

THE VERMILION



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*To Protect and Improve
Lake Vermilion*

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OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lake Neighbors and Friends,

As my term as VLA President ends, our board wholeheartedly welcomes Dwight Warkentin into the President's role. Dwight has served on the Board as VP for the past seven years, and he brings extensive business experience along with vast knowl-



Pat Michaelson
VLA President

edge of our numerous expanding programs. He and his wife Rachel have lived on the lake for fourteen years, are nature lovers, avid boaters and he's a fisherman, so they express an appreciation for all the nuances Vermilion has to offer. Dwight is always looking for another way to protect and improve!

As VP, Dwight developed and has significantly advanced our business partnership program engaging with local business stakeholders to share our critical AIS, fisheries and other program educational materials. He has led us through several bylaw changes over the years and participated in planning for our next capital project.

Dwight is a deep thinker, is connected in the lake community, and has valuable insights regarding all aspects of the VLA. All of these attributes we're certain, will serve Dwight in continuing to lead the organization successfully.

I'd also like to introduce a new Board Member, Mark Schmidt, who joined us this fall and has volunteered to step into the role of Treasurer. Mark will be learning from "the pro," Jerry Lepper over the next several months as they do a gradual hand-off of the many processes, documents, and requirements of the VLA's 501(c)(3) status.

While stepping out of the President's role, I'll continue to serve on the board leading our growing Volunteer Program along with our new capital project, slated for spring '23. The VLA could not accomplish the expansive programs we coordinate without our VOLUNTEERS! These members are the heart, mind and muscle of the organization. It's been my honor to serve as your president, to meet many more of you along the way, and I look forward to continuing our collective work. . . to protect and improve this lake we cherish.

Enjoy the winter wonders of the lake. . .
and be safe,

Pat Michaelson

Cover Photo

by Holly Scherer.

See related story on page 6

New Map Expands our Lens



Residents around Lake Vermilion may be familiar with its Ojibwe name of Onamuni Zaaga'Iganiin, or "Lake with the Red Sunset Glow". But fewer of us have heard of Gagons-ibi-madage-winik, which in English means "place where the young porcupines live" and is commonly known as Bystrom Bay.

A collaboration between the Bois Forte Band and Ely Folk School has resulted in an important map that documents over 100 indigenous place names in the area. Designed by Bois Forte artist Louise Isham and crafted by map maker Keith Myrmel, it focuses mainly on the areas around Lake Vermilion and Nett Lake. The hope was expressed for the project to expand to include more of the Arrowhead region, including the Boundary Waters.



Lori Ptak
VLA Board Member

Extensive research went into this project, including conversations with Bois Forte Band elder and spiritual advisor Gene Goodsky, historical written resources like journals of anthropologists and missionaries, and other published works on Native names. Kawishiwi District Ranger Aaron Kania was quoted in the *Timberjay*: "This isn't the past for the Ojibwe people, this is their present," Kania said. "For the Ojibwe, this never went away. This has always been, and now this map is reminding people of this other lens to view this landscape through. This reminds those who use public lands that there are many ways to see this landscape."

The map is available for purchase at the Ely Folk School or the Bois Forte Heritage Center.

This article was compiled with information from *Quetico Superior News*, *MPR*, and *Timberjay*.

Fighting the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Winter

Attention all ice fisherpeople! Even in the dead of winter as lakes are covered in a thick layer of snow and ice, aquatic invasive species (AIS) can still thrive and hitch a ride on your tackle, augers, and shanties. Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and several bait species can be gathered and spread around Minnesota's lakes. According to Montana State University Extension bulletin EB0193, "EWM can maintain a large amount of biomass throughout the winter which aids in



rapid and early seasonal growth in the spring." One AIS Coordinator in Wisconsin noted that though EWM is considered a perennial, it should be considered an evergreen for its winter-hardiness and ability to live and grow underneath the ice.

To help stop the spread of AIS when out ice fishing remember to:

- Thoroughly inspect and clean all fishing equipment, line, hooks, nets, scoops, and augers after each use.
- Drain all water from equipment and containers



containing fish prior to leaving the ice.

