

Newsletter

Fall Edition, 1999

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

ANNUAL MEETING ADDRESSED BY GARY LYALL AND DAWN PETERSON

At the TMLA Annual Meeting on August 7, members heard reports from Gary Lyall, Vice-Chair of the Tri-County Leech Lake Watershed Project (TCLLWP), and Dawn Peterson, a volunteer with First Response, the emergency response organization in Hackensack. Gary Lyall discussed the mission and organization of TCLLWP, and urged TMLA members to participate as volunteers working with the Board of Directors or various committees.

Dawn Peterson described the extensive training required of all volunteers on the First Response Team. The Hackensack First Response was organized 20 years ago by Mary Parrish and was the first such organization in the State. Members receive 1200 to 1300 hours of training every 2 years and are equipped with several thousand dollars worth of gear. She thanked TMLA for supporting First Response by matching donations of our members to First Response up to \$750.

Members also heard reports by the following:

- Dick Horn**, on the survival of 8 loon chicks, 6 born on platforms;
- Jim Schwartz**, on the water testing programs of the Environment & Ecology Committee;
- Don Brown**, on the blowing up of the beaver dams in the Boy River in November;
- John Alden**, on his activities as Watershed Coordinator;
- Tom Cox**, on the August 4 meeting in Walker on lake water levels and the Birch Lake Dam (see page 4);
- Jerry Mills**, on the beginning of construction for the North Shore Community Septic Treatment System;
- and **Bob Crom**, on the treasury of the association.

Lois Sandell was recognized for her 15 years of service to TMLA as Secretary and 5 years as Membership Coordinator.

At the close of the meeting, the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers and directors for the 1999-2000 period, who were elected unanimously. This slate appears on Page 2.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the Annual Meeting, out-going Treasurer Bob Crom reported that **Operating Fund** income for the fiscal year, August 1, 1998 through July 31, 1999, was \$20,409, and that Operating Expenses were \$26,623, which resulted in an Operating Fund deficit for the year of \$6,214. That deficit was made up from savings and a certificate of deposit carried over from the previous fiscal year. Bob said that the increase in annual dues to \$25 for the coming year should help keep the Operating Fund in balance in coming years.

Bob reminded the meeting of the establishment of the James W. Schwartz Environmental Preservation Fund (JWS EPF) a year ago. At that time, the Board authorized the use of up to \$50,000 of the Piper Jaffray Fixed Income assets to fund JWS EPF. To date, just \$30,000 of Piper Jaffray assets have been transferred to JWS EPF. That \$30,000, together with payments of more than \$94,711 out of the generous special contributions of members, has made it possible to move forward on the purchase of the Kenfield Bay property. Current equity within the JWS EPF is over \$148,000.

Bob's **General Fund Balance Sheet** showed the following:

ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	\$12,481.58
Other Assets (Savings, Investments)	<u>63,587.40</u>
Total Assets	\$76,068.98
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	<u>76,068.98</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$76,068.98

Ten Mile Lake Association Officers

Bob Crom, President 547-2473
 Don Willis, Vice-Pres. 675-6231
 Tom Cox, Treasurer 675-6844
 Lisa Tuller, Secretary 675-6906

Resident Directors

Gail Becher 547-3214
 Dick Horn 674-6163
 Stuart Lane 675-6998
 Willa Martin 675-6952
 Jerry Mills 547-1164
 Larry Urbanski 547-3107

Summer Resident Directors

Stan Benbrook 675-6810
 Ray Black 675-6903
 Bob Crabb 675-6120
 Bob Kay 675-6430
 Hank Sandvig 675-6521
 Randy Vosbeck 547-3840

Watershed Coordinator

John Alden 547-3114

Committees

Adopt-A-Highway - Larry Urbanski, Stuart Lane

Environment & Ecology - Jim Schwartz

Dick Horn, Jack Adams, Gail Becher, Fred Brosius, Pat Carey, Bruce Carlson, Carl Hertzman, Marty McCleery, Jim McGill, Ross Melgaard, Jerry Mills, Tom Moore, Bob Nelson, Ellie Nelson, Brad Putney, Bob Rydell, Hank Sandvig, Forrest Watson, Don Willis

Environ. Protection Fund - Al Hoover,

Ray Black, Rod Owre, Stan Skaug

Finance - Bob Crabb, Al Hoover, Jack

Adams, Stuart Lane, Ross Melgaard, Ted Mellby, Jim Miller

Fisheries - Gary Marchwick, Don Brown,

Bob Horn, Dick Horn, Nick Mellby, Jim Schwartz, Larry Urbanski

Handbook/Directory Development - Gail

Becher, Phoebe Alden, Sarah Cox, Willa Martin

History - Willa Martin, Stan Benbrook, Don

Buck, Tom Cox, Ross Melgaard, Larry Urbanski

Lake Level - Walt Kane

Lake Level Mgmt. - Tom Cox, John

Alden, George Brandt, Don Brown, Marty McCleery, Walt Kane, Jim Miller, Jim Schwartz

Lake Safety - Bob Kay, Pat Gjevre, Jim

McGill, Barbara Roberts, Mary Ann Schmidt

Loons - Dick Horn, Bob Crom, Chet

Malek, Ken Regner

Membership Coord. - Phoebe Alden

Newsletter - Sarah Cox, Jim Schwartz

Strategic Planning - John Alden, Jack

Adams, Al Hoover, Ross Melgaard, Jim Miller, Jim Schwartz, Stan Skaug

Zoning & Land Use - Ellie Nelson, John

Alden, Ray Helsman, Bob Nelson, Don Patterson

NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED at the TMLA Annual Meeting and shown to the left, the following are new to the set of officers and directors: Tom Cox, Treasurer; Stuart Lane, Resident Director; and Randy Vosbeck, Summer Resident Director.

