



# TEN MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Summer 1983

## YACHT CLUB RACES THREE WEEKENDS

Chris Brandt, Commodore of the Ten Mile Lake Yacht and Tennis Club, reduced the sailing schedule this year to three weekends, due to time limitations on his part and lack of volunteers to organize the races.

First regatta was July 2 and 3 weekend, won by Kion and Byron Hoffman. Second was the C scow of Pete and Jo Roberts; third, Grant Moos and friend.

Ten Mile Memorial Trophy Races will be July 30 or 31; Moxness Trophy Regatta - August 13 and 14.

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## WILDLIFE SPECIALIST TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

Pam Skoog, specialist in wildlife and endangered species of the Department of Natural Resources, will speak at the annual meeting of TMLA, Saturday, August 6th in the Hackensack Community Building.

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DUES NOTICE: PLEASE SEND DUES BY SEPTEMBER! Dues payment of \$10 per family (unmarried children) for the fiscal year - August 1, 1983 thru July 31, 1984, should be mailed to the association secretary in the envelope provided. Dues are payable to the Ten Mile Lake Association, and are tax deductible. Married children are encouraged to join as well as other relatives who regularly use your lake home. Please return this form with your dues by September 1. We are sending your membership card now to avoid the expense of another mailing, but the card is not valid unless we receive your dues payment.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep us informed of changes in address in order to keep the mailing list accurate. Also, send us any other changes in directory listing which will be kept on file until the next publication.

If you have suggestions you'd like the association officers and directors to consider, list them on the back of this detached form.

Secretary, Lois E. Sandell



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LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE VOLUNTEERS!!

It's pretty well agreed that volunteerism has its rewards, but there's a strong possibility that at least some Ten Mile Lakers now have their doubts.

Those hardy individuals who volunteered to help with the association's two-day water sampling project in early June didn't bargain for strong winds, bitter temperatures and torrential rains when they signed up. But that's precisely how things turned out!

The every-residence testing series began the morning of June 13 and the last samples were taken late the next afternoon. By that time a minimum of two water samples had been taken in front of every residence on the lake at about the four-foot depth.

That's the easy part of the story. The crews doing the sampling on Monday, June 13, encountered stiff winds, cold temperatures and occasional sprinkles. All that made the task difficult but, nonetheless, manageable.

The next day things went from grim to nearly impossible. Rain, rain and more rain.... plus bone-chilling cold. But, like the proverbial mail courier, the sampling crews "cast off", determined to complete the survey in spite of the miserable conditions. And finish they did - though one of the volunteers declared after the job was done that in all his days he'd never been so cold or so wet.

Altogether there were ten teams sampling. They were made up Karl Luedtke & Cecil Bair; Ted Rasmussen & Glenn Anderson; Mr. & Mrs. Art Kayser & Sally Helsman; Bill Macklin & Eric Nelson; Earl Holle & Harold Jensen; Trip & Fritz Kilander; Deacon & Patty Larson; Ivar Sigveland & Lou Shelton; Jim & Toni Schwartz; and Claude Miller & Bill Hall.

If you doubt that weather conditions were as dreadful as described here, ask Claude and Bill about their assessment of the situation. After delivering their samples to the testing station (the Warren Goss cottage), they headed back..... and got lost!

Volunteerism? Well, it can be rewarding, but there are times.....

\* \* \* \* \*

WE SHOULD HAVE KEPT OUR MOUTH SHUT

In a recent newsletter we boasted that folks on Ten Mile Lake don't have much trouble with high water and low water. Then the rains came, and we have been eating crow. Seven inches in June, plus another 3 or 4 during the first few days of July raised the level of the lake from 1379.24 feet in May to a record 1380.50 feet in early July, a rise of over 14 inches. Some docks were afloat, culverts spewing muddy pollutants into the lake, etc.; and we grudgingly admit that mentioning the subject in our last newsletter was a mistake. Even the DNR's new water level gauge is several inches under water.

Bob Potocnic, the engineer in the DNR who installed and calibrated our new water level gauge, has furnished a compilation of all data available on what our water level has been in the past. There appear to be no records of levels prior to 1958, and relatively frequent measurements have been recorded only for the past ten years. - W. GOSS.

