

Ten Mile Lake Association



Newsletter



Spring Edition, 1992

Lake Water Testing Project Moving Ahead, Property Owners Assuring Full Cooperation

By Jim Schwartz, Chair

Environment and Ecology Committee

FINAL ANALYSES HAVE BEEN made in our lake water testing project and property owners have been notified where there was reason to suggest a closer, on shore investigation.

All told, 33 letters went to residents whose tests indicated they might have septic systems that were not functioning properly. Those properties now are in the process of being inspected individually to determine the exact nature of the problem.

ANOTHER 27 RESIDENTS received letters explaining that a broad area of contamination was detected along that stretch of beach, but there was no clear indication as to its source. An on shore investigation will be made this summer to pinpoint the problem.

These figures are somewhat higher than the Fall Newsletter reported, primarily because some "doubtfuls" were added on a "better-be-safe-than-sorry" rationale. If everything is in order, an inspection will confirm it. If not, the examination should determine that.

AS YOU MAY RECALL the testing process began two years ago in early September and was repeated in September of last year. Samples of lake water were taken in front of each property and subjected to laboratory analysis for fecal coliform bacteria and nutrient levels. Letters to residents were based on these results.

By the end of the first week in May, about one-third of those notified of possible pollution problems had responded. All assured their full cooperation in performing whatever tests or inspections were necessary to find and correct any contaminating sources.

TO THOSE OF US WHO have had the responsibility for planning and carrying out this project, such positive responses are taken as an endorsement of our efforts. They are

part of what makes Ten Mile Lake the special place it has become for its residents.

If you did not receive a notification letter, it meant one of several things. Either no significant contamination was detected in front of your property, you had just upgraded your system, or an upgrade was scheduled for this spring or summer.

IF, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE an old system that consists of, say, a septic tank and so-called "dry well," a cesspool, or, as is the case with some properties, a buried oil drum or similar structure, you should strongly consider replacement. It does not conform to the county's regulations for individual waste treatment systems.

We have been assured by the county assessor's office, incidentally, that replacing your waste treatment system will not result in an increase in your assessed valuation. Other factors govern that: Selling price of similar properties on the lake, building improvements, school or other bond issues, increased costs of local government and so on.

Management Plan Coming

A long range management plan for Ten Mile Lake should be ready by this summer. Data were collected by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff during four different visits to the lake last season. That information, plus historical material drawn from a variety of sources, is being used to develop management alternatives. When the plan is presented by the MPCA, TMLA board members will consider how it is to be implemented. (See next Newsletter.)

Syrup Hunt Leads to Recreation, Reward

By Bill Macklin

BEAUTIFUL IN AUTUMN, sugar maples delivered up a bumper crop of sap this spring. Boiled down to dark, sweet syrup, it will provide cover for waffles and pancakes the rest of the year.

At least four groups around Ten Mile Lake cashed in on the Bounty of Ninety Two. Most experienced of the sappers is Roy Stromquist who taps and collects. His wife, Lorraine, boils the sap. It drips from the trees looking clear but tasting no better than a glass of water.

KARL LUEDTKE HEADS UP a "team" between Ten Mile and Birch Lakes. He moved to Faribault after many years on the south shore of Ten Mile, but returns every spring to fill his bottles.

The rest of Karl's crew includes Norm Tandler, Al Norris, Ray Helsman, Butch Sommers and a couple from Denver, Evelyn and Vern Ressler. Also operating on the south shore of Ten Mile were Don Hoppe and his two sons, Tim and Chris.

LARGEST GROUP, nine men and a woman, included Patty and Deacon Larson, John Alden, Bob Nelson, Earl Holle, Ed Mergens, Lee Moren, Roger Jensen, Ralph Bjorngaard, and the author of this article.

They tapped 300 maple trees on a three-mile stretch of Highway 71 from Park Point to Shingobee Township Road 51, continuing on 51 to where it rejoins 71. The group uses plastic gallon milk jugs to catch the sap. They cut a hole in one side near the top to use in hanging the jug onto the copper spiles, which have been inserted in a shallow hole bored into the tree.

WHEN SAP IS FLOWING the jugs on productive trees fill in 20 hours. A good many, though, never fill. But half full is worth keeping them on a spile. As the season goes on, the trees not producing are taken out of use.

