

Ten Mile Lake Association

# Newsletter

Spring Edition, 2000

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! (1)**

**JUNE 17th WORKSHOP:**

**LAKESCAPING FOR WILDLIFE &  
WATER QUALITY**

Deep Portage is serving as host site for MN DNR's workshop, "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality," scheduled for

**Saturday, June 17, 2000**

**8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**At Deep Portage Conservation Preserve**

Workshop presenters will include Minnesota's top shoreland managers, educators, and landscape professionals, including Carrol Henderson, DNR Nongame Wildlife Program Supervisor, and Carolyn Dindorf, award-winning soil and water conservationist. The workshop includes morning classroom instruction and afternoon field exercises. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

**PRE-REGISTRATION** must be done through DNR, not Deep Portage. To register, call

**1-888-MINNDNR (toll-free)**

and request a registration form from the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program. The fee is \$15.

Register soon! Space is limited.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! (2)**

**TMLA ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Ten Mile Lake Association is scheduled for

**Saturday, August 5, 2000**

**Hackensack Senior Citizen's Center**

**9:30 a.m. — Coffee & Exhibits**

**10:00 a.m. to 12 noon — Meeting**

There will be more information in the next newsletter, but make a note now and plan to attend this important TMLA function in August.

## LAKESCAPING — PART II

*by Gail Becher*

*(This is the second article on lakescaping from our new Lakescaping Subcommittee. See the Fall 1999 issue for Part I.)*

Remember Lakescaping? This concept promotes maintaining natural shorelines where they presently exist, and restoring altered shorelines back to a more natural state. You can do this by preserving or creating a buffer zone of native vegetation between your lawn area and the deep water. On land, native trees, shrubs, sedges, grasses and wildflowers are planted, while in the water the growth of emergent, floating, and submergent aquatic plants is encouraged. Plants in the buffer zone create a network of long roots which stabilize the shoreline and hold back eroding soils. They enhance water quality as their roots absorb nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen and filter out pollutants before they enter the lake. The vegetation provides wildlife habitat on land and in the water and adds great beauty and interest to the visual landscape.

According to the MN DNR brochure, *The Water's Edge: Helping Fish and Wildlife on Your Lakeshore Property*, "You don't need to give up a green lawn and sandy beach to create a natural wildlife-friendly lakeshore. If you have 100 feet of shoreline, consider reverting 75 feet back to its natural condition and keeping 25 feet for a boat dock and swimming area. Same with your lawn. If you restore the last 30 feet or so down to the lake with natural vegetation, you can still keep plenty of lawn up near the house or cabin while helping ducks, songbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife."

Carolyn Dindorf, co-author of DNR's book, *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*, explains that "ideally, a shoreline should be restored by looking for undisturbed areas on the lake and mimicking the groupings of grasses, sedges, wildflowers, shrubs,

Continued, Page 2

**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
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**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

**Lakescaping, Part II (continued)**

and trees. A buffer zone should start out in the water and continue up onto the shoreline at least 50 feet, if possible. Plants used in a shoreline buffer should be native to the area. The shoreline buffer can vary from a carefully planned landscape to an area designed by nature. The buffer can be planted with seeds, plants, or with a combination of the two. Once the area is no longer maintained as lawn, native species . . . will grow."

When selecting plants for lakescaping, you'll want to use plants native to the area. These are best adapted to the local climate, and once established, seldom need watering, mulching, or protection from frost. Native plants typically have greater rooting depth and root density. For example, the roots of Little Blue Stem, a native grass, are about 2-3 feet long, whereas the roots of lawn grass are only 2-3 inches long. **Make sure the plants you acquire are not dug from the wild.** Taking plants from the wild depletes the resource, and wild species usually don't thrive after transplanting.

How can you get started? Pick an area of your lakeshore and simply leave it alone. Don't weed-whip or mow. If desired, take the next step and plan a grouping of native plants. Each portion of the lake's shoreline restored or preserved with native vegetation has a cumulative effect that future generations will thank us for. Break the tradition of having an urban lawn landscape across your entire lakefront! Start lakescaping now! Lakescaping will add color and interest to your view; you will spend less time mowing; erosion will be less likely; and the water will be cleaner and clearer.

MN DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program offers a wonderful book, *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*. (You'll get a copy if you register for the Workshop — see Page 1.) Another great resource guide is the U of MN Extension Service's *Shoreland Landscaping Series*.

Recently I spoke with Bonnie Hinniker, owner of Sunshine Gardens, outside of Pine River, about suitable native plants for shorelines. Here are a few she suggests:

**RED TWIG ISANTI DOGWOOD** — a lower growing shrub that grows 4-5 feet tall. It supports what Bonnie calls the 3 F's: nice flowers, nice fruit, nice fall color. Easy to grow, accepts full sun to partial shade.

**NATIVE DERVILLA HONEYSUCKLE** — low growing, thrives in full sun or partial shade, has yellow flowers in summer and rusty/maroon fall color. Spreads a great root system that holds soils.

