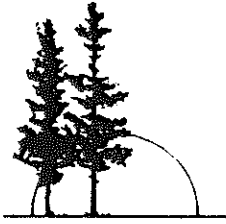
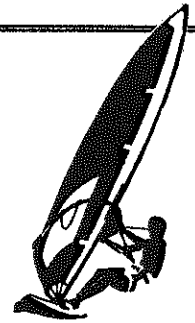


Ten Mile Lake Association



Newsletter



Summer Edition, 1994

Dedicated to the Preservation and Improvement of Ten Mile Lake and its Environment

Lake Plan Aug. 6 Meeting Topic

THE MAIN ORDER OF BUSINESS at the annual meeting Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Senior Citizen's Center in Hackensack will be a presentation by Vice-President John Alden of the long range management plan approved by the TMLA Board. President Jack Adams said that after the presentation the session will be open to questions and suggestions from the membership. If it appears more time will be needed for discussion, plans are to have a follow-up meeting Saturday, Aug. 20, at 9 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center.

Doors will open for the annual meeting at 7 p.m. As has been the case in recent years, a half hour will be reserved for socializing and visiting with committee chairpersons and others at tables around the room. The meeting itself will begin at 7:30 p.m. Officers and directors will be elected after presentation and discussion of management plan details.

THE PLAN WAS DRAWN UP this winter by Jim Schwartz. In the process of doing so, he consulted with Alden and with Jim Hodgson, of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Hodgson had worked with Schwartz on an assessment program for Ten Mile and had recommended developing a management plan aimed at preserving the lake's unique qualities.

At its June 6 meeting, the TMLA Board approved an implementation strategy designed to put the plan into operation for this and succeeding years. The implementation approach was developed by Schwartz in concert with an ad hoc committee composed of Alden, Bob Crom, Katy Hoover and Dick Horn.

THE PLAN'S PRIMARY GOALS are to:

- Maintain or improve lake water purity and clarity.
- Preserve Ten Mile's environmental characteristics.
- Monitor the lake regularly for possible invasion of exotic species.

-- Maintain the lake's fishery at or above present levels.

-- Encourage only sustainable land development.

-- Commit the Association to a continuing education program to inform members about issues and problems and their responsibilities for preserving the lake.

-- Establish and maintain a visible and active presence with county and state organizations whose programs and/or policies affect lakes, streams and wetlands.

-- Involve more residents in the ongoing lake management process.

-- Identify and preserve any Native American burial sites or articles of historical significance that may be a part of the Ten Mile lake environment.

-- Evaluate and modify the management plan regularly.

BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE of the lake management plan to Ten Mile's future, President Adams urged fullest possible attendance and participation at the annual meeting.

Boat Cushions in Last Year as PFDs

AFTER THIS SEASON, boat cushions no longer will be accepted as legal personal flotation devices (PFDs). A Coast Guard approved life jacket will be required for every boater, in addition to any cushions that may be aboard.

The Department of Natural Resources regulation is being put into effect as a safety measure. Boat cushions, while capable of supporting a person in water, may not be accessible in emergency situations. For life jackets to be effective life-saving devices, of course, they must be worn by the user.

Board has Heavy Business Agenda

AMONG THE BUSINESS MATTERS considered by Officers and Directors of the Ten Mile Lake Association at their June 6 meeting were the following:

Highway Beautification -- Sally Helsen: Volunteers are ready to police the North and South Ten Mile Lake roads, but more helpers could be used. (Ph. 756-6821)

Environment and Ecology -- John Alden: We are using the county hydrolab for temperature and dissolved oxygen readings; a study will be made of the Boy River from Pick Lake to the Highway 200 bridge as a preliminary to what might become a much larger project later of the entire Boy River from Ten Mile to Leech Lake.

Finance -- Steve Chase: Although the value of the Association's mutual fund investment has declined somewhat in recent weeks, the overall return remains satisfactory; decision was to make no change. Deep Portage contributions now will generate \$2 for each \$1 donated, courtesy the State of Minnesota and foundations. Question of the Association's regular contribution to Deep Portage was referred to the Finance Committee for a recommendation.