TOM COX is a native of Minneapolis, and began coming to his family's cabin at Fernhurst (South Shore of Ten Mile) in 1940. He married Sarah in 1960 and that same year began a career as a pastor in the Congregational Christian Church/United Church of Christ, serving first in Pittsfield, MA and later in Vienna, VA where he was founding minister of a new church. In 1992 he retired from the ministry and became a Program Specialist on the headquarters staff of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in Washington, D.C. He and his wife have spent a month at Fernhurst every summer, but both retired on June 26, 1998 (Sarah from her job as Criminal Justice Planner in the Office of the Sheriff of Fairfax County) to realize their life-long dream of spending 5 months of the year at Ten Mile. Here they enjoy the company of three sons, two grandchildren, and visits from friends and family. They spend the winter in Reston, VA.

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STUART "TATE" LANE is a native of Minnesota. He met and married Virginia in New York City while he was practicing being an Easterner. His work with Hormel Foods took him to varied assignments in many states. Eventually the Lanes settled permanently in Austin, MN, the corporate headquarters of Hormel, where Stuart became Director of Consumer Relations, Customer Relations, and Public Relations. The family first stayed at Ten Mile Lake in primitive cabins with no running water, but now have a lovely home on Boone Point. Their three children were brought up summering on Ten Mile and still love to come here, with their children. Stuart hopes to help protect the lake against unbridled development, and keep it as a place amenable to good family time together.

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RANDY VOSBECK was born in Mankato, MN and is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in Architecture. After serving in the Marine Corps, he moved to Alexandria, VA, where he practiced architecture for nearly 40 years. He was president of the American Institute of Architects in 1981, and served on the National Capital Planning Commission for several years under an appointment by President Gerald Ford. Randy retired from active architectural practice in 1994, and relocated to Vail, Colorado, where he enjoys skiing and biking. He and his wife, the former Phoebe Macklin, spend their summers on Ten Mile Lake, and are visited there by their four children and six grandchildren

**HEADS UP FOR EARLY-BIRD TEN-MILERS!!!
 MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION!!!**

A pre-season dinner for all members of TMLA who are in the area is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 15, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. at Arthur's Ten Mile Lake Supper Club.

If you plan to attend PLEASE CALL BOB CROM TO MAKE RESERVATIONS. Telephone: 547-2473.

LAKESCAPING, A NEW SUBCOMMITTEE *by Gail Becher*

THIS SUMMER, TMLA's Environmental and Ecology Committee created a new subcommittee which will focus attention on aquascaping and lakescaping practices. As chair of this new subcommittee, I wanted to familiarize myself with the subject and related recent publications. To my delight, I discovered two newly-published, Minnesota-based resources: **LAKESCAPING FOR WILDLIFE AND WATER QUALITY**, published by DNR and authored by Henderson, Dindorf, & Rozumalski; and **THE SHORELAND LANDSCAPING SERIES**, distributed by the University of Minnesota Extension Service. The subcommittee plans to share information from these and other publications in this and future newsletters.

What Are Aquascaping & Lakescaping?

WE HAVE ALL HEARD OF LANDSCAPING a yard by planting trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers in such a way as to please the eye and enhance property values. **Aquascaping** utilizes the same concepts as landscaping, but it focuses these plantings along shorelines of lakes, rivers, ponds, or wetlands. **Lakescaping** is a specific approach to aquascaping along lakeshores.

Why Lakescape?

This question suggests a whole series of questions:

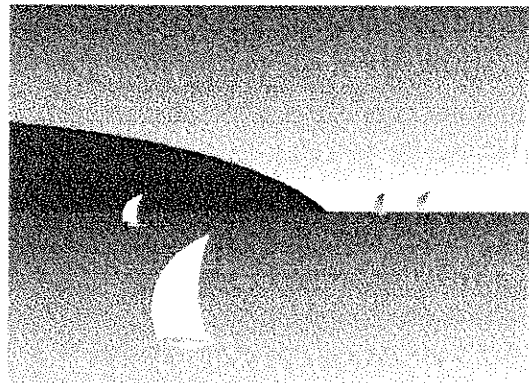
- Is the fishing as good as it once was and/or as good as you want it to be?
- Is erosion of your shore a concern, especially in these years of high water?
- Do you want favorable results with water quality testing and clarity readings?
- Have you seen as many blue herons and other wading birds as in the past?
- Can your kids and grandkids find and follow a jumping frog as often as in the past?
- In the future, do you want Canada geese leaving droppings all over your yard?
- Are you tired of yard work — planting grass seed, watering, fertilizing, mowing, etc.?

If none of these questions sparked your interest, here's one more: *Do you want to live on a lake that is healthy and alive, where the property values go up, not down?* As we head into the millennium, and consider the impact of growth on all the Minnesota lakes, we must become more aware of and begin to apply Lakescaping Best Management Practices. These will benefit not only water quality and wildlife, but all the intangible values of lakeshore living we have come to treasure.

What Is The First Step?

The first step in lakescaping is simple: **Create a buffer zone along the shoreline.** A buffer zone is a natural strip of vegetation along your property's lake frontage. It extends both onto the land and into the water. It restores to the shoreline the type of vegetation that could have grown there naturally prior to development, such as native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, and sedges on land, and emergent, floating, and submergent aquatic plants in the water.

Aquatic plants growing in the water reduce shoreline erosion caused by wave action from wind and boat traffic. They offer spawning grounds, feeding and shelter areas for fish and other wildlife. They help purify lake water by removing contaminants and by calming the water, so that suspended soil particles settle to the lake bottom. Shrubs, trees, wildflowers, and other natural vegetation growing along the shore provide a filter strip that holds back runoff from higher ground and keeps chemicals, debris, animal wastes, etc. from reaching the lake. The roots of these shoreline plants help hold soil together, preventing soil erosion. And the buffer zone of native plants offers desirable habitat to birds, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and other forms of wildlife.