- If using live bait, buy it locally from a licensed bait dealer and dispose of unused bait properly. It is illegal to dispose of leftover baitfish in Minnesota lakes and rivers.
- Pack your waste from the ice and dispose of it in appropriate waste containers.
- Dry all your equipment for 5 or more days when going between lakes.



Improving Boater Compliance to Clean, Drain, and Dry

Over the past year VLA's board member, Gary Haugen has been working with the DNR, St Louis County's Soil and Water Conservation District and Wildlife Forever to improve public boat landings to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species. The landings will feature enhanced signage, stations for bait disposal and tools to assist removing weeds and removing boat plugs. The public landings on Everett and Black Bay were selected as the first two beta sites to assess if the new configuration is helpful in improving boater compliance to improve self-inspection of their craft. Stay tuned for the new look which will be featured in the spring edition of the VLA's newsletter.

De-icers and Our Lake Water Quality

This is probably an appropriate time of year to talk about ice melting chemicals getting into Vermilion. Most of the de-icers used on public roads and residential properties contain sodium chloride (aka table salt, rock salt, NaCl), magnesium chloride, or calcium chloride. The bulk of the road de-icers are NaCl, since it's the most efficient method

to clear roads when the temperature is above 15 degrees Fahrenheit; however, it mixes with melted snow and ice and forms runoff which could end up in Vermilion.



Craig Beveroth
VLA Board
Member

Once in a body of water, the NaCl mix sinks (because it is more dense than fresh water) and can be taken up by fish and aquatic organisms which cannot survive in water with a high chloride content. Just 1 teaspoon of NaCl will permanently pollute 5 gallons of water. The culprit in NaCl is the chloride (Cl⁻) ion which is harmful to aquatic life. The VLA measures for chloride, hoping to see levels less than 230 parts per million (ppm) per the EPA standard; we've even set our concern level for Vermilion at 120 ppm per the Canadian Water Quality for Protection of Aquatic Life standard. Our last sampling at the end of June showed 15 of our 17 sampling sites below 10 ppm (we had one



hot spot of 368 ppm that we continue to monitor).

One might be tempted to say that Vermilion doesn't have a chloride problem, but every property owner should be aware of what they're putting on their driveways and sidewalks this winter so a problem doesn't develop. Maybe think about using less chloride or going to a non-chloride compound such as sand.

As a side note, calcium chloride is not desirable for Vermilion either, owing to the calcium ion which has been linked to zebra mussel growth. In this case, Vermilion is borderline for calcium (which we also continue to monitor).

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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/>. Your inbox will not be inundated with emails from us! While some months have more notifications than others, they average about 1-2 a month or less. And don't worry, we will never sell your email address.

VLA Caps make a great present!



They're here! 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 at <https://www.vermilionlakeassociation.org/merchandise/caps/>

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

A Winter Weekend at Lake Vermilion State Park

By nature, I am not one of those people who love winter. If I can be honest with you, I find winter to be a bit of a pain. Having to start your car and let it run a bit before driving and taking extra caution on icy trails, only to wipe out anyway, are not things I look forward to. I spent many years dreading Minnesota winters and complained my way through them. And then one year I decided that I might be happier if I simply embraced it.

From that point forward, my husband and I have made it a point to explore new winter adventures. While I'd still prefer an endless summer, there are things about winter that I look forward to each year. One of the things I look forward to are the trips we take up north each winter when we play in the snow, relax by the fire, and enjoy the quiet beauty of winter in the northwoods.

There are so many wonderful winter getaways in Minnesota, it's easy to return to the same one again and again. We try to challenge ourselves to try a new place each year. On top of our winter bucket list: the new camper cabins at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park. And I'll let you in on a little secret—our stay there far exceeded our expectations. Before we even checked out, my husband was online, looking for open weekends in the coming months. Between you and me, this park is a Minnesota winter hidden gem.

There are many reasons to visit Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park in any season, but especially in the winter. The first thing we enjoy about heading up north in the winter is the quiet. All of the summer crowds have gone home and many campgrounds and businesses have shut down for the season. The next thing we love is that it's unbelievably beautiful. The boreal forest is breathtaking any time of year but is arguably the most stunning with a fresh layer of sparkling snow. In addition, it's nearly impossible to run out of things to do in the area. There's great hiking and snowshoeing in the park and nearby. You also have access to skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing.