We boil in a stainless steel container four feet square and a foot deep. It rests on an iron firebox, same size as the cooker. Around it is an apron that keeps the smoke out of our eyes and forces it up a 15-foot chimney.

WE TRY TO MOVE the cooking site every two

years to relieve the host of the long hours of stoking the fire at 6 a.m. and again before going to bed. The rest of the time anyone can put in wood. The hotter the fire the faster the sap boils down.

When it cooks, with frequent reloading, to a darkish brown, our samplers dip in a spoon and taste for flavor. "No more wood in the stove," they say. "Let 'er cool down."

OUT COME THE GALLON containers for distribution. We always get a gallon each, sometimes two. This goes home, an equal divide to each member. In our house, Judy tastes for doneness. It seldom passes her test, so she usually boils the syrup down further on the stove, slowly so as not to create steam. By cooking off half the water in the syrup, she comes up with a good flavor. Then she promptly bottles it in pint fruit jars.

Maple syruping is our recreation, with a reward. Sure, there's a cost. But I feel better if I check the price in the tourist gift shops. A pint costs \$11.95 this year.

More Volunteers Needed For Highway Pickup Job

By Sally Helsman

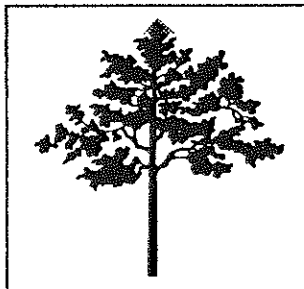
BEING A GOOD STEWARD of the earth was the way of life for many volunteers last summer as they picked up litter along Highways 6 and 50. Though it's a dirty job, these Ten Milers took pride in keeping lake roadways and byways clean. The TMLA Board members thank them.

Now it's time to organize for summer '92. A kick-off continental breakfast will be held in mid-June at the Helsmans. If you are willing to help again or for the first time, please call 675-6821. No pickup dates have been set since most volunteers prefer to select their own days for cleanup chores. The "rules" call for at least three pickup days, late May/June, mid-July, and late August or after Labor Day.

EVEN BEFORE SNOW in the ditches was fully melted, 20 beer cans and a few pop cans were bagged from the first mile and a half on Cass County 6. In late April a rusty muffler and a six-foot exhaust pipe were picked up.

There will be more interesting "treasures" found to be sure so volunteers will be asked to keep track of their finds. Let's go do it again! Willa Shonkwiler Martin, Rod Owre, and Sally Helsman are the TMLA Highway Beautification Committee members.

TURN IN POACHERS CALL 1-800-652-9093



FROM THE NOTEBOOK

by Jim Schwartz

WHEN WE ARRIVED on April 22nd, the ice had already gone out, a bit earlier than usual. Our veteran ice watchers -- the Howard Sandells, the Bill Macklins, and the Don Hoppes -- fixed the actual date at April 21. Down in Long Bay, the ice cleared out April 18. Along our shore, the only reminder of winter's tenure was the mounded shoal of white crystals lining the beach as the ice sheet disintegrated. Gradually, that disappeared as well, only traces remaining by the 27th.

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WE HAD LIGHT SNOW during each of the first four days after arriving and along with it came hoards of migrating birds. For the first time in years, red polls, hundreds of them, visited our feeders. Other species we spied were purple finches; goldfinches; song and chipping sparrows; magnolia, yellow and palm warblers; phoebes; pine siskins; juncoes, and possibly an American redstart.

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On the water we watched goldeneyes, hooded mergansers, common mergansers, red-breasted mergansers, mallards and wood ducks. In the air flocks of Canada geese and double-crested cormorants passed overhead, apparently still moving northward.

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PERHAPS THE MOST SPECTACULAR sighting came on May 5. Ten trumpeter swans landed in the middle of the lake and swam on a slow westerly heading before taking off for parts unknown. What a majestic bird!

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We're hoping this year to attract nesters to our wood duck houses after last season's early hopes and subsequent disappointments. First, though, we had to dislodge a squirrel that had moved into one of the boxes, a task that proved to be easier than we had expected. We simply tapped on the side to flush the critter out, then inserted a post in the access hole and left it there for a couple of days. As of May 5 a pair of goldeneyes laid claim to one of the boxes. The other? We don't know about that one.

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AL HOOVER REPORTS that late last fall, before freezeup, he was at his picture window looking out across the lake when he spotted

what appeared to be a large dog swimming toward the far shore. When he trained his telescope on the beast he learned the truth: It was a wolf on what proved to be a successful lake-spanning journey.