Buffer zones reduce the size of lawn and thus also the amount of time and energy needed for mowing and other lawn maintenance. Furthermore, an unmowed shoreline creates a natural barrier that deters Canada geese from entering your property. Finally, lakescaping adds beauty and color to the lake environment. As the coolness of fall settles in, think about the things you value about Ten Mile Lake and the ways you can improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Plan to create a buffer strip along your shore, and start your lakescaping plans for next summer now.

HIGH WATER LEVELS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

by Tom Cox, Chair, Water Level Management Committee

WITH THE LAKE WATER LEVEL this year at its highest in recent memory, and an exceptionally stormy season, concern about lakeshore erosion and other property damage has been widespread this summer.

Responding to this concern, TMLA Directors moved in July to create a new committee called the Water Level Management Committee, and charging the committee to work in cooperation with the Birch Lake Association to study the problem and to recommend action. Committee members are: **Tom Cox**, Chair; **John Alden**, **George Brandt**, **Don Brown**, **Walt Kane**, **Marty McCleery**, **Jim Miller** and **Jim Schwartz**. Committee members have met twice this summer, once with members of the Birch Lake Association and once on their own.

SINCE THE BEAVER DAMS of previous seasons were removed and the Clemson Levelers installed in the river last fall, attention this summer has focussed on the dam at the Birch Lake outlet to the Boy River. Located on private property in Hackensack, on the south shore of Birch Lake, the dam, which dates back to 1911, was reconstructed for a second time in 1976 under a permit granted by the DNR. The dam's purpose is to maintain the level of water in Birch Lake within certain limits. In order to provide some control over the water levels in Birch and Ten Mile, the dam is designed to accept a steel "stop log," or "I"-beam, which is to be inserted, under falling water conditions, when water reaches a specified level, and removed, under rising water conditions, when the water rises above that level.

Responsibility for installation and removal of the stop log lies with the County Engineer. In 1998, upon the advice of the DNR and with the concurrence of lake residents active in Boy River management problems, the Engineer decided to insert a four-inch stop log in the dam and to leave it permanently in place. At the time the four-inch log was believed to be a satisfactory solution to problems of regular water level monitoring and frequent insertion and removal of the traditional six-inch log.

The stop log remained in place last year, but, because of exceptionally high water this summer, was removed on July 15 — much too late, in the opinion of some — when high water conditions showed no signs of abating as they usually do after the winter snows melt and the spring rains eventually taper off.

RECOGNIZING THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BIRCH LAKE DAM affects water levels on lakes both above

and below the dam — sixteen in all — Ten Mile and Birch Lake representatives called a meeting of representatives from all the affected lake associations in the Boy River Watershed to discuss all aspects of the issue. Thirty-seven people gathered in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Cass County Courthouse on August 4. In addition to lake shore owners, we were fortunate to have representatives from the County Engineer's Office, DNR, the Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers present to provide information and expert advice. In addition, Erick Hedren, the Mayor of Hackensack, and several township supervisors attended.

Kirk English, DNR Hydrologist, said that 1999 has been "the wettest year of the century," and Dave Enblom, County Engineer, said that the problems experienced on Ten Mile and Birch Lakes, including the inundation of Highway 71 along Ten Mile's north shore, are occurring all over the County. Both suggested that our area may be at the peak point in a weather cycle, and that in a year or more we may, as in the past, be faced with problems of drought.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE AUGUST 4 MEETING reached consensus on three issues:

A. Formation of a Boy River Watershed Management Committee (BRWSMC)

THIS COMMITTEE of working volunteers could be organized under the aegis of the Tri-County Leech Lake Watershed Project (TCLLWP), and would undertake to provide an ongoing review of issues concerning the watershed, including the issue of high water and the management of the Birch Lake Dam. Its task would be to improve communication among interested individuals and organizations, and to be a source of public input to governmental agencies planning and managing the Boy River Watershed.

B. Maintaining the Lakeshore

IT WAS AGREED that lakeshore owners should be encouraged not to disturb natural shoreline, and to restore shoreline that has been unnaturally landscaped.

NOTE: John Sumption, Manager of the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District has available for loan an excellent video program prepared by the DNR and Extension Services, called "The Living Shore." A copy of the video may be borrowed from John's office in the Courthouse (218-547-7399) or from **Gail Becher**.

(Continued, next page)

C. Birch Lake Dam

ADVICE FROM THE DNR AND THE COUNTY ENGINEER is that the dam be treated as a fixed weir using a four-inch stop log. This treatment would be within the parameters outlined in the October 19, 1976 DNR Office Memorandum concerning the design of the dam. The fixed, four-inch log would provide a more-or-less steady outflow from Birch Lake and lessen the surges that may follow upon repeated insertion and removal of a six-inch log and that aggravate high water problems in the lakes downstream from the dam. Assuming a sufficient water supply, the four-inch log would prevent Birch Lake from falling below 1378.06 feet, a level acceptable to Birch Lake shore owners, and, other things being equal (i.e., relatively free flow through the Boy River from Ten Mile to Birch, etc.), would allow the level of Ten Mile Lake to fall to 1378.56 feet, or about 16.9 inches lower than it was on July 10.

Participants in the meeting made no decision, however, about *when* to reinstall the four-inch log.

FOLLOWING THE AUGUST 4 WATER LEVEL MEETING, Gary Lyall, Vice Chair of TCLLWP, asked Tom Cox to chair a Boy River Watershed Management Committee. Tom and Gordon Friday, newly elected President of the Birch Lake Association, called a meeting of those interested in forming such a group for September 11. At that meeting, the question of whether to become a Committee of TCLLWP was tabled, and attention given instead to the management of the Birch Lake Dam, and the proposal of the TMLA Water Level Committee that the BRWSMC sponsor a hydrological study of the watershed to provide data for watershed management, including management of the dam.