The camper cabins are located in the northern portion of the eastern section of the park. There are eight cabins featuring two distinct layouts, and while they sleep six, it was also perfect for the two of us. Camper cabins at Minnesota State Parks can accommodate up to six people and no pets are allowed. The cabins at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park have heat and electricity, but no running water. Cooking inside the cabins is prohibited except for coffee pots, electric tea kettles, and slow cookers. Each cabin has an outdoor kitchen area and fire pit. Firewood is available onsite, and outside firewood is strictly prohibited. You can find more information at the link below.

Continued on next page

Learn more about camper cabins at:

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/destinations/state_parks/lake_vermilion_soudan_underground_mine/camper_cabins.pdf

North St. Louis SWCD Tree and Native Plant Sale

The North St. Louis SWCD Tree and Native Plant Sale will continue in 2023. From January thru early May, annually, we sell native trees, shrubs, plant kits and seed packs to local landowners. These plants are sourced from greenhouses and nurseries including Schumacher's Nursery, DNR Badoura Nursery, and PRT (Pacific Regeneration Technologies Inc.). Trees are to be picked up right before fishing opener at the Eveleth DNR office. You can order online on our website at www.nslswcd.org.



Natalya Walker
NSL SWCD AIS
Program Coord.

The 2022 Sale was record-setting with over 15,000 trees and shrubs sold, and 93 native plant kits and seed packs sold. The top sellers in 2022 were Red pine and Red oak. The proceeds support the conservation efforts coming from our office in forestry management, aquatic invasive species control, community education/outreach, watershed protection, and many more projects.

Trees are generally sold in bundles of 25 seedlings or transplants. Both conifers and deciduous are



NSLSWCD Board Supervisor Peggy Pearson holding a tray of native plants.

available. Native plant kits contain 36 plants designed to grow well together. Seed mixes for septic mounds or buck-thorn replacement are also offered. If you would like to order trees, shrubs, native plants or seed mixes from us, be sure to check out our website

at www.nslswcd.org. We recommend you order promptly as we have limited availability.

We are thankful for each of our customers, for the Eveleth DNR staff and their cooler, and for the trees that will keep Minnesota beautiful for future generations!

If you have questions on what kind of trees, shrubs, plants or seed would best suit your property, visit our website to read descriptions or contact District Forester Natalya Walker at 218-288-6146.

Camper Cabins...from page 6



Story and
photo
by Holly
Scherer

Trails in the park are still under development and many are unmarked. Be sure and grab a map from the self-service kiosk or

restrooms before you head out. A GPS app may also prove helpful if you know how to use them. There are more than a dozen miles of trail to explore. We love the Onamani Overlook Trail paired with the Lakeside Trail in the eastern section of the park. We've hiked the entire western section over several trips. Last time we hiked the Swedetown Loop along with the Miners Trail. Keep your eyes

peeled for wolf tracks (see photo on previous page).

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park is a wonderful park to explore any time of year. Still under development, you're likely to be delighted with new discoveries upon each visit. We've visited this park in every season and I have to admit, winter is my favorite. That's quite a compliment coming from a "winter convert."

Excerpted from Quetico Superior Wilderness News March 20, 2022

Loon News....

A Loon Story – Update

In the fall newsletter, we wrote about the loons that used one of our loon nests deployed by Greta Jeske this summer. The pair of adult loons lost their first pair of chicks to a predator and renested and laid two new eggs on July 10. The two chicks did not hatch until Aug. 5 and only one survived. With such a late hatch, we were not sure whether the young loon would grow to be large enough to fly south before ice up.

One adult loon left in September and the other adult left the lake on Oct. 9 leaving the young loon by itself. The young loon continued to feed in the bay all through October and expanded its range to other bays but always returned to the bay where Greta had the nest. We are thankful for a long fall with warm weather as the young loon was able to feed continuously and we saw it stretching its wings early in November. We believe the loon left on Nov. 7 since we did not see it anymore. Considering the challenge of renesting and the abundant predators it was good to add another loon to the population. Greta, the loon grandma, worked extensively on the loon nest and it was a successful year. We will try again next year with a newer nest.