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Al also reports white pelicans and trumpeter swans spent a day on the lake in late April. Rod Owre identified a whistling swan in Kenfield Bay this spring, and Buzz Converse says a swan, sighted late last fall on a pond near Jackpine Lake and on Ten Mile Lake, was back on the pond this spring. The same swan? Possibly.

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CONTRIBUTORS ARE ADDING significantly to the Newsletter's content these days. That's just what we like to see -- more Ten Milers sharing their lake experiences. Our guess is that every reader has at least one interesting story to tell, one that other residents would enjoy. So get cracking. Let us hear from you. We'll handle any editing that may be needed, and there's only one restriction: keep it as short as possible.

Which Takes Crown, Jack or White Pine?

By Don Buck

DOES JACK PINE GROW as fast as white pine when transplanted? Oscar Thorvig and Harold Indall, who were neighbors on the Park Point shore, answered this question once and for all. They both sold books to schools for different companies and were in friendly competition on many private matters as well.

Perhaps during the mid-fifties they went out in the woods and gathered some small pines, transplanting them on their respective lots. One that Oscar had was a jack pine. Harold chided Oscar, saying that jack pine just won't grow in a domestic environment. The challenge made Oscar more determined than ever to show Harold it would.

ON AUGUST 7, 1988, during a formal gathering of the two clans and friends along the lakeshore who were familiar with the contest, Oscar's jack pine, now 9 feet tall, was laid to rest. The ceremony was held in the shadow of Harold's 40-foot tall white pine.

Oscar died in 1972, Harold in 1985. (Editor's Note: Don Buck is Oscar's son-in-law.)

NEW NEIGHBORS? ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN TMLA

Diver: It's Different World Down There

By Scott McNamara

EVERYONE ENJOYS TEN MILE LAKE. Since my grandparents bought here in the 1950s I have spent my summers like many: swimming, fishing, skiing and enjoying the crystal blue waters. But I enjoy Ten Mile probably a little differently than most. Under water. I've made over 500 scuba dives (SCUBA stands for self-contained under water breathing apparatus) all around the lake. And to me, it has made me enjoy Ten Mile even more.

I have made some interesting observations. The lake has several thermoclines which deviate in depth throughout the lake. The south and southwest area, for example, will have its first major thermocline as much as 8 feet shallower than the east and north region and has many springs.

NIGHT DIVING THE ROCK PILES is rewarding because that's where the action is. Nocturnal fish are abundant. Under water lights we use have a hypnotic effect on them. You can actually pick up a walleye in your hands, something that would be impossible during the day.

One fall night about 1:30 a.m. my brother, Dan, and I were diving one of the points. We were down about two hours and I signaled I was getting low on air and heading toward the surface. There I was, all alone, floating on the water.

IT WAS VERY DARK, except for the strangest thing I had ever seen. The sky was full of color -- every hue of the rainbow. It was moving as though someone was shaking a giant curtain covering the northern sky. My first thought: a nuclear explosion. My second thought: why would the Russians bomb Walker?

Well my brother surfaced and, making me feel rather foolish, said: "Yah crazy? Haven't you ever seen the northern lights?" I calmed down and for the next two hours my brother and I just watched in amazement.

Diving Ten Mile has dramatically helped my fishing. When depth finders first came out I, like many, had the old flash display. Now I use a T.C.R., which has a liquid crystal display.

The problem, even with all of this fancy high tech equipment: it's still speculation about most of what the depth finder

is trying to tell you and what you actually are seeing.

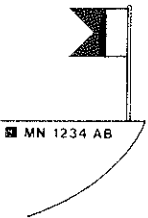
WHAT TYPE OF WEEDS, where are the thermoclines, what type of bait fish, and most important, are those fish on the depth finder walleyes? After countless dives with my depth finder, I'm very confident. This has probably aided me the most in fishing Ten Mile.

I have seen two- and three-pound walleyes in schools of six feeding on minnows in the middle of a hot summer day without a cloud in the sky, the opposite of what I have been taught. While bigger walleyes seem rather dormant during the day, I am reminded of the time I was diving Long Bay one afternoon. It was sand bottom that turned into weeds, just as if a line had been drawn. It was very uniform.