Responding to a request from the County Commissioners, and after heated discussion, BRWSMC crafted a recommendation to the effect that the four-inch stop log be reinstalled before freeze-up (i.e., about November 1), and that the water level situation be reevaluated as to the use of the stop log on or about April 15. The Committee approved the recommendation by a vote of 5 to 2, over the objections of two Ten Mile representatives, who would have preferred to recommend that the stop log be left out of the dam until the water shows strong signs of returning to normal levels, and who were wary, in any case, of having the Commissioners make a decision about the log in response to a popular vote rather than to the legal authority and expert knowledge of DNR. The Commissioners were expected to act on this latter issue at their meeting on September 21.

At its September 11 meeting, BRWSMC also

agreed to seek a volunteer to continue through the winter Don Brown's collection of weekly readings of the water level at the dam for purposes of future management decision-making.

WHATEVER HAPPENS with regard to the management of the Birch Lake Dam, with the growing population of Cass County and increasing use of its lakes and rivers, management of the Boy River Watershed will be an important concern for the future. Ten Milers are encouraged to take an interest in the work of both the TMLA Water Level Committee and BRWSMC. To let your interest be known, please call Tom Cox or any member of the TMLA Water Level Committee.

COMMISSIONERS KEEP RESPONSIBILITY FOR BIRCH LAKE DAM

by Jim Schwartz

It Appears That responsibility for management of the Birch Lake dam will remain under the jurisdiction of the Cass County Board of Commissioners. An August 19 letter from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to David Enblom, Cass County Highway Engineer, says the DNR has "no interest in taking control of additional lake outlet structures."

The letter was signed by Mel Sinn, Administrator of the Surface Water and Hydrographics Section. It pointed out that DNR has only one employee who inspects and performs routine maintenance on the more than 300 outlet structures for which DNR is responsible. Rather than adding to that number, the letter said DNR looks for opportunities to remove structures from its purview where no significant public benefits are provided. It also stated that DNR would support county action to discontinue the periodic insertion and removal of the dam's stop log, as has been the procedure since the structure was rebuilt in 1976. That could be done, the letter added, under the terms of the present DNR permit agreement, or, if the county wished, it could apply for a permit amendment fixing the stop log permanently.

THE DNR POSITION was in response to a June 22 resolution by Cass County commissioners asking the agency to accept responsibility for managing the dam. At its September 7 meeting, the Board of Commissioners read Sinn's letter into the record, then tabled action at least until its September 21 session. They further indicated they would like to hear from the Boy River Watershed Committee before taking further action on the Birch Lake dam question.

(There's still more! See Next Page:)

HIGH WATER LEVELS: THE REST OF THE STORY

by Tom Cox, Chair, Water Level Management Committee

AND NOW THIS LATE-BREAKING NEWS: At its regular meeting on September 18, the TMLA Board of Directors passed a resolution to the effect that:

- 1) the TMLA Board wishes to continue to work constructively with the County Commissioners on lake level problems in the Boy River Watershed;
- 2) the TMLA Board supports a proposed hydrological study to be made of the watershed to gather contemporary data for watershed management; and
- 3) the TMLA Board recommends that until such a hydrological study can be completed, the County Engineer continue to manage the outlet structure in keeping with the terms of the DNR's construction permit of October 25, 1976.

As of the date of the TMLA Board meeting, water at the dam, where no log has been in place since July 15, was still flowing some 17 inches above the sill, or bottom, of the "notch." Under the terms of the DNR permit the Engineer would not reinstall the log until the water at the dam falls another 11 inches or so.

On September 21, the County Board gave formal consideration to the recommendations it had received, as well as to the advice of the County Engineer. The Ten Mile, Birch and Pleasant Lake communities were represented at the meeting, and joined in the discussion with the Commissioners. Ultimately, the Commissioners voted to direct the County Engineer to manage the dam under the terms of the DNR permit. The stop log will thus stay out of the dam until the water levels fall. For the time being, Don Brown of the Ten Mile Association will continue to read the water level at the dam, and he or, in his absence, a volunteer from Birch Lake, will record the data and keep the Engineer apprised of the situation, and the Engineer will act accordingly under the terms of the permit.

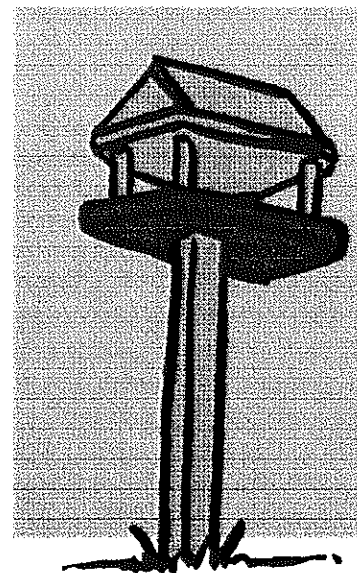
Meanwhile, discussion of a watershed hydrological study is under way. It is possible that there may be resources available from Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation and/or the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources to fund such a study. TMLA Watershed Coordinator John Alden will be exploring the funding possibilities and beginning work on a grant proposal this winter.

JIM SCHWARTZ TO BE EDITOR EMERITUS

Sarah Cox Is New Newsletter Editor

JIM SCHWARTZ HAS ANNOUNCED his intention to retire as editor of the TML Newsletter. Fortunately, he will continue as a consultant and contributor, so we can look forward to more installments "From the Notebook." Jim has combined his intense interest in ecology and environmental issues, his love of Ten Mile Lake, his journalistic expertise, and his dedication to excellence in making this significant resource available to TMLA members over many years. The new editor cannot hope to fill his shoes. She does hope, with help from all the other members, to maintain the Newsletter as a means of educating and inspiring the entire Ten Mile community, as well as continuing to draw that community together in the common purpose of preserving and improving Ten Mile Lake and its environment.