Volunteers Needed

One Sentry Coordinator: This role works with the Volunteer Leader to coordinate previously recruited AIS Sentries, sending email reminders for boat launch access monitoring scheduled 3-4 times per season then compiling results from site checks. This role is done remotely, but training of new Sentries could be added and done in person. Approximately 1-2 hours per month May-August.

One Loon Nest Cam “Installer”: This volunteer will have a one or two ½ day job to assist with “launch” (and likely adjustment) of our Loon Nest Cam on the West-end of the lake. A strong, sturdy frame and the ability to lift ~ 50# is a must as it takes some finesse to get the Cam post positioned from a boat into the lake. Flexibility of schedule and presence at the lake is key as the Cam goes in as soon as the ice goes out.

Where do loons go in the winter?

As the temperatures get colder, most common loons are migrating to coastal waters. Does this mean loons can survive in both freshwater and saltwater environments? You betcha! Loons can live in saltwater via the aid of a pair of salt glands located above their eyes.

Loons that breed in the Upper Midwest mainly migrate to the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Coast during the winter.

Learn more about a loon migration study conducted by the USGS at the link below:

https://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/main.html?mc_cid=3016d6e5b6&mc_eid=d26e397c0f



Burn your firewood safely and smartly

Did you know that small particles and pollutants in wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks. Wood smoke has also been linked to heart attacks in people with heart disease. Even occasional exposure to wood smoke can cause watery eyes, stuffy noses, and chest tightness. Everyone may experience symptoms, but children and elders are especially vulnerable.



Terry Grosshauser
VLA Board Member

Wet wood can create excessive smoke which is wasted fuel. Dry wood creates a hotter fire. Hotter fires save wood and ultimately save you time, money, and less smoke.

Four Easy Steps To Dry Wood

Step One - Split wood

- Start with the right sized wood
- Split wood dries faster
- Split wood is sized to fit your stove or fireplace
- Split small pieces for kindling

Step Two – Stack Wood

- Stack wood to allow air to circulate
- Build stack away from buildings
- Keep wood off the ground on rails or use wooden skids
- Stack wood in a single row with the split side down

Step Three – Cover the Wood Pile

- Cover the stack of wood to protect it from rain and snow
- Make sure there is space between the cover and stacked wood
- Keep sides open so air can circulate through the stack

Step Four - Storage Timing

- Allow enough time to dry
- Softwoods take about 6 months
- Hardwoods take about 12 months
- Properly dried wood is lighter and sounds hollow when knocked against each other
- Properly dried wood should have a reading of 20% moisture or less. Moisture meters for wood are available and can cost as little as \$20. They are easily ordered through Amazon. For an accurate reading, split your wood and test the newly split side of the wood.
- Avoid burning paper, garbage, or treated lumber. Have your stove or fireplace and chimney professionally inspected and cleaned yearly if possible. A smoldering fire, dirty glass doors, or smoke from the chimney are all signs that the fire needs more air or your wood is too moist. If you want more information, please contact this website: www.epa.gov/burnwise.

Watershed Planning Kicks off for the Vermilion River and Rainy River Headwaters

A watershed planning effort for the Vermilion River and Rainy River Headwaters Planning area kicked off over the summer of 2022 with three public meetings. Meetings took place across the planning area in Orr, Ely, and Seagull Lake in order to involve the public in the watershed planning process.

North St. Louis, Lake County, and Cook County Soil & Water Conservation Districts have partnered in the effort along with their respective counties to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the planning area through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources One Watershed, One Plan program.

A comprehensive watershed management plan is a document that lays out a locally and collaboratively developed strategy to manage, protect, and restore water resources on a watershed-wide scale. This plan will replace the current County Water Plans. It is expected to be completed within the next year. The plan will cover a wide range of water management topics including drinking water sources, flooding, recreation, groundwater quality, groundwater recharge, wetland management, surface water quality, water storage, riparian buffers, habitat, cultural resources and others that are locally important.

Ultimately, this plan will identify what voluntary projects and activities that local partners will direct time and resources on to protect, and in some cases restore, important resources in this planning area for the next 10 years. Funding will be provided to carry out these activities through the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

To inform the plan, the partnership sought public input through the public meetings and online survey.



The partnership is working with a technical advisory committee and has sought input from stakeholder groups. Additionally, the planning team wants to know what the public knows and values about water quality in the planning area.

