

THE VERMILION



Vol. 49, No. 3 • The Quarterly Newsletter of the Vermilion Lake Association • Summer 2022

*To Protect
and Improve
Lake Vermilion*

IN THIS ISSUE

Annual meeting set for Saturday, Aug. 6...page 3
Antique boat show set for Sept. 4...page 4
Learn to ID aquatic invasives...page 5
Know your weeds...pge 7
Loon cam updates...page 8

Enter the VLA photo contest...page 9
Dall-a-go's Resort...page 10
Conservation fishing recommendations...page 14
Timberdoodles...page 16
What are Saugers?...page 19

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Summer Lake Neighbors, Friends and Visitors,
What an unusual spring and early summer it's been....quite the opposite of last year when we enjoyed early hot summer days. With our high water levels and cool, rainy weather, some still do not have docks or boats in as we send this edition to press on July 1. But the Fourth of July is just around the corner, and with it comes great times with family and friends enjoying this wonderful resource we all love... Lake Vermilion.



Pat Michaelson
VLA President

Some of our programs have been impacted by the high water levels. One of our family favorites, our Shore Lunch Sites have had the installation of dock decking delayed at most sites. The volunteer team is anxious to get out to the sites to assure they are clean and paths cleared of debris ready for our adventures. I created a "check list" for excursions to the Shore Lunch Sites a couple years ago, after we arrived at one on the other end of the lake, only to find I had forgotten to pack our entrée, hot dogs! My

granddaughter was quite excited that we'd have to eat only S'more's for lunch (and maybe the can of baked beans). I, however, was really hungry for a char-fired hot dog. Get out and enjoy a picnic at one of these eight sites this summer...and use my "check list" at right if you'd like to assure you have everything you need.

I hope you all had the opportunity to follow our loon family on our Loon Nest Cam. With enhancements to the video system, many watched the live stream for many days as the loons nested, endured an Eagle attack and ultimately hatched the two chicks. Our father/son volunteer team have worked diligently to bring this amazing, educational footage to our homes. You can still view the various events at our website...thanks to some expert editing work.

Our Sentry Team will be out in full force over the next several weeks, monitoring public and resort boat launch sites for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). These volunteers become familiar with the shoreline vegetation at assigned sites, then throw a specially-designed rake about twice a month to check for new suspicious growth. This is a critical early detection activity in our AIS program. If you have two hours a month, enjoy boating and can "throw a rake" at a site or two, we have needs for some additional volunteers.

We hope you can join us at the upcoming VLA Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 6 at Camp Vermilion from 4-7:30 p.m. We'll have our Photo Contest entries: *Lake Vermilion Seasons* displayed for viewing and voting...it's always delightful to see the amazing photos submitted. At our short business meeting we'll be requesting minor

Pat's Shore Lunch Site Check List:

Bucket with Firewood and Fire Starter or Matches

Hot dogs and buns

Can Baked Beans

Ketchup and Mustard

Chips and Dip

Paper Plates, Napkins, Forks, and Spoons

Hershey Bars, Graham Crackers, and Marshmallows

Bananas

Foil and Roll of TP

Can Opener

Tongs

Hand Sanitizer

Rags in a plastic bag

Beverages & Openers

Use the bucket to put out the fire completely, then to remove all trash. Leave any extra firewood for others.

Continued on next page



**Please Join Us for the
Vermilion Lake Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 6, 2022
at Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermilion Camp Road,
Cook, Minnesota, from 4-7:30 pm**

4-5 pm: Registration and Social Hour with Lake Friends (cash bar)

5-6:30 pm: Roast Chicken Dinner with Sides and Dessert (\$15 for adults, \$7.50 for kids under 12)

6:30-7:30 pm: Annual Business Meeting and Special Presentation

“Let’s Focus on Birds for a While”

The Birds of Lake Vermilion with Guest Speaker Keith Reeves,
DNR, Area Fisheries/Division of Fish and Wildlife

Seating is Limited

RSVP Required by Friday, July 22 to:

Jill Korpela-Bontems: jandjatbigrock@frontiernet.net

Sheri Sawatzky: sherisawatzky@gmail.com or 218-666-5512

*Is your Membership
current ???*

You can check your current enrollment status off the newsletter mailing label. We want to make it easy for you to know if your membership dues are up to date. The first line indicates your status.

For example, “Member 2022” indicates our records show you’re paid through calendar year 2022.



Please email or call me with mailing address or email address changes.

Sheri Sawatzky, Chair
Membership Records
sherisawatzky@gmail.com
or 218-780-8178

*President's Message...
from previous page*

bylaw changes along with reappointment of three board directors; Craig Beveroth, Lori Ptak, and Dwight Warkentin. We’re certain the highlight of the meeting will be Keith Reeves presentation; *Let’s Focus on Birds for Awhile*.

Enjoy these upcoming weeks of summer...and Be Safe,

**Pat Michaelson, VLA
Program Leader and
President**

Cover Photo by Bob McNamara

I’ve always enjoyed photographing the night sky in northern Minnesota and Death Valley, Calif. (where I work for the national park during the winter). The Milky Way is my favorite subject during summer months!

2022 Lake Vermilion Antique and Classic Boat Show



After a three year delay we are back and thrilled to announce the 30th Lake Vermilion Antique and Classic Boat Show, to be held on Sunday, September 4 at the Landing Restaurant, from noon to 4 p.m.