Sarah, wife of Tom Cox, has loved Ten Mile Lake since she first saw it in 1960, and is pleased to have an opportunity, now that she is retired, to participate in the work of TMLA. She believes that the best communication is two-way communication, so please send in comments, criticisms, suggestions, and contributions.



THE HISTORY PAGE

(It has been suggested that we include something on the history of Ten Mile Lake in each issue of *The Newsletter*. Here is an article by Willa Shonkwiler-Martin. We will continue as appropriate contributions come in, and space is available.)

THE HISTORY OF TEN MILE LAKE *by Willa Shonkwiler-Martin, Chair, History Committee*

TEN MILE LAKE WAS GIVEN ITS NAME in 1881. According to Post Office maps, there has long been a government wagon road from Brainerd to Leech Lake Post Office at Old Agency on the south shore of Leech Lake.¹

On the wagon road travelling south from Leech Lake Agency toward Hackensack and on to Brainerd were lakes named Three Mile Lake, Four Mile Lake, Six Mile lake, Ten Mile Lake, and Fourteen Mile Lake at Hackensack (now called Birch Lake) with Fourteen Mile Creek. The names given were based on the distance from Old Agency to the shore of the lakes.²

In 1881 a contract was signed with the Post Office to carry mail from Brainerd to Leech Lake Agency. The stage line was established and the first Concord Coach started travelling the road between Brainerd and Leech Lake.

In 1894, Northern Minnesota Railroad built tracks along the old wagon road and by the end of 1894 the town of Lothrop was established. This was a lively little settlement along the east end of Ten Mile Lake consisting of a small railroad station, railroad grading, work crews, source supplies for the railroad to continue building the line to the north, and a repair shop and turn table, with a spur line. The town also included three hotels, three stores, a drugstore, a doctor, a deputy coroner, a house of ill-repute, eight saloons, and a dozen houses. (One resident was Lizzie MacDowell, a well-known lady of the evening.) The village of Lothrop issued ordinances and other rules in 1886.

By 1900, the timber in this area was cut and taken away, and Lothrop ceased to be a boom town.

DURING THE LOGGING DAYS, Ten Mile Lake was used as a loading work site. Logs coming from the surrounding area were railed to Brainerd Lumber Company and Pine Tree Lumber Company. These companies fed off the Pillsbury Timber Operation.

Ten Mile Lake, where it was close to the railroad, was used as a holding pond for logs that were cut around the lake and to the west. Logs hauled over ground were usually stacked alongside the railroad and loaded on cars with a steam jammer. There was a submerged water tank along the shore of Ten Mile providing water for the train engines.

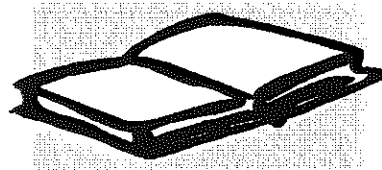
TEN MILE LAKE IS LOCATED in the townships of Hiram, Birch Lake, Turtle Lake, and Shingobee. The lake was formed by retreating glaciers. It covers 4640 acres, has 25 miles of shoreline, and has a maximum depth of 208 feet [*some say 212 feet or more* —ed.] and is ranked as one of the deepest in the State outside of Lake Superior. It is seven miles long and one to five miles wide.

The beautiful clear blue water of Ten Mile Lake has drawn many persons to its shores for summer homes, resorts, permanent homes, fishing, sailing, and boating. The trees have grown back since the logging days, and some are virgin, left by loggers because they were too small to be cut at that time. Fishing has always been an inviting activity to visitors and residents, just as it was many years ago when men rode horses through the cut-over land to fish for bass, northerns, walleye, sunfish, crappies, and whitefish.

TEN MILE LAKE IS MENTIONED in an article by Glenville Smith in the National Geographic Magazine for March, 1935 which includes a picture of fish caught from the lake, and names it as one of the lakes in the land of sky-blue waters.

Many changes have occurred on and around the lake since 1881, but its beauty has remained. Its Lake Association is one of the most active in Northern Minnesota, and keeps a close look at what goes on in the area.

(Ed. Note: This article was written by Willa Shonkwiler-Martin for inclusion in *The Cass County Heritage Book*, edited by the Cass County Historical Society, 1999, and reprinted here by permission.)



¹ According to Warren Upham of the Minnesota Historical Society Collection.

² For more information, refer to the collection by Charles Vandersluis, *Mainly Logging*, 1974.

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE...

WATER SAFETY: Night Time Light Violators

by Bob Kay, Chair, Water Safety Committee

IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION of the Ten Mile Lake Water Safety Committee that there are boaters who are not complying with visibility rules.

When you are out in a boat at night, the white rear light must be visible for two miles; the red and green bow lights must be visible for one mile. **LIGHTS MUST BE DISPLAYED FROM SUNSET TO SUNRISE.** These rules apply whether the boat is in motion or standing still.



QUIET WATER: Slow, No Wake Zones

by Jim Schwartz, Chair, Environmental Committee.

BECAUSE CONFUSION PERSISTS over what areas are included in "Slow, No Wake Zones," here is a review of the places where boaters are asked to travel at **5 mph or less:**

- Approaches to Flower Pot, Lundstrom's and Kenfield bays
- The entirety of each of these bays
- The small island bay
- The approach to the Boy River
- The Boy River channel from Ten Mile Lake to Birch Lake.

WHY WERE THE BAYS INCLUDED in the "No Wake Zones"? — Because all are critical fish spawning sites. Studies clearly demonstrate that when boats are operated at high speeds, propellers do extensive damage to fish spawning areas in water depths up to 10 feet. Only Kenfield Bay has a significant part of its area that is deeper than 10 feet, but there are shallow reaches as well that should be protected. Furthermore, bay areas are especially susceptible to wave erosion, and safety becomes a special concern in close quarters. No-Wake speeds reduce both of these threats.