The kickoff meetings included a presentation and the opportunity to vote on what “issues” participants agreed with such as “shoreline erosion is a threat to water quality” and what the future should look like such as a “reduced number of failing septic systems.” The kickoff events also included participants prioritizing resource categories within the planning area by spending “planning dollars” on the resources of their choice. The top three chosen were Lakes, Wetlands, and Forests.

After receiving public input, the team creating the plan is working with a technical advisory group and consultant, Houston Engineering, to identify the issues the plan will address and what goals the plan can meet in a 10 year timeframe.

A summary of the results from the meetings are available on the planning website at www.nslswcd.org/rrhwvr along with updates as the plan progresses. If you are interested in staying up to date or learning more about the planning effort, contact Becca with the North St. Louis SWCD at becca@nslswcd.org or 218-288-6143.

Lake Vermilion's catch-and-release muskie record falls to Mille Lacs angler in 2022

The Minnesota DNR certified a new state catch-and-release record for muskellunge this fall, several months after it was caught. Eric Bakke of Princeton, Minnesota caught and released this record-breaking fish in Mille Lacs Lake on June 11, 2022.



John Yocum
VLA Board Member

The muskie Bakke caught measured 58.25 inches, which eclipsed Minnesota's two previous tied records of 57.25-inch muskies, both of which were caught and released in Lake Vermilion in 2019 and 2021, respectively. Bakke caught the new record while trolling a

foot-long muskie lure.

With catch-and-release as the modern standard practice for muskie anglers, putting these big fish back into the wild gives them a chance to grow even bigger. This

record may continue to be broken every year or two going forward. Perhaps soon, a Lake Vermilion angler will once again claim this record.



Amazon Smile charity program to end



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.

Unfortunately, this program will be ending Feb. 20, 2023, so get your shopping in early!

When you shop at Amazon, go to the amazon website, designating the 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.

Amazon Smile Contributions in 2022 were \$856.21, or a total of \$1,966.25 to going to the Vermilion Lake Association.

VERMILION'S SOUNDS OF SILENCE

By Tom Aro

*Winter's white covers lake and land.
With frozen partner silence, hand in hand.
Like a gauzy mist, descends this silent ballet,
So still lie the reaches of the frozen bay.
Seems nothing but the silence separates shore from shore,
Stillness and solitude, gifts from silence one cannot ignore.*

Gaze out on this white expanse, then close your eyes.

*Quiet your mind....no words need be said,
Nature's rhythms will show the magic just ahead. Then....hear....
the presence of Vermilion's past,*

*Vermilion's memories, oh so bright, now recast.
The Anishinaabe, the first people, their voices one can hear.
Voices in the sub-zero wind, strange words, muffled, austere.
But hear the children of this wilderness, like children through all time, Their sounds
cannot be misunderstood, nor denied...oh, so sublime!*

*As this laughter slowly fades away
Dismiss all distractions that come your way.
Then, like the winter ice, hear the groans crackling out from Vermilion's cold*

*The lumbermen, the trappers, the miners all those souls seeking Vermilion gold.
Straining, bowed down, overburdened, creaking like a heavy gate,
Their silent sounds, mournful sounds, heralding this their long gone fate.*

*And then I wonder....
When I travel to the other side of life's great divide,
Will all of my Vermilion whispers too have died?
Will those most dear search for sounds from my silenced being?
Summoning memories from my days on this our beloved lake?
Something of measure that is their's and their's alone to take?*

*A reprint from Winter 2013, in tribute to the late Tom Aro ,
longtime resident and VLA member and volunteer*

Are Your Lake Neighbors and Friends Members of the VLA ??

We find only about half of lake property owners are members of the VLA. We'd like to encourage more of your neighbors and friends to join our efforts to protect and improve this wonderful resource we all cherish.

If you belong to a "road association" or similar entity for your property, or if you have a neighborhood gathering or annual meeting.....we'd like to provide some membership materials for those who may not be aware of the volunteer-run organization. We're



always surprised to hear of folks who have lived here for several years and don't know about the VLA or our many projects and programs.

