for the surface. Among the weeds were dozens and dozens of sunfish. It was spawning season and we could see the platter-like indentations in the sand that were their nests. They were so much fun swimming right up to our masks.

When we laughed bubbles exploded out of our regulators and they would dash away, only to return seconds later. How peaceful they looked swimming gracefully among the weeds. It was all so enchantingly beautiful.

While camping on an island on Lake Namanagan we had fun with a very large Bass. We encountered him in about ten feet of water near an eight foot boulder. He swam up to us, stopped, turned around and swam a few feet and turned. We followed. This activity was repeated around the boulder till we got so

deep we couldn't see him, so we went back up to ten feet. We looked back and he was following us, until he realized we gave the game up. We

(Continued on Page 13)



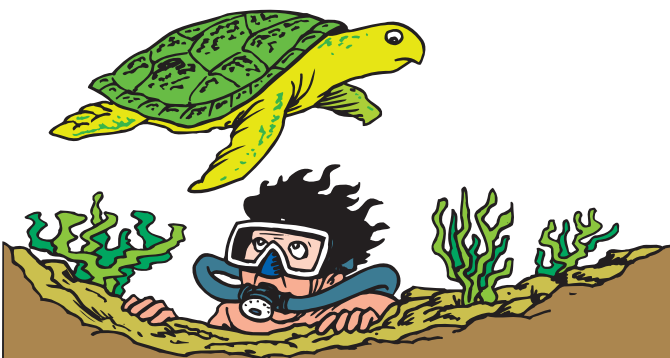
Beneath the Waves continued from Page 12

each went our own way — but what an interesting interaction.

While crossing the portage from Namakan to Rainy Lake via Kettle Falls, the fella driving the tractor pulling our boat noticed our scuba gear. He said he could show us a place where a 25-hp. Johnson motor went down, and if we retrieved it, it was ours. What a challenge. What happened was late one night a neighboring couple partied up at the hotel. It was dark when they left, not seeing the post in the water marking a big rock, they hit it so hard it pulled the motor along with the transom right off. The boat sank, they made it to the near shore line, but no one could find the motor. We decided to search. We took our long, thick, yellow anchor rope and knotted it every 5 feet, then tied it to the post, each grabbing the rope 5 feet apart, we swam circling the post, then each going out the next 20 feet. The next circling brought us to a steep hill on the lake bottom, and we realized the motor had rolled down into the dark black water. How far? We never knew.

Over time we became friends with a resort owner not too far from Kettle Falls. In one of our visits, he admitted bootlegging booze from Canada to the United States, through Kettle Falls. On one shipment, they dropped a bottle near the dock, and it was the only evidence against him. If we could bring up the bottle he'd give us a free week-end. We found the bottle, hallelujah. It was a fine resort.

We had many fun and interesting underwater adventures in Minnesota, found a lot of lures and



Loons

It has been said that loons mate for life.
Today we found a dead loon on our beach;
It was the female; it had to be, because of
her beauty.

It's now mid-night and my heart sank when
her loved one went calling

That melancholy call loons make,

At first loud and clear from near shore

No response... no response

Then the call again but faint

Now silence

Do you sup-
pose he
knows?

A tear rolled
quietly
down my cheek



Tom Aro August 18, 2008

saw a lot of garbage, particularly cans. But nothing can compare to the beauty of the Caribbean, not even Hawaii. We'd go to some island each year, and from what we had seen, Grand Cayman tops the list. When I was little I couldn't live without my crayons and coloring book. I would color the fish with stripes, polka dots and the different parts of the fish different colors. My coloring became a reality in Grand Cayman more than any other place that I had been. The beauty of the schools of fish, and the coral, every kind and shape imaginable and so very colorful.

Scuba diving opens up a whole new interesting and beautiful world. I'm so grateful to have added this whole new dimension to my life!

MEMORIES OF THE LAKE

by Frank Franson

My first memory involving Lake Vermilion was in 1938 when I was 6 years old. My mother and I would walk to Hoodoo Point to go swimming. The road did not go all the way to the swimming beach. It ended when it got through the spruce muskeg swamp and came right next to the lake between the box factory and the beach. From there, a narrow path through the alder brush followed the shoreline for about 300 yards to the small field by the swimming beach.