WATER LEVEL READINGS.

WALT KANE HAS provided the following data on 1999 lake levels through August 21st, along with those from 1998 through the end of the year, for comparison:

Lake Level Readings (In Feet Above Sea Level)

<u>1999 Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>1998 Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>
05/02	1379.50'	05/01	1379.67'
05/20	1379.98**	05/10	1379.56'
06/04	1379.84'	06/04	1379.70'
06/17	1379.85'	07/11	1379.81'
07/06	1379.98**	07/15	1379.97**
07/10	1379.97**	08/01	1379.73'
07/16	1380.08**	08/13	1379.56'
08/04	1380.03**	09/22	1379.18'
08/07	1380.01**	10/06	1379.20'
08/21	1380.09**	10/15	1379.18'
		11/03	1379.49'

* Indicates water level was above the gauge and was estimated using a ruler. The gauge will read to 1379.96'.

INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS:

- a. The sharp rise from 5/2/99 to 5/20/99 (.48 feet or 4.8 inches)
- b. The minimal variation since 5/20/99 (.11 feet, or 1.3 inches)
- c. Starting the year in May 1999 at .17 feet below May 1998 (or 2 inches), and staying relatively close until about July 15, and
- d. The rather rapid drop in 1998 readings compared with almost constant levels this year.

BUT NOT TO DRINK!

A NOTE ON GIARDIA *by Ross Melgaard*

GIARDIA LAMBIA is a parasite that can live in our intestine, in the section of the gut where fat is absorbed. So an infested person can eat all he wants and lose a pound a day! — except that there are uncomfortable and debilitating gastrointestinal symptoms, called *giardiasis*. However *giardiasis* is quickly and easily cured with medication.

GIARDIASIS IS A DISEASE of mammals (deer, skunks, raccoons, mice, humans) that contaminates lakes and streams east of the Rockies. It is unlikely that you would contract the disease from swimming, but **lake water must be boiled** if it is your household drinking water source, and will then be safe. **You should also check the gasket or seal on the top of your well.** A local family had *giardiasis* because a mouse fell into the well.

From the Notebook

by Jim Schwartz

THE SUMMER OF 1999 probably will be remembered as a season of excesses: brutal winds, high water, blistering heat one week, shuddery cold the next, dense algae blooms, and, well — you experienced the same events I did. What struck me as being quite different was the dogged persistence of what was happening, the "one-thing-after-another" monotony.

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WE CAN ALWAYS expect winds in the North Country. That's just the nature of the climate up here. But seldom do we have repeatedly powerful windstorms coming from so many directions. The two most damaging swept the area June 8 and July 4, creating all manner of havoc: beach washouts, downed trees, shattered docks, wrecked boats, and ruined water recreation equipment. But the gales didn't stop. At least two others hit over the summer months, leaving in their wake essentially the same kind of devastation. (One east side cabin dweller reported having his dock washed out three times.)

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COMPOUNDING THE PROBLEM was the unvarying high lake water level. According to one DNR hydrologist (Kirk English, Bemidji) the area had the wettest chain of months from last October through July in the last 100 years. And August was a wet one, too. That contributed to high ground water levels which, in turn, meant lakes were near or above their highest recorded elevations.

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IN TEN MILE'S CASE we flirted most of the season with our all-time recorded high (set April 25, 1979 at 1380.21' above sea level), but never quite exceeded it. The point here is that frequent rains and high ground water combined to keep the lake from going down in the later months of summer (contrary to our usual expectations). On August 21, for example, the level was 1380.09' above sea level, or 6.4" above the reading taken a year earlier, 7.1" above what it was on May 1, 1999, and 7.2" above the Nov. 1, 1998 mark.

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ANOTHER VISIBLE EFFECT of the high ground water is the flooding of Highway #71 at two points about half-way around the north and west side of the lake. John Alden measured the water's depth at the two spots in late August: one was at 28" and the other

26" above the roadbed. County Engineer Dave Enblom says nothing will be done about correcting the situation until the water recedes, but that has not happened. In fact, if anything, the expanse of water both widened and deepened somewhat over the summer.

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AND THEN THERE WERE those recurring, dense algae blooms in late August, events that usually occur in July and only rarely oftener than a time or two. What happened? Rainfall and groundwater brought more nutrients into the lake, and hot, calm days at summer's end stimulated heavier than normal algae growth. At one point in midsummer, the water temperature at the end of my dock was 83°, warmer than at any time since I began taking daily readings about 20 years ago. In late August, the thermometer recorded a steady 73° to 75° five days running. And that was on the heels of a .75" rain, setting off the chain of algae blooms.

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FINALLY, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT that waterfowl nesting success suffered from generous spring runoff and frequent early rains. Lake residents counted noticeably fewer duckling broods this season, a clue to the likelihood that many nests were destroyed by flooding. Along our shore we saw only two small families, about a third of what is our custom.

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? There is a small Ten Mile Like committee, part of a considerably larger group from the entire Boy River watershed, which will study the problem and come up with recommendations. Both of these committees are being led by Tom Cox, a south shore resident whose lake roots go back to his childhood. There are no easy or ready answers. And any lasting solutions will require a cooperative assist from Mother Nature.

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OUR DUCK HOUSES, by the way, were successful again this year, providing nesting habitat for two species: hooded merganser and goldeneye. Their offspring apparently vacated the boxes while we were in Atlanta visiting *our* young. Now all that remains is for me to clean the boxes of egg shells and other debris, add a few wood shavings, and await the return of the ducks next year.

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BEST WISHES TO ALL for the winter months, and let's hope for a more normal 2000.