History -- Willa Shonkwiler Martin: The Association is receiving more pictures from members and encourages others to submit what they may have; Cass County is compiling a centennial history and is asking people to submit any contributions they may have to Rene Pauling at the Cass County Museum; the TMLA newsletters will be used as source material.

Lake Level -- Walt Kane: Reading that day was 1379.46' above sea level, down 2.3" from a year ago and down 1.4" from May 1.

Lake Safety -- Bob Kay: Beginning in 1995 boat cushions will no longer qualify as legal personal flotation devices; boaters must use a Coast Guard approved jacket (see story on page 1).

Loon Nesting -- Ellie Nelson: One nesting platform was moved and attracted a loon pair for a few days, then was abandoned for no apparent reason. One loon chick reported in Long's Bay. Decision was made to build or buy three more nesting platforms at an estimated \$100 per platform.

Membership -- Heidi Hoppe: Total number of family memberships at just under 700. Members should report new neighbors to Heidi

and encourage them to join the Association.

Zoning and Land Use -- John Alden: Looking into the availability of a Geographical Information System map of Ten Mile's watershed to use in implementing the lake's long range management plan.

Access Update: The DNR is looking for an alternate site in the North Shore area and will bring prospective locations to a three-person committee composed of Ted Mellby, Jim Schwartz and John Alden for their review and comment. The Board was reminded that the DNR and Access Steering Committee (represented by those named above) are under court order to cooperate in good faith in finding an alternate site to the one proposed off Highway 371 at the foot of Long's Bay.

PUD Update: The property on which the 18-unit development was being proposed at the mouth of Long's Bay is reported to be listed for sale. No other information available.

Minnesota Lakes Association annual conference: Fred Brosius and John Alden attended. Emphasis was on active lake associations as the way to get things done. Property tax issue had a thorough airing with recommendations that individuals let the state, county and township governments know what they like and don't like about how tax dollars are being spent. One session was on lake association foundations; contributions go to a Minnesota Foundation which returns annual income from investments. The meeting produced nothing particularly new on exotic species.

Long Range Management Plan -- Jim Schwartz presented an implementation strategy developed in consultation with an ad hoc committee composed of John Alden, Bob Crom, Katy Hoover and Dick Horn (with Past President Al Hoover sitting in and contributing). The recommendation was approved.

Ed. Note: Chemical analyses of four sites already have been completed -- Kenfield Bay, mid-lake, Flowerpot Bay and Long's Bay. Additional sampling will be done at the same spots in July, August and September. Swamp sites will be tested in mid-July.

IF NO ONE PICKED UP ROADSIDE TRASH
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO
DISSOLVE NATURALLY?

Candy wrapper.....	5 years
Plastic bag.....	20 years
Nylon fabric.....	40 years
Aluminum can.....	100 years

(Cuba Twp. Newsletter, Barrington, IL)

Chuck Knapp Honored by ISU as Outstanding Alum

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, Charles B. Knapp, was recognized recently by his alma mater, Iowa State University in Ames, for his contributions to higher education.

Chuck, as he is known to friends, was appointed president of the University of Georgia at age 40. He was at that time the youngest president of any of the nation's major universities.

SINCE THEN HE HAS instituted a long-range planning process, led a 40 percent increase in research expenditures from 1988 to 1993, guided the largest fund-raising drive in Georgia history and established himself as a national leader in the academic reform movement sweeping through college athletics.

Chuck is the son of Annie Knapp, whose summer place is in the Northwest Shores development.

Early Season Clarity Readings Look Good

By Jim Schwartz

MY SECCHI DISK READINGS through the latter part of June have ranged from 18 to 23 feet, good early-in-the-season figures but not extraordinary. For the last 20 years or more, regular clarity readings have been taken during the summer months. The average for most seasons is between 17 and 19 feet, regarded as excellent for lakes in this region. More readings will be taken throughout the summer; a season's report will show up in a forthcoming newsletter.