My parents never had a car in my memory. My dad was raised on a farm in southern Minnesota. During World War I, he was an army cook stationed in Germany. After the war, we came to Tower in 1919 and started a restaurant. My mother was raised on a farm a few miles south of Tower near the Pike River. She worked in Martilla's Confectionaries next door to the restaurant. She met my dad and they got married. This was during the mining and logging heyday in this area.

Tower was booming and so was the restaurant. Along came Black Friday in 1929 and the Great Depression. In 1934, the restaurant closed and we moved out of the living quarters upstairs to a house on North Third Street. I was two years old then and I have no memory of the restaurant or of moving.

Many other people walked to Hoodoo Point to go swimming. These were the days of the WPA workers where my dad worked and the CCC camps. Money was very scarce. Once in a while we could hear the tom-toms going day and night for 2 to 3 days. This was when somebody important on the reservations died.

A few years later, a group of us kids were old enough to walk to Hoodoo Point on our own. We would swim all summer until all that icky green stuff in the water got too thick. Tower and Soudan were dumping raw sewage into the river. Various types of aquatic vegetation were thriving. In the middle 1950s, the weeds in the Tower (East Two) River got to be very thick in August. I would have to shut off my 22 h.p. Evinrude outboard 3 or 4 times, tilt it up and clean out the weeds tangling around the propeller. Motors didn't have neutral or reverse which would have made the job much easier.

Once the sewage disposal ponds were built between Soudan and McKinley Park, the water quality of Pike Bay and the entire lake improved greatly in a short time. It is much better today than it was 60 years ago. To borrow a thought from Mark Twain, "The rumors of Lake Vermilion becoming a dead sea have been greatly exaggerated."

My first boat ride on Vermilion was in 1944. One nice June day, I was sitting on our dilapidated front porch. A car

stopped, a man got out and came up to talk to me. He said he was with the St. Paul Pioneer Press and he was trying to get the newspaper established on the Iron Range. He wondered if I would be interested in delivering the Sunday edition in Tower. I was a very shy person and I didn't like the idea of getting subscriptions and collecting money from people I didn't know. I was about to tell him that I didn't want the job when he told me that if I got 25 subscriptions, I would go to Trout Lake Portage and back on one of Aronson's launches with other kids from the Range. I wasn't going to pass that up and told him I would take the job. I managed to get the 25 subscriptions. Aronson's had recently moved from their location on the Tower (East Two) River to Pike Bay where they are now. On the day of the ride, I walked to Aronson's. They still had two of the old launches, the Mayflower and the Maryland, but I don't remember which one we went on. Before we left, Walt Aronson, Sr. told us that by the Trout Lake Portage, we would go by a high cliff that came right out of the water. It was a warm, calm day and great for a boat ride. When we got around the corner and into Big Bay, I began to realize how big Lake Vermilion was. We could see the top of the head frame on the Soudan Mine hill. We went close to Potato Island and saw and heard all the seagulls. When we went through the narrow channel, which I now know was between St. Mary's Island and the north shore, a high cliff came right out of the water. I asked Walt if that was the cliff. He said, "Not yet." A quarter mile later we went by another one. I asked the same question and got the same answer. That was the cliff by St. Mary's Bay. About 3 miles later, we came by a third one and Walt said, "That's the one!" Actually, there is not much difference in all three of them. I really enjoyed my first boat ride on Lake Vermilion. A few months later I got tired of delivering newspapers and got Phyliss Beaulieu to take over the job. She was about my age and lived at Lakeside. That consisted of 5 houses close to the box factory. Phyliss had a bicycle which made the job easier. Her father Phil was a retired steamboat captain that pulled the log booms across the lake to the sawmill. I can remember him sitting in his rocking chair on his front deck smoking his pipe. That was a long time ago.

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

Getting Your Boat Ready For Fishing Season

KEEP IT CLEAN !! By Dave Schaeffer

The secret for cleaning your boat might be right under your sink. The following great ideas are not mine but a collection of things that I have learned over many years of boating.

THE WORKS

Toilet bowl cleaner cuts elbow grease to a minimum when cleaning a fiberglass boat, the plastic hood of your outboard, or the motor's metal drive shaft housing where heat bakes on the white gunk. After all, the solvent is made to remove lime scale and hard water buildup. Dilute The Works 4 to 1 in a spray bottle. Spray on and wipe off. Be certain to use the toilet bowl cleaner NOT drain cleaner.