**CANADA MILKVETCH** — a legume. This plant enriches soils, has a great root system, spreads fast, grows in poor soils, has a creamy flower which butterflies love, and grows for years and years compared to non-native crown vetch.

**NATIVE MONKEYFLOWER** — this plant thrives in wet soil up to 6 inches deep in water, has a purplish blue flower all summer, is good in some backwaters.



A few local nurseries sell native plant material. These include: **SUNSHINE GARDENS**, 1286 Shadywood Shores Dr. NW, Pine River. Owner: Bonnie Hinniker and Terry Talakson. Tel. 947-3154.

**DAINESBURG GREENHOUSE & NURSERY**, Hwy 34 & Camp Fish Road, Walker. Owner: John Dainesburg. Tel. 547-2407.

**MERV'S GREENHOUSE** — 3912 N Pleasant Lake Rd., Hackensack. Owner: Mary Parrish. Tel. 675-6169.

## HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

### REPORT ON HIGHWAY 371 CORRIDOR GROWTH PLAN

*by John Alden, Watershed Coordinator*

As we know, Highway 371 from Little Falls to Walker is experiencing tremendous development pressure and growth. Paul Fairbanks, Director of Cass County Environmental Services, has stated that "Our natural resources, transportation systems, and infrastructure are being compromised, and surface water and ground-water threatened." A comprehensive plan which coordinates the planning efforts of counties, towns, lake associations, native peoples, and state and federal agencies is strongly needed if we are to control the negative effects of this growth and to sustain the economic well-being of our community.

Cass and Crow Wing Counties have been granted \$77,000 by the Minnesota Planning Agency to develop a comprehensive plan for the Highway 371 Corridor from Ft. Ripley to Cass Lake. This grant will facilitate the development of comprehensive Land Use Plan updates for the counties, and a Corridor Growth Plan for municipalities such as Hackensack and Walker. The Plan will address such issues as transportation, land use, wellhead protection for community drinking water, storm water management, urban fringe questions, wetlands protection, and wastewater treatment.

The MN Department of Transportation (DOT) has offered staff time as well as financial resources to move the project forward. Their participation in this new planning effort is welcome, as we look to future DOT projects such as the resurfacing of Hwy. 371 from Hackensack to Walker in 2002. The proposed expansion of the Northern Lights Casino may also require DOT to upgrade traffic flow management at the "Y". The Brainerd bypass for Hwy. 371, scheduled for completion this year, will make these planning efforts even more critical for the Ten Mile area.

You can help with these decisions. There will be public meetings throughout the summer to discuss concerns for the present Hwy. 371 Corridor, and also to project what may be appropriate for future development. I have met with the consulting firm doing this plan, and I am encouraged by the fact that they intend to have a plan that will be implemented, rather than just put on a shelf. So please — attend these meetings! I will see that the meetings are announced in the "ON DECK" section of the *Walker Pilot Independent*.

### HIGHWAY #71 NEWS

**CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY #71** is scheduled for a calcium chloride application again this season, for the third year running. County Engineer Dave Enblom says that the work is scheduled for early June, depending on the weather. Treatment with the chemical reduces road dust, keeps gravel in place longer, and minimizes "washboarding."

Enblom also says that the two Highway #71 roadbed stretches that have been flooded for almost a year will be built up this summer so that the area can be reopened to traffic. Since that portion of Hwy. 71 was closed, vehicles have been detoured around it on Hiram Loop Road NW.



### ICE-UP AND FREEZE-OUT

Although many of the State's lakes had the earliest ice-out on record, that was not the case here at Ten Mile, at the data below demonstrate:

YEAR	ICE-OUT	FREEZE-UP
1988	April 30	Dec. 09
1989	May 04	Dec. 03
1990	April 26	Dec. 18
1991	April 26	Nov. 26
1992	April 21	Dec. 07
1993	April 24	Dec. 11
1994	April 22	Dec. 12
1995	May 03	Nov. 29
1996	May 18	Nov. 27
1997	April 28	Dec. 24
1998	April 12	Dec. 25
1999	April 24	Dec. 22
2000	April 18	

## A REPORT ON BOATING TRENDS

by Jim Schwartz, Associate Editor

A STUDY OF BOATING TRENDS in North Central Minnesota's lakes region since 1985 contains a few surprises and a good deal of what you probably already know or suspect. An example of the latter is that the researchers found that personal watercraft (PWC's or jet skis) usage (a) drew the most criticism and, (b) more than any other water surface activity, was singled out as needing new restrictions.