Let us know when your meeting or gathering occurs, and we'll provide you with several recent Newsletters along with other materials and membership forms. Or one of our board members would be glad to speak for a few minutes if time allows. Reach out to any board member from the listing noted in this Newsletter.

Our thanks for spreading the word about the VLA.....to protect and improve.

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 2023" indicates our records show you're paid through calendar year 2023.

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

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

Watercraft Inspectors Wanted!

Every year the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District hires up to 45 people to perform watercraft inspections and decontaminations at 36 lake accesses on 21 lakes around North St. Louis County and Northwest Lake County. On Lake Vermilion alone, inspectors inspect watercraft at 12 different public and private accesses. If you would like to help us keep Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from infesting our lakes please consider becoming a Watercraft Inspector. Hiring and training of the 2023 Watercraft Inspectors will begin in March. If you have any questions about the job or if you would like to be notified when hiring begins please contact Jon Utecht (NSLSWCD AIS Program Coordinator) at jon@nslswcd.org / 218-288-6142.

The Bucktail Jig: An old lure now being used for Walleyes

Bucktail jigs have been around for a long time and are now resurging as a go-to lure to use for all kinds of fish including walleyes and bass. Whether fishing weeds or vertically jigging bucktails for walleye is a presentation most anglers overlook.



The Antique Angler

It's one of those baits that you can toss at just about any species. Bass and walleye anglers have been reaping the benefits of this bucktail bait for years. The bucktail jig features tinsel and hair meant to draw the attention of even the most finicky fish, hiding and waiting to strike.

The main benefit of a bucktail jig is the added hair. The hair slows the fall rate and gives the walleye a longer window to check it out. Rather than sinking and falling, bucktail jigs glide. Where this comes in is darker water. When water levels are stained, cast a bright bucktail jig below your boat. The gliding fall will spread out those hairs, enticing walleye to take a bite. These jigs are casted without live bait or plastic trailers.

Another spot bucktail jigs excel is in the weeds. When walleye move to the weeds, they can be a bit more finicky. Tricking them into biting is a little harder, and you need a slower bait to convince them to strike. For similar reasons, walleye love to strike bucktail jigs in the weeds. The jigs do not need a trailer either. The hairs slow the fall and won't snag on the vegetation, so you can even swim it through if you're not in a position to jig it vertically.



Also, the bucktail jig is well known that it tends to catch the larger walleyes in an area. The bucktail jigs have also become a go-to bait for smallmouth bass fishermen in the spring and an option throughout the other seasons. The jig head should have a large eye which seems to attract more fish. Depending upon the depth you are fishing, I would use either a 3/8 or 1/4 ounce jig. The lead jigging raps used in ice fishing have moved to open water fishing with good success for walleyes as are the bucktail jigs. There are many colors to choose from and I would try a couple different colored ones. It is always good to try a new technique that the fish have not seen in a long time.

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

In Memoriam

*Donations received July 3, 2022
through December 31, 2022*

Patsy Bailey

Phil Bartusek

John Bemiss

Linda Biddle

Gordon Bockus

Philip E. Bodine

Todd Borden

Thomas Lee Budolfson

Leah Carr

Mike Christopherson

Annie Duren

PK and Dorothy Edwards

Dick and Judy Eveleth

The Jeske Families

Timothy P. Flanagan

Adm. William Fogarty

Helen Glumac

Ann Gume

Ray and Vi Harris

Mel Hintz

LeRoy Holmes

Jack Jordan

Robert and Violet Jurek

Pat Kearney

Alan D. Kittelson

John and Karen Latterner

Jane and Jack Lawson

Keith I. Loken

Dale Lundblad

Kimerly Lundgren

Harolynn Mageau

Isaac and Johanna Makynen

Patrick McDermott

Jim McKinney

Rod McPeak

Judy Moline

Stephanie Naegele

Christopher Nicklow

Eric Oakman

Elio Pietrini

Kenneth Doge Porter

Trevor Reichel

Gerry and Marion Rodenberger

Ryan Rydberg

Pat Saddoris

Dick Schultz

Theo and Bob Sigford

Marilyn Skare- Westhaven Lodge

Robert E. Smith

Zeke Stinson

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Swanson

Bill Teeter

Ann Vollmar

Marty Walsh

Betty Davis and Richard Weber

Claire Zweig

Days Gone Bye

Edger Peterson and John Ask

The Browns- Roy Shire

Check it out!!!