EASY OFF OVEN CLEANER

If you want to change the name on your fiberglass boat, Easy Off oven cleaner on a rag will do the trick. When the paint is totally removed, wipe away any excess and rinse well. It is now time to get creative and come up with a new name !

LEMON JUICE

We all know how bad the odor can get in our live wells. Rinse live well with water and clean out any solids. Next pour in a half bottle of lemon juice concentrate and fill live well with water. Run the liquid through the recirculate mode and let it stand overnight. Drain the next morning and your live well will be sweet.

PLEDGE

Plexiglas windshields get really gunked up with rain and spray. Apply Pledge Spray and wipe with a clean, soft cloth. It will also help water bead up, so now you will know what you are really seeing.

DAWN DISH SOAP

The bilge of your boat can get pretty nasty. To cut through it, squirt a hefty amount of Dawn liquid soap and foam it up with a hose. If the boat is on a trailer, drive it around the block to shake it up. Drain and rinse well and you're on your way to a cleaner bilge.

COKE

For the most corrosive buildup on battery terminals, pour on some Coke and watch the acid melt away. Now use baking soda and water plus a stiff brush for the finishing touches. Coke also removes rust, so try it on your trailer hitch. Be certain to rinse well to avoid a sticky mess.

BAKING SODA

This just may be the best cleaner in boating. For light corrosion on batteries, use baking soda and water and brush off. Beyond batteries, baking soda is an all-purpose cleaner. Mix 1/2 cup soda, 1/2 cup white vinegar and 1 cup ammonia with a gallon of water. Put it in a spray bottle for general cleaning and it also works great on hull stains.

WD 40

We all know how good this is for many things. It is also a great cleaner for greasy hands..... just spray a little on and rub off. You will be surprised!

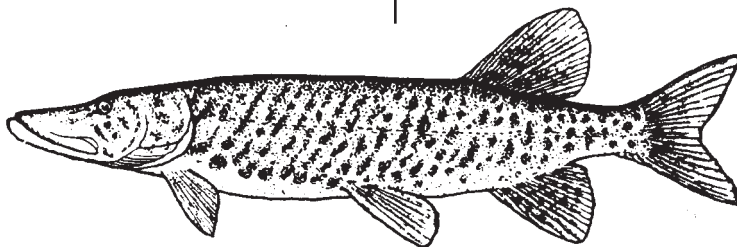
Dave is a member of The Lake Vermilion Guides League. He guides exclusively on the Big V and believes he finally found the perfect job!

*Nothing makes a fish bigger than
almost being caught.*

~ Author Unknown

CORRECTION TO DNR MUSKIE ARTICLE

In the last issue of the Vermilion Sportsman, in the article "What do muskies eat anyway?" it was stated that muskie were successfully established through a stocking program that began in 1984. After the issue was published, we received a letter from member Ted Anderson, a former resort owner and founding board member of the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion. In his letter, Ted points out that he and another founding Club member and resort owner, Jay Mault, planted 500 muskies in Lake Vermilion in the fall of 1968 and that the event was documented in the July 1969 issue of the Vermilion Sportsman. We thank Ted for correcting our historical perspective relating to muskie stocking. His letter appears at right and the newsletter article is on page 17.



Hi Dale,

We do enjoy the Vermilion Sportsman and I remember writing in it so I just had to drop you this note to tell you that the article

by Duane Williams is not entirely correct on when muskies were first planted in Lake Vermilion as Jay Mault and I planted 500 in the fall of 1968. They were 12 inches long and cost \$2.00 each. I'm sending

a copy of the page from the Sportsman from July 1969.

You've been on the board for a lot of years and I'm sure they appreciate your work and insights.

We haven't been able to get to the Lake for five years now and do miss it. I'm 84 years old and 400 miles seems a long way anymore.

Take care and keep fishin'.

Ted Anderson

Transition to New USPS Barcode

The Sportsmen's Club has recently started using the new USPS barcode for its First Class mailings. And as soon as we solve a few technical issues, you will also see this barcode on our newsletters.

The new barcode is an important addition. We will now receive electronic change-of-address notification if a letter has to be forwarded to a new address for delivery. This allows us to quickly update our address list to be sure you receive every newsletter on time.