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FISH CENSUS CONDUCTED BY DNR

An extensive fish census was carried out in Ten Mile Lake during June by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the most comprehensive since 1971 although less thorough counts have been made at intervals. The DNR crew placed 250-foot experimental nets as well as trap nets each at 20 locations around the lake.

The fish caught were of many varieties, and all were measured, weighed, etc. and then released. A scale near the gills was saved from each for subsequent determination of age by counting the growth rings. The census included many other observations such as counts of houses and boats. (continued....)

FISH CENSUS (continued)

Some initial observations are that (1) the population of walleyes has declined drastically, apparently down to only about one-third of what it was five years ago; (2) the perch population is remaining constant and (3) the population of large-mouth bass has declined in the past 12 years (4.05 per set in 1983 vs. 7.30 per set in 1971). John Kollar, Area Fisheries Manager, says that even the count of 4.05 per set for large-mouth bass compares favorably with that observed in other lakes.

Processing data and presenting them in a report will not be complete until sometime next winter at which time we will summarize the results in a letter to our members.

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WARREN GOSS NAMED TO STATE COMMITTEE

Warren Goss, past-president of the TMLA and Co-Chairman of the Environment and Ecology Committee, has been appointed to the Individual Sewage Treatment System Advisory Committee of Minnesota.

This committee serves the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, whose Executive Director, Sandra Gardebring, wrote Goss: "Your dedication to on-site sewage treatment technology and willingness to serve on this advisory committee is commendable. Without a link between the agency and individuals who are involved daily with on-site systems, problems and shortcomings with existing programs are less likely to be brought to our attention."

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TEN MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION  
Treasurer's Report - 5/27/83 - 7/12/83

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance - 5/27/83 - \$ 4,154.64

Expenses:

Postage -	\$ 253.00	
W. Goss - Post., Tele., Copy, etc. -	96.86	
L. Sandell - Supplies, Tele. Mileage -	77.97	
J. Sands - Type Newsletter -	22.25	
Country Printing - Printing Newsletter -	66.92	
Arrow Printing - Printing Directory -	748.80	
Ink Spot Press - Labels -	5.94	
C.O.L.A. - Dues -	20.00	- 1,291.74

BALANCE - 7/12/83 - \$ 2,862.90

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance - 5/27/83 - \$ 3,501.62

Interest - 2nd Qrtr. - 45.83 \$ 3,547.45

TOTAL CHECKING & SAVINGS - \$ 6,410.35

- E. HOLLE, TREASURER

## THE CALL OF THE WILD RICE

Jack London never wrote a word about harvesting wild rice as far as I know, probably because he never had the chance to go ricing. There are millions of Americans who have never even heard of wild rice, and I feel sorry for them.

Here in Ten Mile Land there are a few basic requirements for harvesting this delicacy. One must be a legal resident of Minnesota, and this is checked when one purchases a ricing permit. In 1982 the cost of a permit jumped from \$4 to \$10, plus a 50-cent administrative fee.

The next requirement is to have access to a canoe.

The tools of ricing are quite simple. Two half-inch dowel rods cut to the maximum allowable length of 30 inches serve admirably as beaters. Next, a platypus pole is needed for propelling the canoe through the rice beds. An ordinary pole sinks ineffectively into the muddy bottoms. But, an ordinary pole with the proper attachment fastened to one end becomes an instant platypus pole.

The attachment is a hinged, duckbill-shaped metal piece that spreads out against a push and closes when the pole is pulled through the water. Thus, when pushing against soft, mushy mud, the spread-out metal piece prevents the pole from sinking helplessly into the muck. One may use a paddle, but frequently the rice is so thick that paddling is either impractical or impossible.

The person supplying the power for the canoe sits or stands in the stern. The beater sits or kneels on the bottom near the middle of the canoe. Ricing is definitely a team effort. Since there is very little wild rice in Ten Mile Lake, one also needs transportation for the team and the canoe.