While we're on the topic of water clarity, the following slice of Secchi disk history was supplied by a TMLA member, Doug Kohl.

DOUG WRITES THAT "The theoretical maximum depth in distilled water at which a Secchi disk would be visible is 525 feet. The world record, measured in the year 1676, is still a record after all of these years: 480 feet! This measurement was made just east of Novaya Zemlya, which is north of the Arctic Circle in the Kara Sea just north of Siberia. At one place in the Mediterranean Sea the disk was visible to 174 feet. In the Weddell Sea in the Antarctic, the visibility was 259 feet."

Doug furnished this fascinating account to

Willa Shonkwiler Martin, History Committee Chair, who in turn submitted it to the newsletter. Anyone else out there have an item, historical or otherwise, they think would be of interest to members? If so send it along. We want your contributions.

Some DNR Pointers On Bear Encounters

AS BEAR INCIDENTS CONTINUE to be reported around the lake (trashed bird feeders, scattered garbage, invaded porches and nuisance activities of a similar nature) it seemed a good idea to offer some pointers on how to avoid bear problems (courtesy Kent Solberg, Wildlife Damage Extension Specialist, Brainerd):



-- Keep garbage inside until pickup day.

-- Store barbecue grills indoors when not in use or clean thoroughly after each use.

-- Keep all pet food inside.

-- Avoid using bird feeders during spring and summer or, alternatively, post them out of the reach of bears (at least ten feet off the ground and six feet away from trees or poles). -- Plant flowers that attract hummingbirds but not bears.

IF YOU SHOULD ENCOUNTER a bear, don't panic, don't approach or try to shoot it, leave the bear an escape route, keep people and pets way from the area and go inside until the bear leaves (which it usually will do on its own if no food sources are present).

Solberg says: "Most bear problems can be prevented through good housekeeping. In other words, the best way to avoid problems is not to attract bears in the first place." If you have persistent bear problems, even after all food sources are cleaned up, Solberg advises contacting your area DNR office or conservation officer for assistance.

Lake Advocates Offer Help

FOR HELP ON HOW to proceed with building, clearing or similar projects, contact one of Ten Mile's two Lake Advocates: Ray Helsing, south shore area (675-6821), or Don Patterson, north shore area (547-2048). Both have completed a training program to acquaint themselves with the rules and regulations of various governmental agencies that apply to lakeshore property improvements.

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph N. Schmitz

Joseph N. Schmitz, 81, for many years a summer resident of the Batcheller Bay area on Ten Mile Lake, died May 4 in Council Bluffs, IA. Mr. Smith was born at Panama, IA, and grew to adulthood there on his family's farm.

On Sept. 21, 1936, He was married to Laurina Stracke in Westphalia, IA. For the first seven years of their married life they lived on a farm northwest of Portsmouth then moved to his home place in the Panama community. They continued living there until their 1974 retirement when they moved to Portsmouth.

Mr. Schmitz was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth and a charter member of the Senior Citizens organization of Panama. He served for many years as an assistant commissioner of soil conservation for Cass Township and was the first president of the board.

Mr. Schmitz is survived by his wife, Laurina; daughters, Marleen, Kathleen, Elizabeth, Marietta and Therese; sons, Michael and Robert; 25 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren.

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Eleanor K. Campbell

Eleanor K. Campbell, 76, died April 14 in St. Louis Park, MN. She was born at Albert Lea, MN. The Campbells' family summer home is located along the southeast shore of Ten Mile Lake in what at one time was Woock's Resort.

She is survived by her husband, Lowell; a son, Dr. Lowell (Skip); a daughter, Nancy, and four grandchildren.

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Robert L. Brooke

Although never Ten Mile Lake residents, Robert Brooke and his wife, Georgena, were nonetheless known by scores of home owners along the north and west shores for whom the Brookes did caretaker and maintenance work.

Mr. Brooke, 85, died May 24 in Walker. He was born in Grey Eagle, MN, and grew up and attended school in Boy River. On Aug. 14, 1937, he was married to Georgena Collins. In addition to his lakeshore work, Mr. Brooke also was a logger and farmer.