**SPECIFICALLY**, 18 percent of boaters judged PWC use as a "serious" or "very serious" potential problem. Other identified concerns were

- high speeds too close to docks/shore 7%
- noise 6%
- careless or inconsiderate operation 6%
- excessive speed in channels and crowded areas 5%
- high wake 5%
- boats not yielding the right-of-way 4%
- large boats (over 24 feet) 3%
- boating and drinking 2%
- a near miss or collision 2%

**HERE ARE OTHER** findings of the study, conducted cooperatively by divisions of the Department of Natural Resources (Note: Ten Mile Lake was not included in the original 1987 survey but was a part of the 1998 survey of 54 lakes):

- Runabout and cruiser numbers are on the increase (from 33 percent of total to 43 percent), while fishing boat percentages are decreasing (from 51 percent to 35 percent) and pontoons are increasing slightly (12 percent to 15 percent).
- Average boat length in feet has gone up from 16 feet to 18 feet, and average horsepower from 46 to 93.
- Boat rides are more popular (26 percent to 38 percent) while fishing has slipped from 61 percent of total boating activity to 48 percent. Water skiing interest faded from 10 percent to 5 percent, and an "other" category climbed from 3 percent to 9 percent.
- Boating intensity in the North Central region is relatively light (1 boat per 100 acres at peak times) compared with lakes in the Twin Cities Metro area (4.9 boats per 100 acres). No trend toward greater boating intensity was identified,

even though registrations are up by about 20 percent. Boaters, however, believe the lakes are more crowded (from 5 percent who in 1985 thought the lakes were getting too crowded to 14 percent in 1998, plus another 2 percent who rated lakes as being "far too crowded" in 1998.

- Some nominal changes were apparent as to where boats are coming from (these figures exclude Mille Lacs). Public access use has increased from 17 percent to 26 percent; commercial access use, such as resorts and private facilities, has gone down from 23 percent to 18 percent; the remainder (primarily riparian resident) fell from 60 percent to 56 percent.)
- The question of who uses public accesses provided this breakdown:
  - traditional public access user down from 83 percent to 62 percent
  - resort and campground user up from 3 percent to 13 percent
  - lakeshore home owner up from 14 percent to 25 percent.

The researchers suggest all boat owners might be using public accesses more regularly because the increasing size of boats and motors dictates the need for launching these craft at a well-designed access facility.

- Most frequently mentioned problems using public accesses were
  - too few parking spaces
  - the need for more launch lanes and ramps
  - need for a beacon light visible from the lake
  - need for more trash containers and public toilets.

Boaters favoring an initial or another public access on the particular lake at the time of the study complained of congestion, difficult launching, or a wrong location. Most boaters, however, rated public areas as either excellent (37 percent) or good (46 percent).

A SUMMARY of the study is available on the MN DNR World Wide Web home page (look under 'lakes') at:

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

## From the Notebook

by Jim Schwartz

A FOUNTAIN OF weather-related articles is spewing into the media these days, and most of them suggest the global warming debate is moving toward resolution: (a) that it is a reality, and (b) that we are already experiencing its early manifestations. Rod Sando, former DNR Commissioner, cites indicators illustrating how Minnesota is being affected: opossums in the State's northern reaches, raccoons 500 miles beyond the Minnesota/Canadian border (where previously they were unknown), the gray fox heading north — each of these is an example of how nature's more adaptable creatures adjust to environmental change.

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BUT WHAT ABOUT those species that are not so mobile, such as turtles and other amphibians? Sando believes their future could be problematic as temperatures creep upward and the predicted drier weather settles upon the Midwest. If they are to survive, he thinks they must have help from the only species in a position to provide it: us. We are, after all, the planet's stewards.

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THE PLIGHT OF HELPLESS creatures is a microcosmic glimpse of what could become our own struggle with the elements. A Minnesota study sketches a backdrop for what is occurring and speculates about what lies ahead if the trends continue. Consider: 1998 was the warmest year of the century and possibly of the millenium. The eleven warmest years of the 1900's have been recorded since 1981, and the warmest six since 1990. It's a pattern which, a panel of government scientists speculated in a February report, could persist for years to come. Temperatures have risen more rapidly in this century than at any time in the last 10,000 years. Carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) concentrations in the atmosphere are 30 percent higher than in pre-industrial times, and, says Paul Douglas, WCCO-TV meteorologist, will likely have doubled by 2050.

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DOUGLAS ALSO REPORTED that this winter was the warmest on record for the United States, and the 16th driest in 106 years of record-keeping. The nation's previous warmest winter was 1998-99, and the record before that was the winter of 1997-98. In the last 20 years, more than two-thirds of the country's winters have been warmer than average.

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WHAT COULD THAT MEAN for Minnesota? A recent report points out that ours is the only state on the continent where three different ecosystems meet: prairies of the West, hardwood forests of the East, and conifer forests of the North. That remarkable diversity is certain to be threatened if the Earth warms, as predicted, by up to 7°F over the next 100 years. Climate records at Fort Snelling show temperatures increasing in Minnesota between the 1850's and 1997 by three times the worldwide average. If that should persist, the study suggests, the consequences could lead to, among other things, disruption of agriculture, decimated and disappearing forests, a significant loss of fisheries, changes in water quality, more frequent droughts and floods, and rapid declines of wetlands.

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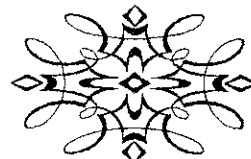
CLOSER TO HOME, the effect on the Ten Mile lake area might look like this: lower lake and river levels; warmer water temperatures; drying wetlands; a decline in water quality; later freeze-up and earlier ice-out; thinner ice and snow cover; greater danger of forest fire; slow changes in flora and fauna (fewer pine, more hardwoods; a different animal and bird mix); fewer cold-water fishes (such as trout and cisco) and more warm-water fishes (such as bass).