The start of the season varies from year to year by as much as a week, depending on the maturity of the rice. Actually, wild rice is more closely related to wheat than it is to rice, but the traditional terminology is certain to endure. Perhaps Aug. 25th would be an average starting date. For the first two weeks ricing is permitted only on odd-numbered days from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For the rest of the season it is a daily affair with the time extended until 2:00 p.m. There is no formal termination of the ricing season. It ends for each individual rice, or team, when it no longer seems worth the effort..... usually about September 21.

A favorite spot for Ten Mile ricers is Big Portage Lake, about ten miles southeast of Hackensack. When ricers begin their labors at 10:00 a.m. sharp, the temperature is on the rise. The team quickly develops a steady rhythm. The poler often thinks of the Volga Boatman and hums accordingly to himself.

The beater brings the rice plants over the canoe with one stick and gives them two or three glancing blows in rapid succession with the other stick. This is the ancient Indian method of harvesting wild rice, and it is the only method permitted in Minnesota. As the pile of rice grows in the bottom of the canoe, one becomes aware that a liberal seeding process accompanies the harvest - much falls back in the lake.

After two hours of poling and beating, one appreciates the wisdom of the lawmakers in limiting the hours of ricing to a mere throe or four per day. Young, hardy experts can bring in 80 or 90 pounds of rice in three hours. Somewhat slow, relatively inexperienced seniors are very well pleased if they do a quarter or even a fifth as well. (continued.....)

WILD RICE (continued)

By pooling efforts, Ten Mile ricers have been known to accumulate 200 lbs. of basic rice to take to the processor. This could yield 120 lbs. of refined rice as follows: 50 lbs. grade A (\$3.50 per pound); 40 grade B (\$2.50 per pound); 12 grade C - good enough for soup (\$1.00 per pound); and 18 lbs. of "fines" - fit only for birds - Total \$287. The cost of ricing for four teams comes to \$174, allowing \$30 for gasoline.

So the net profit, assuming zero labor costs, is \$113 worth of wild rice. Add that to the fresh air, the dazzling sunshine, the wholesome exercise and the stimulating company, and you can easily see that the true net profit is indeed handsome.

- DEACON LARSON.

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ICECAPADE OF 1971 PLAYED TO SMALL AUDIENCE

The last newsletter told of some mysterious occurrences in Ten Mile Lake.... here is another.

It happened a dozen years ago on an exceptionally warm spring afternoon, so warm in fact that I donned my swimming shorts and went about readying the dock for installation as soon as the ice went out. The ice in fact was already moving, propelled by a west wind, and by midafternoon the ice sheet had cleared my shore and the west half of the lake was open.

Temptation moved me to launch my old wooden boat, put on a motor and go for a joy ride with our puppy, Maggie. I toured the shoreline and waved occasional greetings here and there to friends I hadn't seen during the winter months. It was exhilarating to be skimming again over the open water.

The circumnavigation ended along the opposite shore when I reached the still retreating ice sheet, so I headed across the lake for home, keeping a respectful distance from the ice field and a sharp lookout for any stray icebergs. The hilarious voyage was interrupted abruptly when I noticed that Maggie was no longer aboard. Gazing astern, I could see her little head bobbing in the waves, so I swung around and returned on a rescue mission.

Then things happened with remarkable suddenness. I was on the ice sheet sliding at full speed. The boat slid and sliid and kept right on sliiiding, finally coasting to a standstill in a vast nowhere, far from any open water. It was like a bad dream. I muttered to myself, "How in the (expletive deleted) did I get HERE? This is ridiculous! No one will ever believe anything this stupid! Now how do I get home?"

Upon disembarkation I found the footage chilly and slippery. I pushed and pushed toward some faraway open water, with an occasional dunking at numerous soft spots. To make a dumb story short, eventually I re-launched the boat off the edge of the ice sheet, retrieved one soaked and frigid puppy and then, shivering and with teeth chattering, steered a bee-line for home and a hot shower.

So, in case you did witness someone nearly naked running around barefoot on the ice a mile from shore, now you know the wherefore of another odd-ball occurrence on Ten Mile Lake. --W. GOSS.

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