We are delighted to have the

Vermilion Lake Association as an honorary sponsor again this year.

Their presence at the show allows the association to display and educate the public of its achievements, goals and plans for the future. We are fortunate that Lake Vermilion has an organization

that is so dedicated to the welfare of the lake. Check out their booth at the show.

This event is open to the public and we encourage everyone to come see the beautiful boats and chat with the owners. Vote for your favorite boat. Then kick-back and enjoy a Landing's burger, a beverage and stay for the awards presentation at 4 p.m.

Anyone interested in displaying their antique or classic boat, whether it's wood, fiberglass or handmade, please contact us for more information.

Happy Boating and see you at the show!

Sandy Jackson

612-790-7957

Board Members Seek Three Year Terms

Dwight Warkentin has been a Board Member for six years



and currently serves as Vice President.

He and his wife Rachel live year-round on the west end of the lake.

Lori Ptak became a board member in 2019 and serves as



the communication leader, coordinator

ing the newsletter, website, and social media. She lives on the east end of the lake, on boat access property, with her husband Mike. They are at the lake May-October.

Craig Beveroth joined the board in 2021 to fill a vacated



position and currently serves as the Water Quality Lead-

er. He and his wife Carol split their time between their place on the east end of the lake and Eden Prairie.



Identification of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species

Eurasian Watermilfoil

A homeowner on the east end of Vermilion recently contacted a member of VLA's aquatic invasive species team reporting a suspicious weed, one he had never seen before. A picture of the weed floating in water was forwarded for identification. First, I wish to applaud the observations and quick reporting of suspicious aquatic vegetation by this vigilant homeowner. It is through



Nancy Watkins
VLA Board Member/
AIS Co-Leader

such action that a quick identification can be made. Is it a newly discovered invasive species and if so, are there methods to eradicate or in most situations, mitigate its spread? Fortunately, the homeowner reported the suspect weed and it was not seen the following day. It will still be important to continue observations. What was initially spotted could have been a fragment of native vegetation. However, it could also have been a new invasive species perhaps dislodged from a nearby growth, deposited from the prop of a passing boat or carried in by a wave.

The picture in question revealed a bushy growth. Again, it could have been a native plant. Coontail, bladderwort, white water crowfoot, water marigold and native milfoil were possibilities. However, it could have also been Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), a highly invasive aquatic species that is widespread throughout Minnesota. Luckily, EWM has not been found on Vermilion. EWM spreads either through under-

ground rhizomes or more frequently, stem fragments which can root and grow into a new plant. Waves, boat propellers, wakes and harvesting or attempting to clear aquatic weeds can break stems creating fragments that are available to reproduce.

EWM presents several problems. Its branching stems may form mats just below the water surface blocking sunlight from reaching more desirable native plants. Thick weed mats can also cause problems for boaters and anglers. Heavy infestations may decrease dissolved oxygen levels.

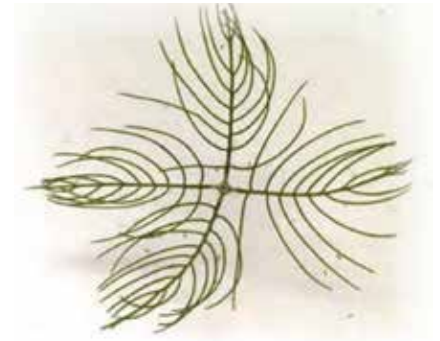


IDENTIFICATION FEATURES OF EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL (above)

- ❖ Appears feathery with four leaves per whorl, stems have a reddish hue
- ❖ Leaves have a central axis with 12-20 leaflet pairs. Count the leaflets on one side of the axis.

Other helpful notes:

- ❖ Leaves hang limp when out of water
- ❖ Leaflets at the ends of the leaves tend to form a blunt rather than tapered tip.



IDENTIFICATION FEATURES OF NATIVE NORTHERN WATERMILFOIL (above)

- ❖ Four leaves per whorl
- ❖ Each leaf has between 4-11 leaflet pairs
- ❖ Leaves have a central axis and are rigid when taken out of water

For further confusion there are milfoil hybrids that are also considered to be invasive.

Eurasian watermilfoil can be removed. But it is crucial that all broken stems are removed because of fragmentation. There are also several herbicides that can be used to control the weed. Various hybrids present a challenge to select the most effective herbicide. However, the best strategy is to avoid introducing the weed within a water body. The importance of introducing clean boats into the water and removing vegetation when the boat leaves the water cannot be over emphasized.

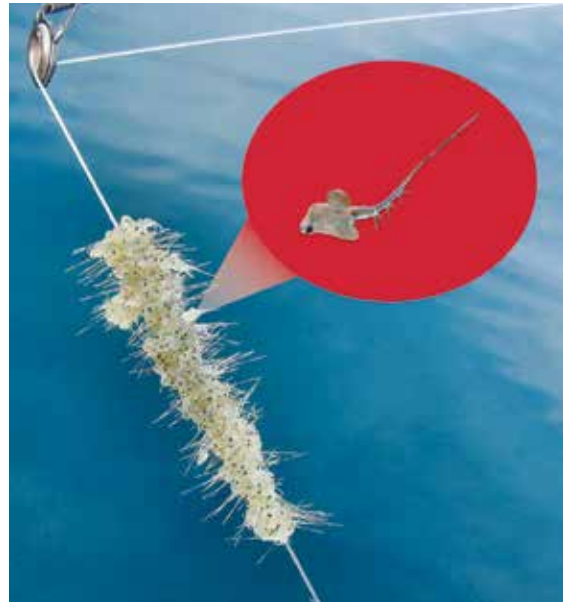
The Vermilion Lake Association maintains a "hotline" to a group of detectorists who collaborate with the DNR and are available to answer questions, inspect and recommend actions. When in doubt, consider using our "hotline" 218-288-1080.