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ARE THESE CHANGES inevitable? Well, not necessarily. But, unless we change our ways, the probability mounts. What can we do? Burn less fossil fuel, drive more fuel-efficient cars, equip watercraft with four-cycle rather than two-cycle power whenever a choice is possible, fight pollution, support growth of clean energy technologies, reduce our energy consumption (use less hot water, cut shower time, buy efficient light bulbs, turn the thermostat down a bit in the winter and up a notch in the summer, and so on.) "The decisions we make today," contends Douglas, "will have a profound impact on the future quality of life, not just for Minnesota, but world-wide."

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THE REPORT REFERRED to is entitled *'Playing With Fire, 1999, Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy.'* You can obtain a copy by contacting ME3 at Tel. 651-225-0878, or read it online at <http://www.me3.org/issues/climate/withfire99.html>.



## WHERE HAVE ALL THE SONGBIRDS GONE?

by Carl Hertzman

*(Carl Hertzman, a member of the Environment and Ecology Committee, is a frequent contributor to these pages. In this article, he expresses his concern about what he fears is a sharp decline in songbird migratory numbers.)*

**YOU MAY REMEMBER** that a few years ago I wrote an article about the spectacular fall (mid-August to mid-September) migration of neotropical songbird species (mostly warblers and vireos) along the shores of Ten Mile Lake. Well, in 1997, I noted a drop in the numbers, which worsened in 1998 and became almost non-existent in 1999. These were mostly birds that inhabit forests (and does not apply to hummingbirds).

**SCIENTISTS CAN NOW TRACK** where these birds winter by specific isotopes present in the birds' blood, based on the area of origin. The isotopes have shown that these migrants are faithful in returning to a specific area in the tropics in winter as well as where they nest in the summer. If the winter habitat is destroyed, the number of birds summering in a particular area may seriously decrease.

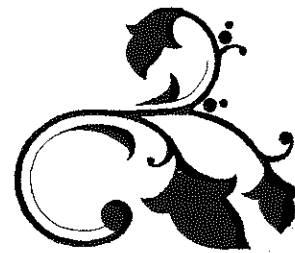
**THIS COULD BE HAPPENING** at Ten Mile. (I am told that the number of spring migrants is down considerably as well.) However, this is conjectural, as I don't know how widespread the phenomenon is in Minnesota. Overall it is a complex issue. Songbirds such as the indigo bunting that inhabit fields are maintaining healthy populations. However, woodlots are not large enough to prevent songbird nest predation by raccoons, skunks, feral cats, etcetera. Cowbirds are having a major impact on some songbirds, including wood thrushes.

**ANOTHER POSSIBILITY** for Ten Mile is that the migrants have changed their migration pattern, though this is unusual. Our forests are extensive enough in Northern Minnesota that I doubt the problem resides there. Incidentally, there has been a major decline in grassland species in the prairies, such as certain sparrows, upland sandpipers, etcetera. One culprit is early mowing before the young have fledged in the fields. For forest dwelling birds, I see a dramatic decline at Ten Mile in the red-eyed vireo, which has a monotonous song, and at one time was our most common eastern songbird in the forests.

## ABOUT BINOCULARS . . .

*(Referring to an earlier article in which he discussed the selection of binoculars, Carl Hertzman adds the following information.)*

Roof Prism models in binoculars have recently come on the market that can focus to 6' -7'. With these binoculars one can not only watch birds but can also observe butterflies, insects, and other life forms up close. Two good medium-priced models are the Celestron 8x42 Regal or Eagle and the Pentax 8x42 DCF WP. There is also an excellent book on butterfly identification now, much better than anything previously on the market, called *Butterflies Through Binoculars*, by Glassberg.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! (3) WELL WATER TESTING DAY SATURDAY, JULY 15

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** now for this season's Well Water Testing Day: July 15. Procedures will be the same as they have been in past years. Testing kits may be picked up and returned between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at either of two sites: for the North Shore, at Buzz Converse's workshop driveway, and for South Shore residents, the turnoff area for what in an earlier day was the Woock Store.

**COST FOR THE TESTING KIT** is \$15 per sample. Water is analyzed for total coliform and nitrate. When drawing samples, remove any aerator and run the water for about 5 minutes; then fill the sampling bottle. Do not touch either the spout, the rim of the test container or the inner area of the bottle cap. If the sample becomes contaminated by careless handling, testing integrity can be compromised. The test sample should be taken from the faucet most often used to supply drinking water.

## THE SHORT OF IT

by Jim Schwartz, Associate Editor

**ALTHOUGH MOST** of the emphasis in the ongoing exotic species discussion has centered on Eurasian water milfoil as the bad critter it is, there are others: zebra mussel, spiny water flea, curly leaf pondweed, round goby, sea lamprey, rusty crayfish, ruffe. Now another species enters the picture. It is the fishhook flea, a tiny marine crustacean that already has invaded the Finger Lakes of New York as well as the great lakes. And, like most exotics, it is a nuisance, gathering into gelatinous masses that foul anglers' lines and devouring food needed by native species. Altogether, these exotics account for some \$123 billion in damage annually in the U.S. They are, as you can see, a monster headache for natural resource agencies and for lake lovers alike. Thus far, efforts at control have met with only limited success.