REMEMBERING OUR TEN MILE LAKE FRIENDS

Marjorie C. Andres

MARJORIE C. ANDRES, of Ten Mile Lake and Delano, MN, died Wednesday, October 21 at the Delano Health Care Center. She was born September 22, 1916 in Randall, MN, the first of seven children of Wm. H. & Merle Bentler. She attended Teachers' College in Staples and taught all grades in a one-room schoolhouse. She met Ed Andres at a dance; they were married shortly thereafter. The couple farmed in Delano and owned a grocery store in St. Cloud, before moving to Delano in 1957, where they started the Coast-to-Coast hardware store. They were active in the community and in St. Peter's Catholic Church in Delano.

In the early 60's the Andres's bought a cabin on what is now Hiram Loop Road, where they enjoyed fishing and watching hummingbirds and bears, and waged a continuing fight with the beavers who insisted on cutting down the beautiful trees.

Mrs. Andres worked with her husband until his death in 1979, when she sold the store to her son Jerome and his wife Marie. However she continued to work until her retirement in her mid-70's. She then spent time with her children and grandchildren, enjoyed traveling and visiting garage sales, and liked to go to Las Vegas and try the slot machines. She was known for her sense of humor and willingness to try new things. She is survived by five daughters and one of two sons, as well as 20 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



Gladyce Franklin

GLADYCE FRANKLIN, a long-time resident of Long Bay, TML, died at the age of 92 on July 3, 1999, in Mesa, AZ. She was born Dec. 4., 1906 in Mankato, MN. She was a member of the Court of Our Lady of Good Counsel 216, Catholic Daughters, and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hackensack. Her husband, Paul, who preceded her in death, once served as secretary to TMLA. Gladyce is survived by her son Robert, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



John W. (Bill) Hall

JOHN W. HALL of Ten Mile Lake and Leisure World, Mesa, AZ, died on July 15, 1999 of complications of surgery at Mercy Medical Center in

Des Moines, IA. Bill Hall was born in Sunderland, England and lived in Des Moines before moving to Mesa, AZ in 1989. He was a retired heat treater at John Deere, a British Army veteran of World War II, and a member of Des Moines Consistory, Scottish Rite, Za-Ga-Zig Shrine, and Auburn Masonic Lodge. In addition to sisters and brothers still in England, he is survived by a son, Donald Hall, and two grandchildren.



Evelyn Martin

EVELYN (JACOBSEN) MARTIN of Twin Hills Road, TML and Austin, MN, died March 7, 1999 at her home in Austin. She was born as Evelyn Jahn in 1916, in Filmore county, MN. Evelyn attended public schools in Spring Valley, married Knut L. Jacobsen there in 1936, and moved with him to Austin in 1942. Knut and Evelyn bought a cabin on Ten Mile Lake in 1960 and spent almost every weekend there. Evelyn liked to fish, ski, swim, and go boating.

Knut died in 1978. In 1983 Evelyn married Ross G. Martin in Fort Wright, KY, and lived there with him until 1990, when they returned to Austin. Mrs. Martin worked at J.C. Penney Company and later for Weyerhaeuser. She was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Women of the Moose.

Evelyn Martin is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Alan and Mary Jacobson, also of Austin and Ten Mile Lake, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, as well a brother and two sisters.



Howard L. Sandell

HOWARD L. SANDELL, 92, of Pine River, died Saturday, July 31, 1999 at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, MN. He was born March 1, 1907 in Boone, Iowa, son to Charles and Harriet (Gustafson) Sandell. After his graduation from Capital City Commercial College in Des Moines, he married Lois Sundean in 1936. He worked as Director of Social Services in Ames, Iowa, and later in Nevada, Iowa, prior to retirement to Ten Mile Lake and a later move to Pine River. He was a member of the Nevada Lions Club, Hope Lutheran Church, Ten Mile Lake Association, the Izaak Walton League, and Deep Portage Conservation Reserve.

REMEMBERING . . . (Continued)**(Harold Sandell, Continued)**

As a member of TMLA Harold helped Warren Goss with water testing, and with his wife hiked and explored throughout the area. He loved fishing and gardening, and playing the piano and organ: he played duets with Toni Schwartz when he and Lois gave ice cream parties at their lake home.

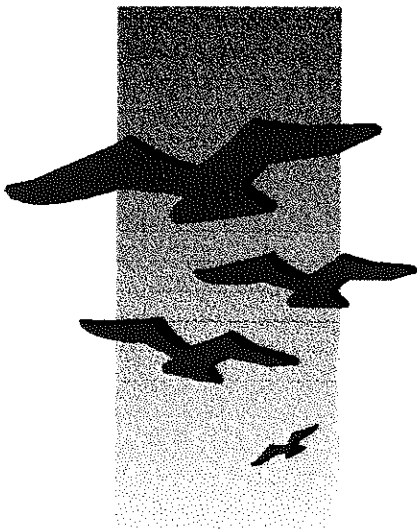
Howard is survived by his wife, Lois; a son, John Sandell of Walker; two grandchildren; and a sister, Jean Beiter of Sun City West, Arizona.

**Terry A. Shuck**

TERRY A. SHUCK, 64, of Des Moines, Iowa, died of cancer June 2, 1999 with his family beside him at his home on Ten Mile Lake. He was born November 11, 1934. He is survived by his wife, Jeanie; his daughters Diane Shuck, MD of Minneapolis, MN and Kathleen Johnson, MD of Placitas, NM; his son Daniel Shuck, JD of Sioux City, Iowa; and four grandchildren.

Terry attended the University of Iowa, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1956 and a Master of Science Degree in Structural Engineering in 1958. While at the University, Terry lettered in varsity football in each of the 1953-1956 seasons. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers until returning to Iowa in 1961 to work for the Iowa Department of Transportation. In 1964, Terry founded his own structural engineering firm, now known as Shuck-Britson. Terry was a member of the Rotary Club and was on the board of the UMCA Boys' Home in Johnston, Iowa. After retiring in 1994,

Terry spent his summers at Ten Mile Lake, where he had a home for 26 years. He enjoyed University of Iowa athletics, running, woodworking, traveling, and spending time with his family.