I SAW MY BIGGEST WALLEYE ever under water. It had to be a good 14 pounds, and she just lay there. I must have watched that fish for 20 minutes. It seemed apparent she wasn't going anywhere. I came to the surface and about 20 yards away were two fishermen. They were anchored and using minnows. It seemed amusing to me: a big walleye and two fishermen, both refusing to move.

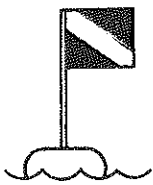
I didn't stick around to see who won, but the moral of the story is, if it's a calm midday, you'd better be trolling just above the cover. You'll either catch that trophy walleye or the Ten Mile Lake monster, about which I could tell stories that would make your hair stand on end.

Diver's
Flags



Federal
Blue/White

Diver's
Flags



State
Red/White

Three TMLA Members at Conference on Exotics

THREE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, John Alden and Toni and Jim Schwartz, attended a conference on exotic species at Breezy Point Lodge on March 20.

Specialists from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan presented information on five exotics that now have invaded the state: Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussel, spiny water flea, ruffe, and rusty crayfish.

ALTHOUGH EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL represents the most serious threat to Minnesota lakes, all can have a negative impact in one way or another. Control is seen as the lone management strategy; eradication is not feasible.

DNR Stocks 44,500 Walleye Fingerlings

APPROXIMATELY 44,500 walleye fingerlings were stocked in Ten Mile last fall, according to Harlan Fierstine, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor. The lake received 1391 pounds at 32 fish per pound. The number compares favorably with about 52,000 stocked in 1990 and 48,750 in 1989.

Most of last fall's supply came from ponds in the Bemidji and Park Rapids areas. Fierstine said only a few were taken from Hiram pond south of Hackensack, which had produced unusually large fingerlings in past years, but has not done as well recently.

THE WALKER DNR OFFICE is preparing a report on Ten Mile fish populations based on last season's netting assessment. A summary of that report will be published in a forthcoming newsletter, but Fierstine said a review of the data suggests "good to excellent populations of the major sport and forage fish species."

In commenting on the electrofishing survey DNR crews have conducted on Ten Mile for the last three years, Fierstine said they "have not sampled very many walleyes. On most other good walleye lakes such as Woman, Little Boy and Pine Mountain," he said, "we usually sample 100 or more walleye per hour of effort....On Ten Mile, we have sampled walleye at the rate of 6 to 21 fish per hour. Evidently walleye on Ten Mile do not move into shallow water (where they are vulnerable to electrofishing) as much as they do in other lakes."

FIERSTINE ADDED: "We have sampled some young-of-year walleye that would be the result of natural reproduction, but because of low numbers sampled, I am not going to draw any conclusions....At present there are no plans to deviate from the annual stocking of fingerlings."

Osness Family Plans 40th Ten Mile Holiday

By John Osness

IN 1952, 40 YEARS AGO, John, Lois, Nick, and Randy Osness came to Ten Mile Lake for the first time. This is written to thank all their landlords and all the wonderful people who have shared their enjoyment and love of

the many wonders of the lake and surrounding area.

Mr. and Mrs. Myron (Red) Heiselman bought Camp Des Moines (now Converses [864] through Timmers [872]) in 1950 when Red worked with John at Chamberlain Manufacturing in Waterloo, Iowa. That's how the Osness's learned about Ten Mile Lake, but Camp Des Moines was full when they got there so Red sent them a short ways west to "Crescent Beach" now Aagards [834] and Gunnars [838], then owned by Al and Alma Lang.

THAT IS WHERE the Osness family spent 30 vacations in 33 years, having Roy and Bernice Morrell, and Ted and Ella Rasmussen, as their landlords and friends. April arrived in 1955 and spent her first vacation there! Beginning in 1985 they stayed with Ed and Marie Marsh nine times in seven years.

John, Lois and Nick became avid birders in 1959. Lois expanded her knowledge of wild flowers. The whole family loved the swimming, the fine sand beach, the fresh air, beautiful trees, and the wild animals. Boating with John's (now old) Johnson 5 H.P., and as guests of their landlords was a special treat.

JOHN EXPANDED HIS photographic equipment to include a telephoto lens for his camera in 1960, to get some good bird and animal pictures, and played some chess with Nick and a few others. They count their days and weeks on the north shore of TML amongst the best of their lives and hope they can get to share some time with the many friendly people that populate it when they celebrate their 40th TML anniversary in 1992.