He is survived by his wife, Georgena; two sons, Ronald and Jerry; two daughters, Roberta and Janet, ten grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Neighborhood Septic Systems a Possibility

RESIDENTS ALONG THE north and south shores of Ten Mile Lake have asked what waste disposal options are available for properties where conventional systems are not possible. The answer, according to John Sumption, of the Cass County Environmental Services Department, is a cooperative system that would serve a number of households in an area instead of just one residence.

Two such projects are in process in Cass County this year, one on Shingobee Island and the other on Little Boy Lake. Sumption said he thinks such an arrangement would be an ideal solution for Ten Mile areas where lot sizes or other circumstances preclude the use of standard installations.

THE PROCEDURE FOR setting such a project into motion is essentially this:

1. Investigation and discussion to determine whether there is sufficient interest to proceed.
2. A petition to the Township Board signed by 51% or more of the affected property owners asking that a Subordinate Service District be established.
3. Public hearings scheduled to discuss such details as planning, construction considerations, governance and regulation, contractual agreements, costs, financing alternatives and the like.
4. Creation and implementation of the district, including actual construction.
5. Ongoing accountability and longevity of the district.

Sumption said that interested parties may call him at 547-3300 for additional information, including the availability of consulting services.

HONOR ROLL

TEN MILE LAKE RESIDENTS who have qualified for our Honor Roll by installing new waste treatment systems are:

Clark and Christine Bening, Constance O'Neil, Joe and Donna Fiebiger, Ronald and Darlene Maley, Randall and Patricia Olson, and Forrest and Jane Watson.

If there are persons who should be added to the roster, please let us know so their names can be included in a forthcoming newsletter.

From the Notebook By Jim Schwartz

THE HASSLE OVER NESTING boxes between goldeneyes and hooded mergansers that I reported in the last newsletter was settled amicably. The hooded mergansers opted for one box and the goldeneyes took the other. Through most of May and early June we watched the hens' daily goings and comings, hoping all the while we'd be lucky enough to catch the ducklings as they left their nests. We were not, but felt reasonably sure that it must have happened, because as nearly as we could tell the females were on the nest about the right amount of brooding time (28 days). We just didn't happen to be looking at the moment when the mothers coaxed their offspring to jump from the boxes. It's a process that takes only a few minutes and occurs a day or so after the last chick is out of its egg.

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AS PROMISED IN THE spring newsletter, here is more on the rumored *National Geographic* article describing Ten Mile as one of the clearest and bluest lakes to be found anywhere. There is general (but not unanimous) agreement that the article in question appeared in the March, 1935, issue. The only problem is that the references to Ten Mile (two) make no mention of clarity or color or any other pristine quality.

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IN ONE PASSAGE, Author Glanville Smith asks: "What will a stranger find to carry away with him, and treasure, after a journey into this sheaf-shaped land? . . . Perhaps," he says, "it will be the ring of some flat-footed western name: Yellow Medicine River, Cut Foot Sioux Lake, Ten Mile Lake, Hungry Jack Lake."

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THE SECOND REFERENCE is a photograph and accompanying legend, the picture showing a man carrying a stringer of northern pike, plus a much larger lone pike slung over his back. The caption reads: "THIS TIME THE BIG ONE DIDN'T GET AWAY," and is accompanied by a legend that says: "This good catch of pike was hooked at Ten Mile Lake, near Hackensack." Who the lucky angler is, we don't know for certain, but Don Brown thinks it might be Field Eldridge, at the time an owner with Kenneth Wright, of Kenfield Lodge. The photo is credited to Kenneth M. Wright,

and probably was taken at Kenfield since the shadows fall toward the photographer at what appears to be around mid-day. Ted Kolderie, a long-time summer resident of Batcheller Bay, writes that he judges the big pike to weigh 20 pounds or more, a guesstimate with which I totally agree. It is indeed a huge fish.