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**THE MORE I LEARN** about waste water treatment the more I understand how critical good septic system management is. Periodic pumping (every three to five years) is essential for removal of accumulating sludge and scum. There are also some critical no-no's. Keep the following products out of septic systems: antibacterial soaps (they kill useful bacteria); harsh cleaning products, bleaches and detergents; toilet tank cleaners; paints, chemicals and medications; feminine hygiene and plastic products; grease, lint, and food; additives that claim to make your septic system work more efficiently (they don't). And finally, cut back on your water use.

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**ONE GOOD REASON** for reducing the flow of nitrogen into a lake is that Eurasian water milfoil doesn't seem to thrive in nitrogen-poor lakes. Although we can't do much about nature's contribution, technologies are being developed for "filtering" nitrates from waste system effluents. That, and growing nitrogen-feeding plants on one's lot, could help to decrease the amount of this nutrient reaching the lake from shoreland plots.

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**JIM WILLIAMS**, of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, writing in a *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* column, says that shade-grown coffee is good for both the environment and the birds. It's favorable to the environment, he says, because the farmer does not

have to clear-cut the forest to create cropland. And it's good for birds because the trees and shaded plants provide foraging habitat, harboring insects and other food. Many bird species that winter in coffee-growing tropical areas summer in North America. A few shade-grown coffee brand names are *Dos Gallos*, *Constellation*, *Song Bird*, *Peace Coffee*, *Rainforest*, and *Cloudforest*.

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**LAST YEAR'S BEAR HARVEST** was, according to the DNR, "disappointing." Game managers had hoped hunters would take around 5,000 of the critters. Instead, the annual hunt accounted for only about 3,000. That means the bear population of some 27,500 last fall will increase to more than 30,000 this spring. So, if you had bear problems last season, don't look for a year 2000 reprieve.

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**ALGAE ARE VITAL** links in the food chain, but when they multiply too rapidly they become a nuisance. In Minnesota there are almost 150 lakes and stream segments that are considered "impaired" because of excessive algae concentrations. Now, the DNR is proposing that nearly 200 bodies of water be added to the list, most of them in the Twin Cities area. The point here is that as nutrient levels increase so do algae numbers. That's why I harp as much as I do about managing lake properties in ways that will keep nutrients out.

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**STILL ANOTHER** global warming indicator: A study reported in the journal *Science* says that the temperature of the world's oceans has shown a dramatic increase over the past four decades. Whether that change forecasts a warmer climate is, as you might expect, a debatable point. But NASA's climate guru, James Hansen, believes the rate of oceanic heat storage is "the single most important number" needed to check our understanding of decadal climate change. As oceans heat up, the atmosphere does as well, and that bolsters the argument that global warming is continuing.

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**THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** has issued regulations that took effect in April banning water scooters (PWC's) from scores of parks and seashores. Included: Voyageurs National Park, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and 64 other sites throughout the country. The watercraft will be permitted in recreational areas where they have been most used in past years. Reasons for the ban: To cut down on noise and to reduce pollution of the air and water.

## THE HISTORY PAGE

(It has been suggested that each issue of the *Newsletter* include something on the history of Ten Mile Lake. Here is an article provided by Ellie (Macklin) Nelson, written by her brother, Bill Macklin, and first printed in the *New Ulm Journal* in 1976, in Bill's column called the *Billboard*. It is reprinted by permission.)

### THREE MATRIARCHS OF TEN MILE LAKE

by Bill Macklin

In 1936, Grandma [Bill and Ellie's mother, Ada Pingrey Macklin] decided to spend a small inheritance for a cabin on a northern Minnesota lake. With six children to be educated, the country still trying to shake off the Great Depression, it seemed frivolous.

This summer, 40 years later, when we presented Grandma — now 83 — with a cake containing 40 candles and sang the anniversary song, she had confirmation that she had invested wisely.

Five of her children, four of their spouses, 19 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren vacationed at the lake this summer.

**GRANDMA FOUND** the lake, Ten Mile near Hackensack, by luck. She took two children and went on a camping trip through northern Minnesota in 1936 checking a list of lake lots offered for lease by the state and federal government.

Unimpressed, she headed home for Litchfield. On Hwy. 371, she saw a sign, "Camp Iowa." From Iowa, Grandma decided to stay the night. A mile west of the highway, she came on Ten Mile Lake, a pearl in the pines, with some sandy beaches, rocky shores overhung with giant pines and three marshy bays, where the

mallards nest and the northernns spawn, and water clean enough to drink. Grandpa approved, and she bought 200 feet of shore.

**THE FOLLOWING** summer she built the cabin with the rest of her inheritance. It was big enough for her large family, but without the *Better Homes and Gardens* interior. It would be years before the studs would be covered with knotty pine boards, windows would finish the porch, flush plumbing replace the privy, and REA lace electricity through the woods.