Stop The Spread of Spiny Water Fleas!

Yes, Lake Vermilion does have this invasive species! It's important to not spread this to other lakes (think Trout Lake, BWCA, etc) by:

- ❖ Wiping fishing lines and reels
- ❖ Draining and wiping live wells
- ❖ Draining and wiping bait buckets

For more information, go to <https://maisrc.umn.edu/stospiny>.



New AIS Program Coordinator

Jon Utecht has joined the North St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District (NSLSWCD) as AIS Program Coordinator. He will be working with the Vermilion Lake Association AIS team. Jon has spent the last five years working at the Scott SWCD in Jordan as a Water Resources Specialist. He has done water quality monitoring, AIS monitoring, erosion and sediment control, and wetland and buffer work. Prior to his current role he worked as a Field Technician for NRR on coastal wetland monitoring, brook trout refuges, AIS spread via fishing equipment, and analyzation of walleye food web. He also has experience supervising people and collaborating with a variety of agencies and associations. You may contact him at jon@nslswcd.org or 218-288-6142.

New VLA Dock Signs show member support for our mission....



These striking aluminum signs with UV protection can be ordered on our website at a cost of \$20.

The 12x18 inch sign is designed to attach in either corner of dock front with self-tapping sheet metal screws or stainless hose clamps. Note: many of the dock installers will install the sign at no cost. Please contact your installer for details.

Pick up information:

Tower end: Steve Lenertz at 612-594-2040.

Cook end: Julia Maki at BIC Realty at 218-666-5352.

To order, go to www.lakevermillionlakeassociation.org under "merchandise," then "Dock Signs." Pay through PayPal or credit card.

Aquatic Vegetation Challenge - Know Your Weeds

By Nancy Watkins, AIS CO-Leader

Can you identify these weeds by name and whether it is invasive or native? Answers on page 8

1



2



3



4



5



6



VLA Caps

Wear your new caps proudly to show your support for your lake association. The price is right.

\$15, plus \$3 shipping for any number of caps to one address. Free local pickup.

Check out the three style choices at our website www.vermilionlakeassociation.org/caps

For more info, contact Sheri Sawatzky at 218-780-8178, or sherisawatzky@gmail.com

Thanks for helping us protect and improve our great lake.

Loons face off against bald eagle, then animal threatening nest

Two chicks survive threats and hatched on June 23

by Noel and Chris Sederstrom, VLA Volunteers

As if high waters and terrible winds of late May and early June weren't enough of a challenge, our loon parents were tested under fire this summer. So far they are succeeding in bringing two more loon younglings into the world.

The Vermilion Lake Association's Live Loon Nest Cam captured much of the action, to both the horror and then the delight of a group of faithful self-proclaimed "loon-a-tics" watching on the VLA YouTube Channel.

On the evening of June 13, the loon on lookout duty out in the bay cried out and its mate immediately fled the nest, just moments before a bald eagle swooped in. As the two loons screamed at it, the eagle stomped around the two eggs, evidently looking for something to eat, but not doing any real damage. Minutes later, after rampaging about and surveying the scene, the eagle was unnerved by a dog barking and a neighbor starting a lawnmower. It walked over to the lake side of the small peninsula and flew off. The loons returned an hour later.

But that wasn't the only very real threat.

An animal lurking in the bushes near the loon nest was scared off about 8:50 a.m. Monday, June 20, just days before the eggs hatched. The loons roared to



action, screaming and standing on the water flapping wings, chasing the creature away. It came back minutes later and the frantic commotion unfolded all over again. Was it a bobcat? Porcupine? Muskrat or beaver? Watch the video and see if you can tell. All the videos created of the loon pair's adventures this summer are on our Facebook page, our website's Loon Nest Cam page, and loaded on our YouTube Channel.

The most heart-warming of them is from the day the chicks hatched. Right from the beginning, you can tell that the first one is bold and eager to explore, quick to learn new things. He (or she) jumped in the water within an hour and a half of being born and was almost immediately swimming alongside mom

Continued on next page

Answer Key (from previous page)

1. Eurasian watermilfoil **INVASIVE**
2. Coontail **NATIVE** Branching leaves with no central access.
3. Curly-leaf pondweed **INVASIVE**
4. Starry Stonewort **INVASIVE** Most recently discovered in central Minnesota. Has not yet been found in St. Louis county. Very aggressive forming dense mats.
5. Water marigold **NATIVE** Highly dissected leaves, produces yellow buttercup flowers mid-to late-summer.
6. Northern watermilfoil **NATIVE** Note four leaves per whorl, each leaf has between 4 - 11 leaflet pairs.

Loon cam...from page 8



Photos from loon cam (resolution is low): Eagles attacking the nest (but not damaging the two eggs), and below: Adult loon with two chicks.



loon. As you can see in the photo below, the other chick was shy and kind of scared to jump into the water, preferring to watch from a perch up on land.