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WELL, THAT'S WHERE WE ARE on The Rumor. If you can shed more light on any aspect of it, I'd be delighted to hear from you. In the meantime, has anyone sighted the Ten Mile Lake Monster recently? That department has been uncommonly quiet of late, although Don and Margaret Brown's dog came close to supplying confirmation of such a creature this spring. He (the dog) hauled onto the porch a large jawbone structure complete with sharp teeth that looked for all the world like a shark's mouth. Question was, where did it come from if not the Ten Mile Lake Monster? Turned out the dog had "lifted" it from the neighboring Ed Swansons, who had brought it home after a trip to Mexico. It was a shark jawbone. For a little while, though . . .

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BILL HALL REPORTS seeing two cardinals in the North Shore area, an unusual bird sighting for this territory. At mid-June only one loon chick had been reported, that one down in Long's Bay, but at least one more nesting was in progress. Many residents were entertained for a time in June by two red-breasted merganser ducklings riding "piggy back" on their mother, jumping off only occasionally to pick up an insect or some other morsel, then climbing back aboard. Meanwhile, a pair of Canada geese produced five or six goslings in Long's Bay, the first such event on Ten Mile for some years.

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AS HAS BEEN OUR CUSTOM from time to time, this newsletter contains a couple of enclosures, one an identification card for eurasian water milfoil and the other a guide for recycling. One is furnished by the Department of Natural Resources, the other by the Cass County Environmental Services Department. Read them carefully. Carry the identification card with you in your boat. If you spot a plant that looks suspiciously like eurasian water milfoil, bag it and take it to the DNR office just south of Walker (opposite the Ah-Gwah-Ching road) for a determination as to precisely what it is. Every lake user should feel a responsibility for making exotic species control a community-wide effort.

Cass County Initiates Ban on Burn Barrels

By Dan Krivit and Susan Schmidt

"**BURNING IS NOT FOR GARBAGE!**" That's the title of a new Department of Natural Resources (DNR) brochure that will be available soon. This statement reflects new policies of the State as well as Cass County, which has essentially outlawed so-called burn barrels countywide.

The County Environmental Services Department has hired a full time staff person in its enforcement division to monitor these and other waste violations. While the DNR is the state agency in charge of open burning, their rules allow local government to adopt standards that are more strict. Cass County has determined that reasonable and more environmentally sound trash management alternatives are now available, such as recycling and composting.

THE TEMPTATION TO BURN waste paper and other household trash is understandable. We use it to light fires and barbecues, so why not get rid of the rest in our old burn barrel? Also, the cost of trash disposal at the County's transfer site has gone up tremendously over the past few years as the old landfill was closed to protect the area's natural resources.

Fortunately, the County has been working hard to make these alternatives convenient. The old landfill north of Hackensack off Highway 371 is now the "Walker/Hackensack transfer site" and has these trash management options available residents and visitors alike: Recycling bins for recyclables; compost piles for grass clippings and leaves, and canisters for your remaining garbage.

YOU CAN EVEN DEPOSIT your tree trimming debris and brush at this same site. (The solid waste information sheets enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter provides more details, including lists of other recycling and composting sites).

Home burning of household waste can cause severe health problems and pollute air, soil and water. Burn barrels release toxic chemicals into the air and may can travel many miles before settling out of the air, contaminating both soil and water.

RULES ALLOW CERTAIN exceptions, such as evening family bonfires that burn dry brush or other wood IF no household trash is used. But keep in mind that any type of fire can

have similar negative air quality impacts.

Complying with the rules may take more time and money, but most people at Ten Mile would agree it's worth the gains in health, environment and resource protection. For the County to be able to enforce its regulations, it needs the help of citizens to report illegal burning. For further information, or to report a problem, contact Paul Fairbanks, Environmental Services Department (218-547-3300, x287), County Courthouse.

NOTE: Dan Krivit is an independent consultant with 15 years' experience in solid and hazardous waste management. Susan Schmidt worked in solid waste management for six years. She currently works for the Minnesota Legislature on water issues. The couple visits Ten Mile regularly.