But she didn't economize on the fireplace, a split rock beauty that runs exposed up two floors and out a cathedral ceiling. Around that fireplace on rainy, chilly nights, the family built a camaraderie that knits the members voluntarily where blood ties are inherited without choice.

**AT LEAST** two other matriarchs were at the lake this summer. Mrs. Pietrus Peterson, who lives in a retirement home at Lincoln, NE spent a week with two of her daughters and spouses and grandchildren at their cabin down the bay.

She is 89, and has been summering at Bachelor Bay, Ten

Mile Lake, for 40 years. She and her husband and three other families — all from out of state — acquired 1,600 feet of shoreline, divided it, and built cabins.

Their children grew up using kerosene lamps, wooden row-boats, and outhouses — equipment of the "good old days" now seldom found up north.

**MRS. GEORGE BRANDT**, an 85-year-old widow who lives in a retirement home in St. Paul, spent most of the summer at the cabin she has been coming to for 51 years. Three of her sons have their own cabins, two of them on an island purchased 40 years ago by a wise father. A causeway links them to the mainland; the island has building sites for several more generations.

The fourth generation of Brandts swim, sail, and fish in summer, coming up from the Twin Cities and Kansas City.

For three matriarchs of Ten Mile Lake, it was a vintage summer, a time to enjoy their families in a beautiful setting of happy memories. When you are fortunate enough to have a lake cabin, you don't have to wait for weddings, graduations, or funerals to bring kinfolk together.



## MAY WATER LEVEL SAME AS NOVEMBER: 1379.34'

by Tom Cox, Chair, Water Level Management Committee

Walt Kane's May 5 reading of the DNR water level gauge in Long's Bay is the same as last fall's final November 1 reading, 1379.34', which is .75' or nine inches below last summer's highest reading of 1380.09' on August 21. Walt's practice is to take an end-of-season reading on November 1, and a beginning-of-season reading on or about May 1.

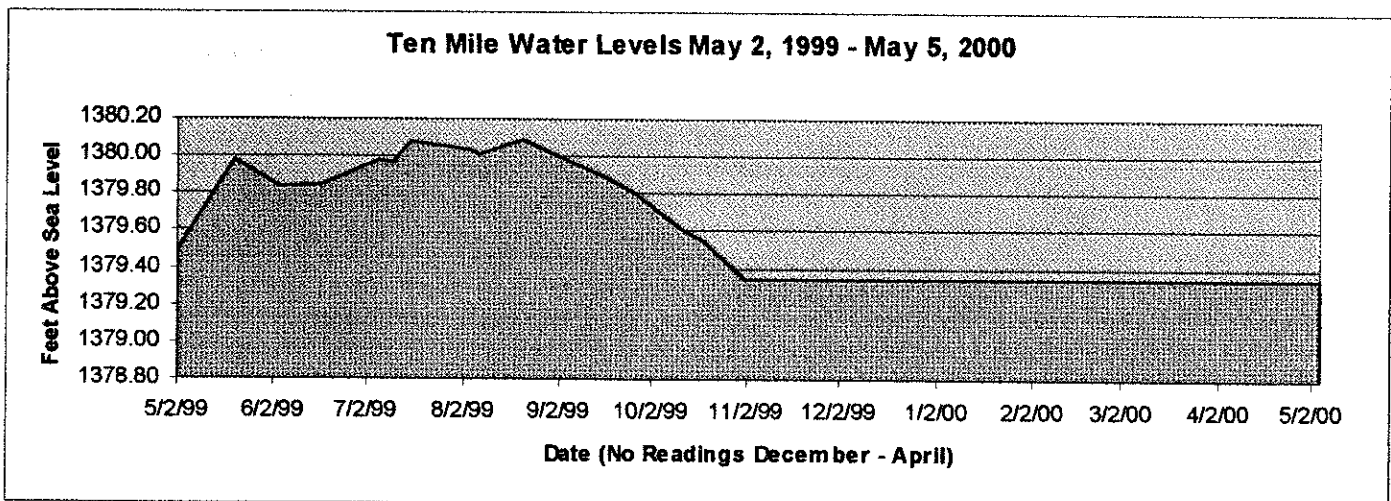
Readers of this column may remember last summer's heightened concern over high lake levels. Last summer's conversations with the Birch Lake Association and with County Commissioners Glenn Witham and Joanne Pels led to widespread reconsideration of the management of the Birch Lake Spillway. Within certain limits, the spillway influences the levels of both Birch and Ten Mile. Upon the recommendation of the TMLA, at their meeting on September 21 the County Commissioners directed the Office of the County Engineer to resume management of the spillway in keeping with the terms of the 1976 DNR construction permit, pending the completion of a Boy River Watershed Hydrological Study. The DNR Permit calls for a six-inch high steel stop log to be installed when water drops to a height six inches above the spillway sill, and to be removed

when water rises above that six-inch height above the sill. Water Level Management Committee member Don Brown kept tabs on the level at the spillway throughout the fall. In mid-December, when the water had dropped nearly to its lowest allowable height, Don talked with Gordon Friday, President of the Birch Lake Association, and Gordon alerted the Engineer's office. The Engineer installed the stop log on December 13.