Have you checked the Vermilion Lake Association website lately? Under "Fishing News and Videos," there are links to key websites with fishing reports, news articles, and other information. There is also a recently added collection of videos showing techniques, tactics

and tips for catching various species of fish in Lake Vermilion, as well as information on such topics as life cycle, habits and habitat of the fish in the lake. Under "Shore Lunch Sites" there is a link to an easy-to-print PDF map with GPS coordinates and additional info.



Lake Steward Award

The Vermilion Lake Association awarded Kathryn Allen the latest Lake Steward Award. Pictured is VLA Board Member Pat Michaelson (left) with Kathryn.

New Dock Signs Show Member Support for our Mission....to protect and improve



These striking aluminum signs with UV protection can be ordered on our website for \$30.

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. Some members are choosing to mount them on their boat houses as well.

Pick up information:

For the Cook end, pickup can be coordinated with Julie Maki at BIC Realty at 218-666-5352.

For the Tower end, pickup can be coordinated with program leader, Steve Lenertz at slenertz@yahoo.com or 612-594-2040.

There are payment options on our website at <https://www.vermilionlakeassociation.org/>. Please be patient with us in this new endeavor!

What Was That Big Boom???



By Bruce Archambault, AKA “The Cannon Man”.

By way of introduction my name is Bruce Archambault and this is my 2nd summer on incredible Lake Vermilion. I’m also a retired Army guy who plans to spend the rest of his summers here on Grassy Point centered between Gold and Keenan Islands. I was a ‘Heavy Artillery’ guy in the first Gulf war, and somewhere through my career, I managed to liberate an exact replica M1841 Civil War Era Cannon. This exact same cannon would have been scattered liberally on both sides of the trenches during the Battle of Gettysburg.

This past 4th of July and for all future 4th of July’s consider adding me to your list of Lake Vermilion 4th of July festivities and stop by to fire the cannon and take pictures. I’ll shoot the cannon at the top of each hour starting at 12 noon to 7:00 p.m.

See you then!

Above: Bruce ramming the cannon for firing.

Right: LeRoy and Nancy Forstrom and Ruger from Lake Vermilion. Locals know LeRoy and Nancy as prior owners of the Glenmore Resort here on Lake Vermilion.



Vintage Vermilion

Mike Hanson, VLA member, sent us a copy of the first edition of our newsletter, known as the Vermilion Sportsman at that time. It was found among a fellow member's estate, and was dated July 15, 1968.

Terry Grosshauser, former President and current Board member, shared his insight: With regard to muskies, the first stocking of muskies by the organization was using Wisconsin strain muskies. They found that this strain was not very successful in Minnesota waters and discontinued. The idea however was good since the preferred forage of muskies was suckers in the spring and this has been proven in several studies.

It was not until the 1990s when the DNR stocked fingerlings from Leech lake that the muskie population survived in the lake and has been doing well as long as the DNR continues to stock them. The DNR is trying to determine if

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, MUSKIES, INC. SIGN CONTRACT	
Club to Plant Muskies in Fall	
<p>Muskie fishing may be the "in" sport in Lake Vermilion in a few years if the muskies to be planted in the lake this fall grow as it is hoped they will.</p> <p>A contract was signed recently between Muskies, Inc., and the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion, Inc., whereby Muskies will plant 500 12-inch muskies in Vermilion this fall.</p> <p>The agreement was reached after Gil Hamm of St. Paul, president of Muskies, Inc., showed films and explained the Muskies, Inc., program to the Club's steering committee.</p> <p>Lake Vermilion is one of seven lakes in the state designated so far as suitable for planting muskies. Conditions in Vermilion are thought to be conducive for natural reproduction of muskies, although the Club plans to plant approximately 500 of the species each year for several years to see if they can be raised successfully here.</p> <p>Muskies, Inc., buys muskie fingerlings from a hatchery in Wisconsin and raises them in rearing ponds at Battle Lake, Minn., where they are fed sucker minnows until this fall. When they are about one foot long, they will be planted in various lakes around the state by sportsmen's clubs who have joined the Muskies program. About 15,000 muskies are being raised by the club this year.</p> <p>According to Hamm, planting of muskie fingerlings has not proven successful, as walleyes and northerners find them delicious food. Planting 12-inch muskies, however, gives them a better chance of survival, as they are better able to take care of themselves.</p>	
Where the Money Went	
INCOME	\$5,633.60
EXPENDITURES	
Membership campaign,	
Postage	\$ 283.44
Advertising	69.69
Printing	638.97
Secretarial Help	187.12
Sucker Trap Materials	573.28
Travel Expenses	107.89
Legal Expenses	64.00
Meeting Hall Rental	9.00
Lunch meeting with Fisheries officials	184.00
Phone Calls	26.70
Check Book	6.88
Total Expenses	\$1,968.37
Bank Balance as of 7-6-68	3,646.71
Cash on Hand	18.52
	\$5,633.60
<p>Members are reminded that the above report reflects the condition of the Club's treasury as of July 6. There will be additional expenses connected with getting this report to the members, but there should also be additional members enrolled between the time this is written and the time of the annual meeting.</p>	