"I have completely bonded to these little guys," confided Nancy Watkins, VLA Board Member. Some of our VLA members took part in the dialogue about what we all witnessed, and some added their own stories on Facebook about the very real dangers our Lake Vermilion loons face attempting to bring chicks into the world.

"On our island on the west end of Vermilion we had a loon pair and two chicks in the water close to their nest," noted Rebecca Reilly

Wheelock. "After two days of harassing the loons, two eagles swooped in and forced the loons to dive leaving the chicks floating– the eagles took the chicks. So sad."

A week after they hatched, our little loon family was enjoying life in the small bay not far from their nest. Will the chicks make it to mid-September, when the adult loons typically force the young to fend for themselves? That's when they'll be strong enough to fly. We'll be watching with hopes high and fingers crossed!

2022 Photo Contest: Lake Vermilion Seasons

The Vermilion Lake Association invites members to participate in sharing the beauty of Lake Vermilion by submitting your photos for the "Lake Vermilion Seasons" Photo Contest! We are looking for photos of people or wildlife enjoying the lake not only in the summer, but also winter, spring, and fall. (Hint: set your iPhone to "HDR.")

Email (as an attachment) your high-resolution photos to Lori Ptak by July 31 at lori@ptak.org.

Please include your full name, approximate area on the lake, and phone number along with your submission and a title or description if relevant. By entering, you represent that your entry is your own original work and that you own or have the rights to the submitted photo. By entering, you

also grant permission to the Vermilion Lake Association to republish your submission, along with your name in any and all media without further permission, notice or compensation including print publications, online and social media.

Photos will be printed and displayed at the Annual Meeting on August 6. Attending VLA members will vote for their favorites. Top three winners will be awarded prizes of \$100 (First Prize); a curated box of Minnesota-made goods and goodies courtesy of MinnBox.com (value \$75) (Second Prize); and \$50 (Third Prize).

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."
- William Shakespeare

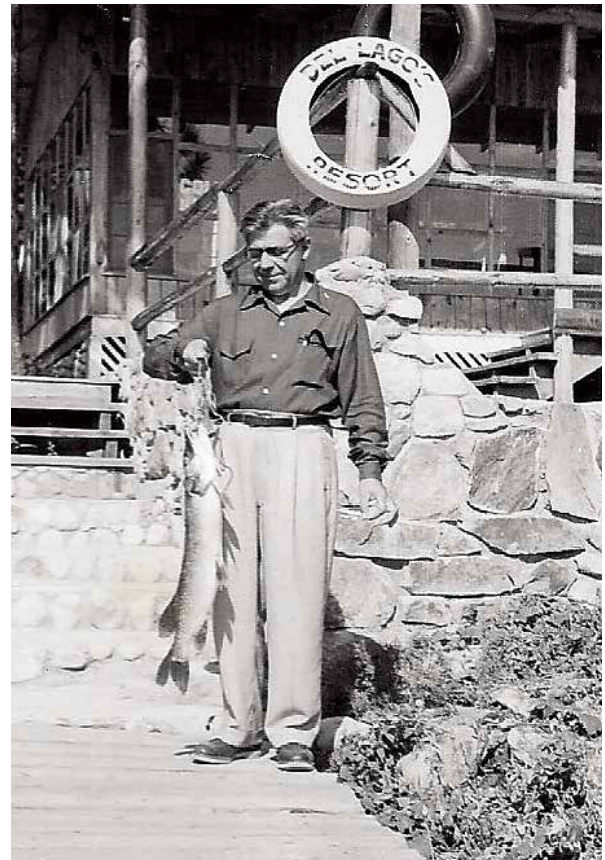
Vintage Vermilion: Dall-a-go's Resort

By Brian Maki

Ah, Lake Vermilion. Regardless of the fact I've now lived in Eau Claire, Wis. since April of 1992, the depth of my love for Vermilion is boundless. Around 1947, my Grandpa Emil Dallago built and operated what is now known as Voyager Cove Resort in Wakemup Narrows. It was a family affair running the resort with my Grandma Amelia as well as my mother, working tirelessly taking care of the guests and patrons. Meanwhile Grandpa Dallago was also helping sell a realtor's land lots in the area, and one of Grandpa Dallago's commissions was an island, which he gave to my mother as a graduation gift in 1952.

Fast forward to 1967, the year I was born, and as soon as I was old enough to start forming my own memories, my love for the island and the lake began, and has not subsided since. While The Maki Family no longer owns the island (we sold to a beloved neighbor whose love for the island is just as deep as ours), my own family continues to enjoy a week of vacation on Lake Vermilion, and ironically enough at the very resort my grandfather built. My amazing wife took it upon herself to plan and make reservations, proving that Vermilion has a way of winning the hearts and souls of many. Mindful I live 5 hours from Vermilion, my dearly departed dad once told me, "...you can take the boy off Vermilion, but you can't take Vermilion out of the boy". How true! See you in July, Lake Vermilion!

The island the author is writing about was the subject of our Winter 2022 newsletter cover.



Find this newsletter, along with previous issues at
<https://www.vermilionlakeassociation.org/latest-news/>

Water Quality of Lake Vermilion

Have you ever wondered about the quality of Lake Vermilion's water? If you have, then you're in sync with the Vermilion Lake Association (VLA).