This spring, on May 9, with the log still in place and water flowing about two inches over the top of the wing walls, Ten Mile Committee member George Brandt spoke with Commissioner Glenn Witham. Mr. Witham contacted the Engineer, who removed the stop log on or about May 10.

At this writing, the presidents of the two associations are planning further review of spillway management practice. Meanwhile, development of a Boy River Watershed Hydrological Study concept is under way. Please stay tuned.

Note: DNR's measured level of Birch Lake is normally about six inches lower than that of Ten Mile.



### DNR Gauge Readings by Walt Kane (.10 Ft. = 1.2 Inches)

May 2, 1999	1379.50
May 20, 1999	1379.98
June 4, 1999	1379.84
June 17, 1999	1379.85
July 6, 1999	1379.98

July 10, 1999	1379.97
July 16, 1999	1380.08
August 4, 1999	1380.03
August 7, 1999	1380.01
August 21, 1999	1380.09

September 18, 1999	1379.88
September 27, 1999	1379.80
October 12, 1999	1379.61
October 19, 1999	1379.55
November 1, 1999	1379.34
May 5, 2000	1379.34

## REMEMBERING OUR TEN MILE LAKE FRIENDS

### Stephen Chase

Stephen Chase, 75, for many years a Director of the Ten Mile Lake Association and an active member of its committees, died March 16 at the Woodrest Nursing Home in Walker.

Mr. Chase was born in 1924 in Chicago, IL to Stephen and Florence Chase. He grew up and attended school in Kenilworth, IL and graduated from Carleton College and Harvard Business School. He was a member of the Rotary Club, the Volunteer Coast Guard, and Eagle Scouts, and was the head of Concerned Parents for Berkeley Students in the 1960's.

Mr. Chase is survived by his wife, Elinor; three sons: Stephen Jay, David G., and Roy E.; one daughter, Katherine C.; four grandchildren; a sister, Nancy Rogers; a niece; and cousins.

### Ray Ann Putney

Ray Ann Putney, 73, a summer resident for 30 years at the family's Ten Mile Lake home, died February 11 at Carefree, Arizona.

Mrs. Putney was born in 1926 in Ottawa, KA to Charles and Ethel Reinhart. In 1942 she moved to Des Moines, IA, where she lived until 1991, when she and her husband became residents of Carefree.

Mrs. Putney was an avid golfer and was involved in various women's golf activities in Des Moines, Carefree, and at Tianna Country Club in Walker. She was also an aviation enthusiast and earned her private pilot's license in 1944. She had a long and active career as fashion director for Younkers, Inc., and was involved in her communities and the Episcopal Church, whether in Des Moines, Onigum, or Carefree.

Mrs. Putney is survived by her husband, Mark; a daughter, Andi; two sons, William and Blake; a grandson, Jon; and a grand-daughter, Marki.

### Marie Clarke Goss

Marie Clarke Goss, 87, a regular summer visitor at the family residence on Chariton Beach, died October 12 at the Minnesota Masonic Home Care Center in Bloomington, MN. She was born in 1912 in Chevy Chase, MD.

Mrs. Goss earned a Master's Degree in botany from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She married Warren Goss in 1936 in Chevy Chase. Her husband's career took the couple to various locations before they settled in Minneapolis in

1947, where Mr. Goss was named Associate Director of Research and Development with Pillsbury Mills, Inc. In 1981, Mrs. Goss founded the Association of Library Friends, a metro-wide system that allows libraries to share books. A politically active person, Mrs. Goss was Secretary of the Minnesota Republican Party in the 1960's. A few years later, she turned her interests toward such non-partisan groups as the League of Women Voters.

In 1971, Mrs. Goss was elected to the Minneapolis Library Board, and later served as its President. In 1981, she was recognized as the American Library Association Trustee of the Year. She also was involved in the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Citizens' League, the Citizens' Committee on Public Education, the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, and the Metropolitan Cultural Arts Center.

Mrs. Goss is survived by two daughters, Annie and Helen; a son, Albert; five grandsons, and four great-grandsons.

### Irwin Wayne Milliken

Irwin "Red" Wayne Milliken, 66, died December 4 at Mason City, IA. He and his family spent many months at the Milliken residence on the South Shore.

Mr. Milliken was born in 1933 in Napier, IA to Wayne and Neva Milliken. He grew up in Ames, IA, and was graduated from Ames High School in 1951 and from Drake University in Des Moines in 1974. He married Marna Cole in Ames in 1952.

Mr. Milliken, a financial advisor, was actively involved in his community, serving as an inspiration to his colleagues and to the many athletic teams he coached and sponsored. He is survived by his wife, Marna; three sons, Scott, Joe, and Cole; a daughter, Melody; his mother, Neva; and six grandchildren.

### Ruth Jameson

Ruth Jameson, at one time a resident of the South Shore area, died April 1 at Nevada, IA. She was born April 22, 1908, in Blairsburg, IA and lived most of her life in Ames, IA. Mrs. Jameson was educated at Ames High School, Iowa State University, and St. Joseph's Academy in Des Moines.