The Short of It

by Jim Schwarz

WHY BLACK BEAR ENCOUNTERS have become more common in recent years: DNR reports that Minnesota's bear population grew from 8,000 in 1980 to 27,000 today.



THE JULY 4 STORM that caused so much damage in the area had two dramatic effects on Boy Lake: the blow a) tore loose a two-acre bog (with small trees growing in it) that has been floating around the lake ever since, and b) laid bare the lake bed on the west shore while flooding cabins on the east shore that normally are five feet above water.



A MAINE STUDY found that as water clarity of lakes improves, property values increase as well. Not surprising, but nice to have it confirmed. The researchers estimated that a water clarity improvement of one meter would boost the per foot price of front-age attributable to water quality from \$164 to \$268.



AN ANGLER ALERT! A Pollution Control Agency study found that lead poisoning accounted for 17 percent of the dead loons sent to the research centers. Where does the lead come from? Apparently from lead sinkers lost by anglers. Lesson: **Switch to non-lead sinkers.**



EIGHT LAKE ASSOCIATIONS in Crow Wing County are participating in a funded program to address the question of how to deal with the issues of communication and growth. The intent is for the series of workshops to help the associations establish lake management plans and provide skills training for carrying them out.



LATEST PREDICTION is that upgrade work on Highways #6 and #71 won't begin until sometime after 2003.



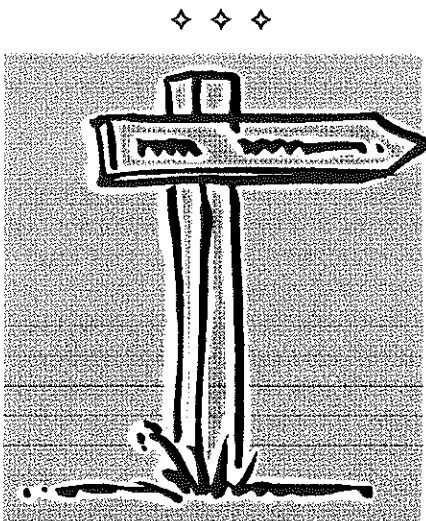
A SURVEY BY THE STATE'S Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicates that Minnesotans: a) favor lake protection, even if that means more restrictive rules; b) want lake management decisions based on biology rather than public opinion; c) believe the DNR listens to public concerns over fishing; d) support having tournament participants handle fish more carefully; and e) are willing to put up with more complex fishing regulations that focus on the needs of individual lakes.

NOTE: Ten-Milers in Action — Congratulations to:

– **JERRY KLOSS**, of Plymouth, MN and Blueberry Trail, TML, who received an award from KARE-11 Television as one of "Eleven Who Care." The program, shown on September 8, 1999 at 9 p.m., honored Minnesotans who have provided outstanding volunteer services to their communities. Jerry is blind, and both works and volunteers with Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. As an employee he visits agencies for the handicapped throughout Minnesota to talk to them about the benefits of guide dogs and how to acquire them. As a volunteer he visits schools to talk about blindness, using a guide dog and responding to blind people, accompanied, of course, by Kerwin, his yellow Labrador. He attributes his volunteerism to his gratitude upon receiving his own guide dog.

Jerry was nominated for the award by a fellow member of a men's support group now in its 17th year, and was selected by KARE-11 as one of 11 awardees out of 275 nominations. Jerry is also a ham radio operator, and since his retirement from MNDOT, works part time at the Courage Center in Golden Valley, as coordinator of the Center's Handi-Ham program, which teaches the handicapped to use ham radio.

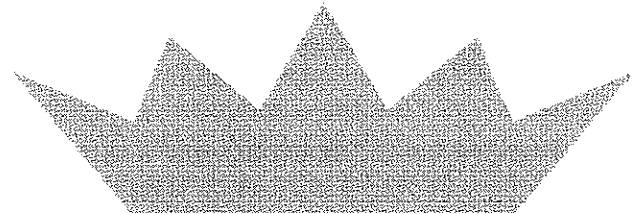
Jerry received an award of \$1100 to be given to his favorite charities, a Jefferson Award Medallion provided by the American Institute for Public Service, and a bronze sculpture by Bill Mack, the *11 Caring Tree*.



– **JOHN ALDEN**, WATERSHED COORDINATOR for the Ten Mile Lake Association, who has been retained by the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) to update the Board's model ordinance. John is owner of Environmental Planning Consulting, whose proposal for the project was accepted unanimously by the MHB.

A series of three public meetings will be held in each of the eight counties affected by the ordinance. Purpose of the revision is to protect the Mississippi river and Headwaters Lakes located in the eight counties. A January 1, 2001 deadline has been set for completing the project.

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– **EVELYN (EVIE) BRANDT**, of North Fort Myers, FL and Lower Ten Mile Lake Road, who knows a photo-op when she sees one. She saw a storm cloud moving in on a clear blue sky as the sun was setting on July 17, 1999 and took a color photograph, which she then sent in to KARE-11 TV. The picture was shown by the Minnesota NBC station on Friday night, August 27, 1999 as part of an ongoing effort by KARE-11 to broadcast good weather photographs taken by members of their audience. We are informed that Judy Bryngelson has a videotape of the broadcast.

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– **AL HOOVER**, a year-round Ten Mile Lake Resident, who received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Tri-County Leech Lake Watershed Project (TCLLWP) for his many dedicated hours of volunteer service in support of fiscal management for the Project. The award was given to Al at the 47th Annual Meeting of TMLA on August 7, 1999, by Gary Lyall, Vice-Chair of TCLLWP, during his keynote address to the Association.