Thanks for your Compliments!

A SINCERE THANKS to all who expressed their appreciation, either by letter or in person, for the Spring Newsletter. It clearly struck a responsive chord, probably because so much of the content was from or about the membership itself. As you obviously know, putting a newsletter together takes a great deal of time and thought. I hope you continue to enjoy it and, along the way, decide to become a contributor. — Jim Schwartz.

Stan Benbrook Looks Back to 1924 Ten Mile

By Stan Benbrook

WHAT WAS TEN MILE and environs like in 1924 through the eyes of a 5-year-old (with later recall assistance)? And how did we find such a paradise? It all started at Iowa State University. Dr. C. H. Stange, then Dean of Veterinary Medicine, had built a cabin on the south shore of Ten Mile and Dr. Charles Murray, then head of Veterinary Research, owned a cabin just east of Shady Shores on Birch Lake. Dad, Dr. E. A. Benbrook, was head of Veterinary Pathology.

I think that glowing reports of fishing from those doctors spawned that first trip north from Ames, IA. I have vague memories of someone driving my mother, Dad, my sister and myself to Nevada, IA, to board a train. After a 2-day trip, we arrived at the Hackensack depot, huge "steamer" trunk in tow.

I REMEMBER RIDING in the back of a model-T truck with Dad and the trunk. Mom and my 3-year-old sister, Katy, sat up front with the driver. After bumping along on a narrow, hilly gravel road (now Cass #6), with the trees seeming to almost touch over the road, we arrived at Shady Shores. There we met Clara and Bill Moore, the first owners. And what a jovial and delightful couple they were. We all became fast friends from the instant of that first meeting.

Our tiny log cabin on Ten Mile was a part of Shady Shores. It no longer exists. Dave Brandt now owns that land. There was a hand pumped well out back. Occasionally, a frog plopped from the pump into the bucket. Still farther out back was the "necessary" (not a local term).

THE WATER BUCKET and ladle were placed by the sink. A "slop" bucket was placed direct-

ly under the sink drain hole to collect our hand and dish washings. It was emptied outdoors as necessary. Garbage went into a hand dug pit. Lighting was from a kerosene lamp. Our clothes were washed in the lake. Mom cooked on a kerosene stove. I remember her dropping a blueberry pie upside-down on the floor while removing it from the tin stove-top oven. We had picked all those berries!

Memories of the month in July also include mosquito bites, sunburn and poison ivy rash. But these inconveniences did not interfere with swimming and building sand castles on the beach (now called sunset beach). As I remember, there was no habitation along that beach.

THE CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER, when calm, held a fascinating population of clams, huge leeches and minnows nipping at our ankles. Crawdads and small turtles lurked among the shoreline rocks nearby. On a windy day, what fun it was to challenge the breakers. And at bedtime we heard the haunting calls of the loons and the cry of wolves. Who could ask for a more beautiful lullaby?

No one fished Ten Mile to any extent because "there were no fish in the lake!" So Dad fished Birch Lake with much success at catching walleyes, crappies and bass. Berries were abundant and I believe we lived quite a bit "off the land." I do not remember our meals except for those wonderful fish. Ice and fresh milk were probably not available yet, a surmise based on conversations with Sally Woock. Apparently, Al, her husband, had not yet started deliveries of those items in 1924.

OUTBOARD MOTORS were a rarity. Troll fishing was done by rowing bulky Larson boats while holding the fishing rod between the knees. The status of land and water transportation placed Ten Mile's north shore in another world from us. That seems hard to imagine considering today's boats and autos. With no auto in 1924, I know Dad rowed a wooden boat across Birch Lake from Shady Shores to Hackensack on more than one occasion to get supplies.



To me it seems that the wilderness here, in many ways, has disappeared, but the appeal remains firm. With knowledge gained about protecting our environment in these past 70 years, our local population has also grown probably one hundred-fold or more. My family is now well into the fourth generation. What will it be like here in another four generations?

Lake

Preservation

is

Everyone's

Job