A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Members,

Success of any undertaking is measured by the degree of achievement, as you will note in greater detail throughout the Sportsman paper that we have achieved partial goals that we had set out to do to improve fishing in Lake Vermilion. But to me that is only the first set, because the most important thing to date is the follow-through. Initial success can be turned into failure if the programs are not followed through. Your board of directors is pledged to continue its work to see that the stocking programs are continued and the other issues are fulfilled, but we also need the continued encouragement of the membership in moral and financial support. We have a strong membership, and a great degree of our success is due to the size of our organization, so I urge each of you to continue to support your club by your early renewal.

Our relationship with the Minnesota Conservation Department is very good and we have had wonderful cooperation from them. They will be on the lake again this month to survey the walleyes, rough fish and other species to see how the lake has changed from last year and to make recommendations for stocking next spring.

In the last legislative session, they requested funds to reactivate the Pike River hatchery, but in the final days it was voted down, so in the months to come before the next session, we have offered our services to whatever purpose they ask to help them achieve this goal. Through mutual cooperation such as this we can insure that Lake Vermilion will again be one of the best fishing lakes as well as the most beautiful.

Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.
Respectfully yours,
J. M. Mault, President

Members Asked to Pay '69 Dues Now

More than 500 members have renewed their memberships in our Club since the first of the year without being sent a notice to do so, but approximately 1,300 members have still to complete this little chore.

As President Mault points out in his message to the members in this issue, it is only through our tremendous numbers that we have begun to reap some benefits for our lake. The job is only begun, and we must stick together to complete the task.

We ask you not to desert the ship at this stage of the game. Send in your renewal (\$3.00) to the secretary now. Memberships became due on May 1 of this year. Those not renewing their memberships by the time of the annual meeting will not be permitted to vote and will be taken from the membership roll.

Fifty-five new members have joined our ranks since January 1, and more are expected as placards advertising our club are being placed in all resorts on the lake.

An application coupon for new members is printed in this issue. If you have a friend whom you think should be a member, drop us a line and we'll send him this copy of the "Vermilion Sportsman".

To Plant Muskies

Arrangements have been made with Muskies, Inc., of St. Paul to plant 500 muskies in Lake Vermilion again this fall. Cost of the muskies, which are approximately 12 inches in length when planted, is \$2.00 each.

An initial planting of 500 was made last fall, with half of the total planted on each end of the lake. The same procedure is planned this year.

Local wardens have reported that they have identified a few muskies on stringers of anglers who thought they were northern pike. Those identified were of illegal length for muskies, but would have been legal for north-erns.

Unless the angler knows what to look for, it is easy to mistake a muskie for a northern. Legal possession limit for muskellunge is 30 inches. Northerns may be kept regardless of size.

Two ways to differentiate between muskies and northerns are given here. Scales on the muskie cover only the upper half of the cheeks and gill cover, while on the northern, the scales cover the entire cheek and upper half of the gill cover.

Turning the fish on its back, pores may be observed on the lower surface of the jaw. A northern has five or less pores in that location. Number of pores on a muskie also varies, but the number is always more than five.

NEW MEMBER	RENEWAL
(Cross out one)	
Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.	
Wayne T. Evans, Secretary	
Cook, Minn. 56723	
Enclosed is \$3.00 for membership for one year (May 1, 1969, to May 1, 1970) in the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.	
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Please send also _____ Shoulder Patches @ \$1.00 and _____	
_____ Car Window Decals @ 50c	
Your Continued Support Is Needed to Achieve Our Goals	

Status of Cormorants on Lake Vermilion

There has been growing concern in recent years about increasing numbers of cormorants on Lake Vermilion. Many anglers and lake residents are concerned that increased cormorant numbers might negatively impact fish populations. We wanted to take this opportunity to discuss the status of cormorants on Lake Vermilion and how the DNR will address this issue.

The double-crested cormorant is a native species to Minnesota. Historically it was quite abundant in the state. Then in the late 1800s and early 1900s, human persecution of cormorants caused large scale abandonment of colonies and population declines. During the 1940s-1970s, reproductive problems due to DDT (a widely used pesticide) caused the cormorant population to decline even further. In the 1970s, DDT was banned and the cormorant was given protection under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. With these protection measures in place, the population began to recover quite rapidly over the next 3 decades. However, recent surveys from the Great Lakes and Minnesota indicate that the population is now stabilizing or even slightly decreasing. In 2010, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conducted a statewide cormorant survey and found 15,425 nesting pairs of cormorants in 42 colonies. This was down slightly from the previous statewide survey conducted in 2004 which found 16,081 nesting pairs in 39 colonies.