On June 22, 1931, she married Walter Jameson. She was a member of St. John's by the Campus Episcopal Church, and of Beta Tau Delta sorority.

Mrs. Jameson is survived by one daughter, Mary, and a son, Harold. She was preceded in death by her husband, a son, and two sisters.

## A WARNING FROM LAKE TAHOE

by Jim Schwartz, Associate Editor

A SCIENTIFIC STUDY whose findings were released in mid-February warns that Lake Tahoe could, within the next decade, lose its fabled clarity forever. Transparency readings have declined from 105 feet in 1960 to 66 feet now, an average loss of about a foot a year.

The culprit, of course, is pollution, and it's coming from many sources: development, vehicular exhausts, airborne nutrients from upwind communities, wood smoke, erosion, and a variety of other human activities. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and certain other nutrients are triggering algae blooms that turn Lake Tahoe's waters into what is termed a "murky green."

THE RESEARCH TEAM described the situation as urgent and said "It's going to take some dramatic measures to turn things around." A few of the suggestions:

- curb vehicle use in the basin and transport people by light rail or buses fueled by natural gas
- relocate major highways away from the lake, and
- create ecological buffers (marshes) between roads and the lake to capture and treat runoff before it reaches the lake.

Although Lake Tahoe and Ten Mile are far different bodies of water, there are similarities in the problems each faces. Pollutants from the air, erosion, surface run-off, lawn fertilizers, faulty septic systems and combustion exhausts (land and marine) enter Ten Mile Lake constantly and encourage periodic algae blooms. Whatever turns out to be the fate of Lake Tahoe, whose pollution sources both mirror and differ from ours, the best chance we have to maintain Ten Mile's beauty and quality is to dedicate ourselves, individually and collectively, to a proactive, watershed-wide preservation philosophy. So far, Ten Milers have responded wonderfully, and there is no reason to think that won't continue to be the case in the future. It will pay off.

[Information for the Lake Tahoe portion of this account was drawn from an article in *The Arizona Republic* (Feb. 19, 2000) furnished me by Fred Brosius.]

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Bob Crom, TMLA President

Because our June 3rd Board meeting has not yet taken place, but will have by the time this Newsletter arrives in your mailbox, I can only alert you to some of the interesting and important items on the agenda. These include concerns about high water levels, shoreline erosion, property evaluation increases, tax rates on seasonal residential and homesteaded properties, watercraft safety, and more. If you have ideas or concerns about any of these issues, I hope you will contact the appropriate TMLA Board member. (See the list on Page 2.)

I would take this opportunity to report that, in keeping with the TMLA Board's recommendation, the Cass County Commissioners agreed at their September 21 hearing to instruct the Highway Department to follow stipulations of the 1976 construction permit in regulating the flow from the Birch Lake Dam. The log was out throughout the fall, installed for a period during the winter months, and was removed again during the second week of May.

We will look forward to reporting on decisions and actions related to these topics in the next issue of the Newsletter and at the TMLA Inc. Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 5, at the Hackensack Senior Citizen Center.

## UPDATE REPORT ON THE NORTH TEN MILE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

Tim Thatcher, president of the North Ten Mile Lake Sanitary Sewer District cooperative, says that the system is up and running. While work remains to be done on yard restoration and grading, he hopes that this work will be completed shortly. He notes that the real test of the system will be the July 4th weekend.

Tim notes that a number of additional homeowners have expressed an interest in extending the system to include more properties.

## THE SAILING NEWS

(From *the squall line*, Newsletter of the Ten Mile Lake Yacht & Tennis Club, No. 10, Spring 2000)

The Ten Mile Lake Yacht and Tennis Club now lists 25 boats enrolled in the Club. Of these, eight boats participated on the two race days held in 1999, though not all the same eight boats.

On the fourth of July, strong winds caused one tipping and one crew member overboard, but two races were completed, both won by **Ki Hoffman**. For the Memorial Cup race on July 17, strong winds required that the second race be canceled; the first race was won again by **Ki Hoffman**.

The year's third race, the Moxness Cup, had to be canceled entirely because of total lack of wind. Season standings: **Ki Hoffman** first, **Mimi Carlson** 2nd, and **Tom Sigveland** third.

At the end-of-the-year Awards Ceremony, **Patty and Tom Brandt** donated a new third place trophy

for the 4th of July race, in memory of **Jim Brandt, Sr. Lolly and Chris Brandt** will donate a new third place trophy for the Memorial Cup named the L.C. (Heidi) Brandt trophy.

Race Dates for 2000 have been announced as

**Fourth of July Race**                      **Sunday, July 2**

**Memorial Cup**                                **Saturday, July 22**

**Moxness Cup**                                **Saturday, August 5**

All regattas will consist of two races with a start time of 1:30 p.m. (including Sunday, July 2). If canceled, the race will be rescheduled for 10:30 the next day — including the risk of a Monday, July 3 race. If canceled again, the races will be scheduled for 1:30 p.m. the following Saturday.