The VLA Board recently approved a first ever in-depth analysis of Vermilion's water in order to establish a baseline of its chemistry for current and future use.

This analysis goes into more depth than previous studies by federal, state, or local governmental agencies. We started by defining what water quality means to us. The full definition is available on the VLA website, but our analysis encompasses the levels of chemicals and/or pollutants that are deemed acceptable to sustain wildlife and aesthetic enjoyment. Standards that we will use have been established by the EPA, MN Pollution Control Agency, and MN Rules chapter 7050.



Craig Beveroth
VLA Board
Member

For example, we will test for seven EPA Priority Pollutants: calcium (a zebra mussel monitor), chlorides (a measure of algae quantity), copper (an aquatic toxin), phosphorous (an algae nutrient), sulphates (an aquatic toxin), nitrates (an indicator of sewage contamination), Total Suspended Solids (an indicator of overall water health), Secchi (another indicator of overall water health), and manganese (possibly a deterrent to starry stonewort).

VLA volunteers will do the sampling in 15 locations on the lake including the six major sources of water inflow into the lake (Pike River, East Two Rivers, West Two Rivers, Stuntz Bay, Cable Bay, and Trout Lake), and five locations done yearly by the DNR. Sample analyses will be completed and reported by a local environmental lab.

We hope the results will be available and reported at the annual meeting on August 6 at Camp Vermilion.

Note: the sample collections took place June 29, prior to publication of this newsletter.



Craig Beveroth is sampling where the Soudan Mine and Tower-Breitung water treatment ponds empty close to East Two Rivers. The rain garb is for the rainy afternoon and to provide protection against the hordes of mosquitos.

Craig Beveroth Attends DNR Roundtable

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) works closely with individuals and organizations to achieve its mission: to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

Every year, the DNR hosts "The Roundtable," which is a gathering of invited stakeholders and conservation leaders to discuss fisheries, wildlife, ecological and water resource issues in Minnesota.

The 2022 Roundtable was held on June 9. The invitation-only, in-person event centered around the topic of investing in the future of conservation.

Craig Beveroth, VLA Board Member and Water Quality Leader, spent the day attending the Roundtable. The day started off with Governor Walz promoting the outdoors and expressing disappointment with the Legislature for getting very little done. Craig attended a variety of break-out sessions with various DNR researchers that were quite informative. At the



closing plenary session, the deputy commissioner mentioned a lake association and its efforts to make a great northern lake a better place - citing an example of how the DNR and public can work together!

Craig reported "I was pleasantly surprised by what I saw and heard. I was able to speak one-on-one to the new leadership (commissioner, deputy commissioner, and director of ecology and water resources). I was able to speak to all three one-on-one and they seemed to listen. Basically, it was a forum for the DNR to show what it's doing, and its willingness to work with the organizations represented by the 200 attendees."

In Memory

The Vermilion Lake Association regularly receives donations in memory of loved ones or friends. These gifts were received between Jan.20 and July 2, 2022. We are grateful for these gifts and also wish to honor those who have passed away.

John D. Bergstrom

Tom Budolfson

Buddy Carter

Adm. William Fogarty

Robert Hart

Mel Hintz

Frederick D. Jacobi

Thor Levison

Daniel Machacek

Norman Miller

Jim Nelson, of Tower

Eric Oakman

Trevor Reichel

Richard "Dick" Saddoris

Alpha Smaby

Dick Weber

Are You Still Fishing With Lead?

Lead fishing tackle is dangerous to loons and other wildlife. Loons may scoop up lead tackle at the bottom of a lake when gathering gravel for digestion; they may eat a fish that has ingested lead, or they may grab a bait from fishing line that has lead tackle attached. Once ingested, lead poisons a loon. A single lead sinker will kill a loon. It has been estimated that one in five loons may die from lead poisoning caused by the ingestion of fishing tackle. Other wildlife is similarly impacted.



Bob Pearson
VLA Volunteer



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. An X-ray of dead loon shows that the bird ingested lead fishing tackle.

As a result of the settlement agreement entered into with BP as a result of the 2010 Deep Water Horizon oil spill, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was awarded over \$1.25 million to implement a “get the lead out” campaign. This year the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has established a fishing tackle rebate program for retailers to make lead-free tackle more

available and affordable. The program provides 35-percent rebate on purchases of lead-free tackle by retailer, with a maximum award of \$2,000 per retail establishment.

Ask your fishing tackle retailer to stock lead-free fishing tackle and take advantage of the MPCA program that is available. Please choose lead-free materials when shopping for fishing tackle. Tin, bismuth, steel, glass, tungsten, stone and composite metals are all used to make fishing tackle and perform as well as traditional lead tackle. Dispose of old tackle properly, and do not throw it into the water or near shore. For more information about the MPCA program, you can email them at: leadout@state.mn.us or

visit <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/lead-free-fishing-tackle-rebate-program>.

Help protect Lake Vermilion by using Amazon SmilePart VI



Jerry Lepper
VLA Treasurer

Iwould like to thank all of those who used Amazon Smile during this past year. I especially enjoyed reading your notes sent in with Membership Renewals stating how you were using Amazon Smile as much as possible

when shopping.