Cormorants have been present on Lake Vermilion for many years, at a relatively low population level. Cormorant nesting was documented on two small rocky islands in northeast Big Bay during the 1990s. Sometime around 2000 cormorants abandoned nesting on these two small islands and began to nest on Potato Island, a slightly larger island located near the middle of Big Bay. In 2004, a statewide survey documented 34 cormorant nests on Potato Island. Because cormorant numbers seemed to be increasing, the DNR initiated a more intensive monitoring program to regularly count nests on Lake Vermilion. In 2007, the number of cormorant nests had increased to 128, and in 2010 there were 307 nests on Potato Island. Because cormorant numbers have been increasing, the DNR will conduct nest counts annually for the near future.

Diet studies have shown cormorants are opportunistic feeders, preying mostly on whatever species is most abundant. On Lake Vermilion, perch and cisco would likely be major prey items. Cormorants have also been known to eat small walleye when available, although walleye usually make

up a small part of their diet. There have been a few cases in North America where high cormorant numbers may have contributed to population declines of gamefish species. High cormorant numbers were implicated in a decline in perch and walleye populations on Leech Lake several years ago. However, in most cases cormorants exist at population levels that do not significantly affect fish populations. There is no direct evidence that cormorants have negatively impacted gamefish populations on Lake Vermilion yet, although there is some concern about low perch gill net catches observed during population assessments on East Vermilion in recent years. The low perch catches could be part of the natural population variability common to this species, although this trend will be watched closely. DNR staff are also working to develop methods of detecting mortality from cormorants at an early stage.

Cormorants are protected by the Migratory Bird Act, which makes indiscriminant killing of these birds illegal. Limited control of cormorants is allowed in Minnesota in some cases under a depredation order issued by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. There must be strong evidence that cormorants are causing damage before any control action would be approved. Cormorants have been part of the landscape in North America for centuries. At reasonable numbers, they are not a threat to fish populations. However, to ensure protection of fish populations on Lake Vermilion, the DNR will continue to monitor cormorant and fish populations closely. If compelling evidence develops that cormorants are negatively affecting gamefish populations, the DNR will propose control measures to reduce the population. If anyone has questions about cormorants on Lake Vermilion, please feel free to contact us.



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duane.williams@state.mn.us

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HELP US!

We are asking for our members' assistance in tracking the Lake Vermilion cormorant population. If you observe cormorants nesting or gathering in locations where you haven't seen them before, please contact a board member.



BioBlitz at Lake Vermilion State Park

Join the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a BioBlitz at Lake Vermilion and Soudan Underground Mine state parks! The 2011 DNR BioBlitz will be held at the parks beginning at 12 noon on Saturday, June 25, and ending at noon on Sunday, June 26.

Attendees will be joining scientists in a day of field work. The goals of the BioBlitz are:

- Count, map and learn about the parks' diverse organisms, ranging from microscopic bacteria to moose.
- Connect scientists with school kids and the general public to conduct field work together.
- Add to the parks' official species list.
- Highlight the importance of local and regional biodiversity.

Inventories and programs will take place at established times throughout the 24-hour period. More specifics will be posted on the Lake Vermilion State Park website as the agenda develops, at: www.mndnr.gov/vermilion.

For answers to questions, send an email to:
tavis.westbrook@state.mn.us.

Our Membership Continues to Grow

The Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion now has over 2150 members, a record tally. In 2010, we grew about 5% and we appear to be on track for similar growth in 2011.

Thank you very much for sharing our lake association's story with your friends and neighbors and encouraging them to join. By working together, we can have an even greater impact on this great lake.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.

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

Membership year runs from Jan 1st through Dec 31st

☐ 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. 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

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2011, you received a reminder letter in April requesting that you renew.

Please check your dues status and contact information shown in that letter. Your dues status is also shown on this newsletter label. Please let us know of any errors.

HELP US MAKE A BEAUTIFUL LAKE EVEN BETTER!



Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc.
PO Box 696
Tower MN 55790-0696

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