they are reproducing naturally but that study was put on hold during COVID. The DNR would not allow us to stock any fish in the lake currently since they are concerned about changing the genetics of the existing fish populations if outside fish get in the lake as well as introducing a new AIS.

Probably the largest impact the organization had on the fishery was promoting the need for a fish hatchery that could produce wall-eyes. The people that started this organization deserve a lot of credit for how good the fishery is today.



Buying a Used Boat Lift?

Q: I need a used boat lift for my cabin next spring. What are the rules for moving it to Lake Vermilion?

A: To minimize the chance of moving aquatic invasive species (AIS) between lakes, a lift needs to be clean and out of the water for a minimum of 21 days to allow the interior cavities of the lift to completely dry. If it's raining or the cavities are full of debris, 21 days are probably

not going to be enough. The longer the better.

Pro tip: Buy your lift during the fall or winter from a dealer servicing Lake Vermilion. The dealer will be a trained lake service provider (LSP) who understands the risk of AIS. He'll assure the lift is clean, in good working condition, and has dried over the winter. And he can deliver it to your cabin in the spring.

'Tis the season for white camouflage

Ermine turn white for winter! The ermine, also known as the short-tailed weasel or American stoat, has a dark brown coat with a white underside during summer, but molt to all white with a black-tipped tail during winter. This change in coloration helps them remain sneaky above or beneath the snow.

Ermine are nocturnal carnivores that will eat pretty much anything they can get ahold of — small birds, amphibians, insects and other small mammals. Pound for pound, weasels are one of the most formidable predators, capable of killing animals 10 times their weight, like a snowshoe hare. However, they mostly eat small rodents and can be very helpful at catching mice around your house or farm building. Just be sure to build a weasel-proof chicken coop, as ermine aren't afraid of diversifying their diet with a nice chicken dinner. Check out the DNR website at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/weasel.html>

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Board of Directors and Officers 2023

Cook

Sheri Sawatzky, Secretary/Membership, 2750 Wakemup Village Rd W, Cook, MN 55723, 218-666-5512, 218-780-8178, sherisawatzky@gmail.com

Eric Hanson, 2746 Vermilion Dr, Cook, MN 55723, 218-666-5478, 218-780-1563, eric@pehrsonlodge.com

Dwight Warkentin, 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, 608-207-1509, terrygrosshauser@gmail.com

Mark Schmidt, 8780 Raps Rd, Cook, MN 55723, 612-810-44570, bigwalleye55@gmail.com

Pat Michaelson, Vice-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, 218-348-1938, rpearson@duluthlaw.com

Gary Haugen, 1903 Westhaven Dr, Tower, MN 55790, 612-720-2853, 218-753-3021, ghmedrep@gmail.com

Lori Ptak, 3505 Downers Dr., St. Anthony, MN 55418, 612-247-3751, lori@ptak.org

Jerry Lepper, Treasurer, 3087 Old Hwy 77, Tower, MN 55790, 218-753-2629, 218-404,2320, jnclep4@frontiernet.net

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

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

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

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



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 1 through Dec 31

☐ 2023 New Member ☐ 2023 Renewal

Membership level

☐ \$20.00 Household membership
☐ \$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) nonprofit 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.