When you shop at Amazon, go to the amazon website, designating Vermilion Lake Association as your charity: <https://smile.amazon.com/charity?orig=%2F>

If you have started to shop at Amazon.com and then



remember you want to use Smile, leave everything in your shopping cart, log off Amazon and then log back in using Smile. Amazon.com. Your purchases will still be in your shopping cart and Vermilion Lake Association will receive the Amazon half-percent donation on qualifying purchases.

In 2021 the purchases you made using Amazon Smile has contributed \$613.21 to the Vermilion Lake Association. While this is a great help, if those of you that are not purchasing through Amazon Smile just log into “Smile.Amazon.com” instead of using the regular amazon log-in, the Amazon Smile contribution could increase considerably.

Lake Vermilion Conservation Fishery Recommendations

Last year was our first year promoting the Conservation Fishing Recommendations and we plan to



Terry Grosshauser
VLA Board Member

continue with the same effort to promote the recommendations again this year. Usually, a significant change in how people think with regards to keeping fish for meals takes years of effort to change habits. I can remember that in the 1980s people were keeping all the fish they could catch, and size was not a criterion in the thinking. Catch and release was first being talked about and considered. Slot limits became a restriction used by the DNR to manage the fish population so that it could maintain a population that would replenish itself along with less need for costly stocking. Catch and release is now very common for many different species.

The MN DNR does offer a conservation fishing license at a reduced price for Minnesota residents only which is basically 50-percent of the limit for each fish species. If you are a resident, maybe you should consider this license instead of the standard license most people purchase. It really depends upon how important keeping a lot of fish is to you. If you need more fish just a few times a year, please consider

Recommended Conservation Limits are on a voluntary basis and do not reflect the regulations mandated by the DNR.

SPECIES	MDNR Regulations Possession Limit	Recommended Conservation Possession Limit
Walleye	4	2 (Min. 12", Max. 18")
Largemouth Bass	6 (any combination)	0 (Catch & Release Only)
Smallmouth Bass	6 (any combination)	3 (Less than 18")
Crappie	10	5 (Less than 13")
Bluegill	20	10 (Less than 9")
Perch	40	20 (Less than 12")
Northern	2	1 (Less than 30")
Musky	1 (54 inch or above)	0 (Catch & Release Only)
WALLEYE SLOT	20-26"	20-26"
NORTHERN SLOT	30-40"	30-40"

taking more people fishing with you.

The strong increase in participation in fishing and boating continued last year with more pressure on the fishery resources than ever before. Electronics, more ice fishing pressure, social media information on hot bites, and generally smarter fishermen are contributing to more pressure across the state. Please act responsibly as a fisherperson and practice more careful release of the fish so that more people can enjoy the fight and the experience.

We plan to distribute the waterproof card with the conservation recommendations to resorts, guides, businesses, marinas, and boat checkers at launch sites. We thank you for your effort to follow these recommendations.

Subscribe to eVermilion

Are you getting email notifications of our newsletter postings, as well as breaking news regarding our loon cam and other exciting projects? If not, please subscribe via our website, under "News", then "eVermilion" <https://www.vermilionlakeassociation.org/latest-news/>

Subscribe to eVermilion

SUBSCRIBE

Short-Term Rentals Served by a Septic System

St. Louis County regulates short-term (vacation home) rentals. A short-term rental dwelling unit is defined as any home, cabin, condominium, or similar building represented to the public as a place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to the



Emily Anderson
St. Louis County
Environmental
Specialist

public on a nightly or weekly basis and for less than thirty (30) days for compensation. This includes dwellings that are being rented out or advertised for rental through another entity or agency that doesn't own the dwelling. To ensure renting through another entity is allowed, please contact the Land Use Division of St. Louis County Planning & Community Development Department.

If you are planning on, or are currently, renting your property as a short-term rental where St. Louis County administers zoning, a permit is required. Short-term rentals require a current Certificate of Compliance or Notice of Nonconforming for the

septic system prior to the record review performed by St. Louis County Onsite Wastewater. If you do not currently have either, one may be obtained after a compliance inspection is performed by a licensed SSTS inspector and submitted to the county.

For further information regarding short term rentals and septic system compliance, contact the Onsite Wastewater Division with any questions or concerns.

Onsite Wastewater – Virginia office: 218-749-0625.

Email: oswinfo@stlouiscountymn.gov

Emily Anderson, Environmental Specialist:
218-749-0639.

Email: Andersone@stlouiscountymn.gov

Land Use Division office: 218-749-7103.

Email: LandUseInfo@stlouiscountymn.gov

Donations



If, like me, you are required to take RMDs from your Individual Retirement Account consider using a Qualified Charitable Distribution also known as a QCD. Funds withdrawn from your IRA are taxable but funds

donated to a qualifying charitable organization such as the Vermilion Lake Association are not when you use a QCD. Consult your tax professional for guidance.

To accommodate a wide range of donor interests, the Vermilion Lake Association has three funds to which gifts may be directed. Any size gift is appreciated and acknowledged.

General Fund: Gifts to this fund are used for a broad range of lake association activities.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Fund: Gifts to this fund are used to prevent new AIS infestations and to manage infestations already present.

Shore Lunch Site Improvement Fund:

Gifts to this fund are used to improve and maintain Lake Vermilion's eight shore lunch sites.

How to Make a Donation

If you'd like to send a check, please make it payable to "Vermilion Lake Association, Inc." and mail to the address below. If you wish, you may direct your donation to a specific fund.

All gifts are appreciated and acknowledged. Please include your name, email, and mailing address.