UPDATE: Exotics Control

THE FIRST MAJOR STEP in combatting exotic species, such as eurasian water milfoil, was taken this spring by the 1992 Legislature.

A measure was passed calling for the DNR to work with lake associations and local officials to prepare a state plan for managing harmful species.

Money was allocated for boat inspections, public education, biological and pesticide research, and infestation control.

Gifting Help Available

PERSONS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED a bequest or substantial gift to the Ten Mile Lake Association to help defray costs of ongoing water quality projects or other needs may get information on procedures through the Finance Committee, Steve Chase, Chair (547-3924).

In Memory of Our Ten Mile Lake Friends

Breta Peterson Dow

Breta Peterson Dow, who for 55 years spent summers vacationing on Ten Mile Lake, died February 20 at her home in Lincoln, NE. She was 77.

Survivors include sisters, Patricia Larson of Ten Mile Lake and Vera May Mitchell of Fairfax, CA; daughters, Molly Spinar of Lincoln and Jean Dow of Evanston, IL, and five grandchildren.

Breta's father, C. Petrus Peterson of Lincoln, and his family vacationed summers at Lake Belle Taine until the drought in the mid-thirties. In 1937, he and friends bought sand beach lake shore on Ten Mile and built summer homes. Family members have been vacationing there since.

Mrs. Dow was a lawyer, librarian and community leader. She was the first woman on the Lincoln City Council, a teacher of law at the University of Chicago, chair of the Nebraska State Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, past president of the Lincoln General Hospital Board, and served on boards of Camp Fire Girls, Family Service Association, and First Plymouth Congregational Church.

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Anna Marie Hamsa

Anna Marie Hamsa, 83, a Ten Mile Lake resident for many years, died November 21 in Omaha, NE. She had been in declining health for several years, but spent a week at her lake home last summer.

She had lived at her lake home since the death of her husband, Dr. William Hamsa, ten years ago. She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Diane Hamsa, of Omaha, NE., Charles and Sarah of Lafayette, LA, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

She was a member of Hope Lutheran Church in Walker, Ten Mile Lake Association, and Chapter CY PEO.

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Lizette Holte

Lizette Holte of Ringsted, IA, died November 21. She had been in a nursing home for several years. Earlier she was a summer regular on Ten Mile. Survivors include her son, Dr. James Holte of Bettendorf, IA, and a grandson, James Holte of Edina, MN.

Harry Hotovec

Harry Hotovec, whose hand crafted loons were popular with northland visitors, died February 22, only a few days short of his 70th birthday. The Hotovecs' summer home was located on Highway 371 just off Long Bay.

He is survived by his wife, Agnes, a brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Clare Hotovec, sisters and brothers-in-law, Lucille and John Lynch, Helen and Steve Knihal.

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Robert L. Iversen

Robert L. Iversen, until recently a summer Ten Mile resident, died February 7 at age 70 in Palatine, IL.

Survivors include a son, Robert of Newbury Park, CA, a daughter, Susan Rowland of Akeley, MN, a brother James of Venice, FL, and five grandchildren.

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Harold Edward Hensel

Harold Edward (Ed) Hensel, 68, died February 11 in Des Moines, IA, after a long fight against Parkinsons Disease. Mr. Hensel spent the summer months at his Ten Mile Lake home until his illness no longer made it possible for him to boat and fish.

Survivors are sons, John of Urbandale, IA, and Larry of Rochester, NY, a daughter, Peggy of Helena, MT, four grandchildren, his mother, Marie of Hampton, IA, and brothers, Carroll (Kelly) of Stockton, IL, and Donald of Alexander, IA.

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Alrick B. Hertzman

Alrick B. Hertzman, a retired professor at the St. Louis University School of Medicine, died November in Glenwood, MN. He was 93. He is survived by a son Carl of Fort Thomas, KY, a summer Ten Mile Lake resident.

Dr. Hertzman's lifelong research was centered on the effects of heat and cold on the human body. He was the author of hundreds of scientific papers on the subject.

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Deanna Bromley

Deanna Bromley, formerly of Hackensack, died January 9 at Las Vegas. Survivors include her husband Chuck, one son Scott, one daughter Dayle, one step-daughter Terrie, one sister and six grandchildren.

The Bromleys at one time owned and operated the Ten Mile Inn on Highway 371.