If this is a memorial gift, please let us know who the gift is in memory/in honor of.

Vermilion Lake Association, Jerry Lepper, Treasurer, P.O. Box 696, Tower, MN 55790

Donate online at <https://www.vermilionlakeassociation.org/get-involved/donate/>

Timberdoodles

As you can see in the picture, we had an early spring visitor in our yard before the snow started to melt.

In late March, after another three-inch snowfall, an American Woodcock, also

known as a “Timberdoodle,” showed up in our yard. Where the heat tape for the water supply runs and the snow melts early, the ground must not be



The Antique Angler

frozen. This is important because the woodcock primarily feeds on worms and must be able to probe for worms with its three-inch beak. A member of the sandpiper family, it lives in moist areas where it can always feed on worms or small insects. They are funny looking with their eyes set back in their head so they can watch for predators while digging for worms. They're usually less than 10 inches long with short legs and a short neck.

The second day, the snow melted in some areas and the woodcock was back prospecting for worms in the dirt areas. The dance the woodcock does as it walks around was funny. The dance is a back-and-forth boogie which is thought to be a way of rustling up worms. It is unique as the head does not move, but the body and feet move forward and backward. This is thought to cause vibrations that encourage earthworms to move so the bird can hear them (much like



American robins) and dig them out. It almost seems like they are dancing to music.

It was worth watching this small ball of feathers. Woodcocks are a game bird, and they are hunted in the fall every year. They are a challenge for any hunter in that they rise straight upward and then they fly rarely straight in any direction. Needless to say, a lot of shotgun shells are wasted missing this bird. The meat is dark and unique compared to other game birds, but cooked correctly it can be very good. The whole bird weighs only about 8-10 ounces. The bird is well camouflaged, and they can be difficult to see unless they move. They live most of their lives in brushy moist areas with good soil used by worms. We hope that this early arrival works out and it finds a mate to produce more timberdoodles.



*Your Supports Helps the
Vermilion Lake Association
Make a Beautiful Lake Even Better!*

University of Minnesota researchers study waves created by recreational boats

Findings suggest that wakesurf boats should be operated at greater distances from shoreline compared to typical recreational boats

A new study by researchers in the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory found that popular wakesurf boats require a greater distance from the shoreline and other boats compared to more typical recreational boats. This distance is needed to reduce the potential impact of their larger waves.

The results provide key insights into differences between specialized wakesurfing boats and more typical recreational boats operating on lakes and rivers. It also provides baseline data that can be used for future decision-making.

Wakesurfing, which requires a boat capable of generating a large surfing wave, has become a popular pastime for some Minnesotans while sparking concerns in others about shoreline erosion, water quality, and safety. However, robust scientific data on the size and



impact of wakesurf boat waves has been lacking.

“Minnesotans love their lakes, and they love their boats,” said Jeff Marr, one of the lead researchers on the study and associate director of engineering and facilities at the St. Anthony Falls Lab. “Some of my best memories are of boating, waterskiing, and fishing with family and friends on lakes. This research isn’t about trying to limit enjoyment of lakes for boaters, but it seeks to provide the data needed to ensure our lakes can be enjoyed by all for generations to come.”



Cats of Lake Vermilion



Yes, cats are essential companions at the lake too! They enjoy the sun, the deck, the rocks, the trees, and even a paddle board ride. There have been no reports (yet!) of pet cats enjoying the boat rides however! Let us know what your cats enjoy about the lake. (These cats either have leashes or collars with bells on when enjoying the great outdoors.)

Water Level Extremes

I'm not sure if anyone else noticed, but the lake this spring was pretty high! There have been reports of crib docks floating away, boats on shore not pulled up far enough in the fall floating away, saunas shifting on their piers and so on. I'm sure you all have a story of your own!



The ice went out quickly with extreme wind which also caused problems with docks, boathouses, and shore line damage.

To put this in perspective, when we went home in the fall the lake was close to its historic low; in 72 years of record keeping, at 1356.41' on 9-11-21.



When we returned in the spring, after heavy snow cover and much rain, the level was at a historic high on 5-18-22 of 1359.40'. Mother Nature has really thrown us a curve.

As of this writing many docks have yet to have decking installed due to the high water levels, including many of our shore lunch sites. Here's hoping you all have a good summer and be safe on the water this boating season.

Board of Directors and Officers 2022

Cook

Sheri Sawatzky, Secretary/Membership, 2750 Wakemup Village Rd W, Cook, MN 55723, 218-780-8178, sherisawatzky@gmail.com

Eric Hanson, 2746 Vermilion Dr, Cook, MN 55723, 218-666-5478, eric@pehrsonlodge.com

Dwight Warkentin, Vice-President, PO Box 97, Cook, MN 55723, 651-269-0674, dhwarkentin@hotmail.com

Terry Grosshauser, 7307 Oak Narrows Rd, Cook, MN 55723, 218-666-0580, terrygrosshauser@gmail.com

Jim Graham, 8978 E Wakemup Village Rd, Cook, MN 55723, 218-780-5525, jcgrahamsr@gmail.com

Pat Michaelson, President, 2384 Deerwood Lane, Cook, MN 55723, 612-306-7702, plmichaelson@gmail.com

Tower

Bob Pearson, 5773 Puncher Point Rd, Tower, MN 55790, 218-753-4212, rpearson@duluthlaw.com

Gary Haugen, 1903 Westhaven Dr, Tower, MN 55790, 612-720-2853, ghmedrep@gmail.com

Lori Ptak, 95183 Trapper Shack Bay, Tower, MN 55790, 612-247-3751, lori@ptak.org

Jerry Lepper, Treasurer, 3087 Old Hwy 77, Tower, MN 55790, 218-753-2629, jnclep4@frontiernet.net

Jill Korpela-Bontems, 4437 Big Rock Rd, Tower, MN 55790, 218-753-6324, jandjatbigrock@frontiernet.net

John Yocum, 4102 Hoel Rd, Tower, MN 55790, 407-873-3883, snootman@aol.com

Nancy Watkins, 5981 412th St, Rice, MN 56367, 320-291-2363, 2bitfarm@gmail.com

Craig Beveroth, 9416 Hearthsides Dr, Tower, MN 55790, 952-428-9155, cbeveroth@comcast.net

So, what exactly is a Sauger and are they found in Lake Vermilion?

Sometimes called sand pike, sauger are a member of the perch family and are found in many lakes across North America including northern Minnesota. They are a close relative of the walleye, but are smaller and more cylindrical-shaped. Their flesh tastes very similar to walleye, so they are highly prized as a food fish.



There are a few ways to tell the difference between saugers and walleyes.

Male saugers and female walleye can interbreed to produce a hybrid

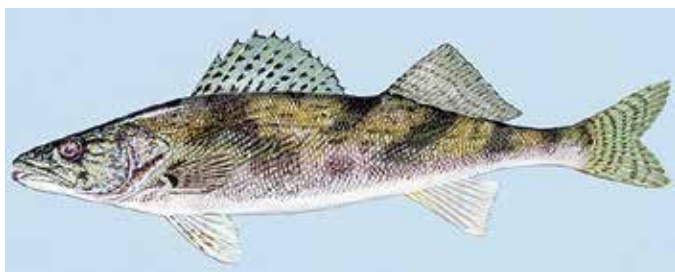
known as a saugeye. Saugeye usually have both the large dark body blotches found in sauger and the white patch on the lower part of their tail fin found in walleye. In doing the research for this article, I found several sources conflicted as to whether saugeyes were sterile or fertile. The most detailed and reliable information I found concluded that vast majority of saugeyes are sterile, but a small number - around 10-percent - will be fertile and can reproduce with either walleyes or saugers or other fertile saugeyes. Sauger and walleye have a common ancestor and have just barely differentiated enough from each other in the grand scheme of evolution to be consid-

ered separate species, rather than a subspecies of one another.

Does Lake Vermilion have any sauger or saugeyes? The best answer I can come up with is no. I have not read of a sauger ever being caught in Lake Vermilion in published reports from state agencies or scientific journals or fishing magazines or in blogs, but it's not beyond the realm of possibility that they might be present. They are plentiful in Lake-of-the-Woods and are also found in the Rainy River system and Lake Kabetogama. They are found in all the Great Lakes. So, they are found in lakes and rivers all around Lake Vermilion.

Sauger tolerate waters of high turbidity better than walleye, and seem to prefer flowing water. Saugers are more likely than walleye to be found in large rivers with deep pools. They outcompete walleye in that type of environment. Lake Vermilion lacks major feeder rivers, and thus flowing turbid water, which may be a factor why sauger are absent. Lake Vermilion is the perfect ecosystem for walleye; sauger may have been in our lake in pre-historic times, but were simply outcompeted out of existence by the better-adapted walleye.

Sauger



Coloration: Saugers are a brassy color with large dark blotches

Dorsal fins: Saugers have dark freckles on their dorsal fins

Size: Saugers are smaller and more torpedo-shaped

Tail: Uniform tail color

Walleye



Coloration: Walleyes are a golden color

Dorsal fins: Walleyes don't have freckles but the last two spines are solid black

Size: Walleyes often get twice as big as saugers

Tail: Walleye have a white patch on the lower tip of their tail fin



Vermilion Lake Association

PO Box 696

Tower MN 55790

Volunteers Make the Difference

The Vermilion Lake Association has been fortunate over the years to have a dedicated group of leaders and volunteers to staff our important activities. We are grateful for their help.

Please consider joining this team. We have needs for both workers and leaders, for those with only a few hours to spare, and for those who can make a larger time commitment.

If you think you may be interested, please contact Pat Michaelson, VLA Volunteer Program Leader, at 612-306-7702 (cell) or plmichaelson@gmail.com.

Vermilion Lake Association

Sheri Sawatzky, Member Records • P.O. Box 696 • Tower MN 55790
sherisawatzky@gmail.com • 218-780-8178

Membership year runs from Jan 1st through Dec 31st

☐ 2022 New Member ☐ 2022 Renewal

Membership level

☐ \$15.00 Individual ☐ \$20.00 Couple
☐ \$25.00 Family ☐ \$50.00 Business or Organization

Member Name _____

Spouse Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (requested) _____

Phone (requested) _____

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

Please mail a check with the form on this page or join at our website using PayPal or a credit card.

The Vermilion Lake Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Do You Qualify?

Trick question. Anyone can join the lake association whose mission it is to protect and improve Lake Vermilion. No need to be a property owner. No need to be a fisherman or a kayaker. Just someone who cares about our great lake and wants to protect her for the next generation.