

Ten Mile Lake Association

Newsletter

Fall, 2003

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

TEN MILE LAKE CALENDAR FOR 2004

WATERCRAFT OPERATOR'S

PERMIT TRAINING Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. June 25, 2004
At the Hackensack Community Center

WELL WATER TESTING Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. July 17, 2004
At former Woock's Store (South Shore) and
Jerry Mill's Garage (North Shore)

ANNUAL MEETING Saturday
9:30 a.m. August 7, 2004
At the Hackensack Senior Center

TMLA BOARD MEETINGS Saturdays
9:00 a.m.
At Don Willis's May 29, 2004
At Al Hoover's June 19, 2004
At Dave Losby's July 17, 2004
At Tom Cox's August 21, 2004
At Lorraine Stromquist's September 18, 2004

**DEADLINE FOR SENDING IN MATERIAL
FOR NEWSLETTERS:**
Spring Issue May 17, 2004
Summer Issue June 21, 2004
Fall Issue September 1, 2004

ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDED BY RECORD NUMBER

The Annual Meeting of the Ten Mile Lake Association was attended by at least 155 persons, believed to be a record attendance. The membership heard **Patrick Welle** and **Charles Parson** of Bemidji State University, who discussed their recently published study of Water Clarity and Lakeshore Values, sponsored by the Mississippi Headwaters Board. Because for the short term a grassy lawn down to the beach will raise a given property's value, but the same lawn over time will contribute to water pollution, Welle and Parson recommended that local governments develop serious incentives to urge owners to restore and maintain natural shoreline buffer areas.

The Association elected the following persons as new officers: **Tom Cox**, President; **Al Griggs**, Vice President; **Joyce McManus**, Treasurer; and **Anne McGill**, Secretary. **Elinor Chase** was selected as a new Resident Director, and **Ken Regner** as new Summer Resident Director. The Association also recognized the contributions of **Stan Benbrook**, **Tate Lane**, **Larry Urbanski**, and **Bob Crabb**, each retired after 9 years on the Board of Directors; and **Don Willis**, who retired from the Presidency and became Chair of the Advisory Committee.

FOUND: A PAIR OF GLASSES

As he helped to clean up after the Annual Meeting, **Walt Kane** found a pair of horn-rimmed glasses, left behind by a member. If you lost a pair of glasses at the meeting, please call Walt at 218-675-6193. He is saving them for you.

Ten Mile Lake Association Officers

Tom Cox, President 675-6844
 Al Griggs, Vice-Pres. 675-6312
 Joyce McManus, Treasurer 675-6266
 Anne McGill, Secretary 675-6652

Resident Directors

Gail Becher 547-3214
 Elinor Chase 547-3924
 Heidi Hoppe 675-6265
 Bob Horn 675-5314
 Jerry Mills 547-1164
 Lorraine Stromquist 675-6813

Summer Resident Directors

Ray Black 675-6903
 Sue Eikenberry 675-6183
 Don Harris 675-6285
 Dave Losby 675-6066
 Ken Regner 675-5464
 Randy Vosbeck 547-3840

Watershed Coordinator

John Alden 547-3114

Committees

Adopt-A-Highway - David Losby (South), Mollie Bliska, Sandy Birkholz, Judy Bryngelson, Elaine Crabb, Cary & Janet George, Sally Helsman, Bob and Nancy Horn, Paul & Carolyn Krech, Homer Olsen, Erik & Lise Olsen-Dufour, Rod Owre, Sharon Peterson, Ken Regner, Don Willis, Robert Nelson (North), Phoebe and John Alden, Jerry Mills, Don Patterson, Larry Urbanski

Advisory Committee - Don Willis, Jack Adams, Bob Crom, Al Hoover, Ross Melgaard, Jim Miller, Jim Schwartz, Stan Skaug

Environment & Ecology - Gail Becher, Ken Regner, Jack Adams, John Alden, Fred Brosius, Pat Carey, Bruce Carlson, Al Griggs, Carl Hertzman, Bob Iversen, Marty McCleery, Ross Melgaard, Tom Moore, Brad Putney, Bob Rydell, Dick Sampel, Jim Schwartz, Judy Seward, Fred Shrimpton, Lorraine Stromquist, Forrest Watson, Don Willis

Environ. Protection Fund - Al Hoover, Ray Black, Rod Owre, Stan Skaug

Finance - Al Hoover, Jack Adams, Tom Cox, Al Griggs, David Losby, Ross Melgaard, Ted Melby, Nick Melby, Jim Miller, Randy Vosbeck

Fisheries - Don Brown, Larry Urbanski, Pat Carey, Adam Gislason, Bob Horn, Dick Horn, Chet Malek, Rod Owre, Karl Reuland, Jim Schwartz

Handbook/Directory - Gail Becher, Phoebe Alden, Sarah Cox

Healthy Lakes - Marty McCleery, John Alden, Gail Becher, Tom Cox, Bob Crom, Ken Regner, Don Willis

History - Lorraine Stromquist, Stan Benbrook, Don Buck, Tom Cox, Sue Eikenberry, Mariana Goodwin, Deb Hamilton, Chuck Hamsa, Anne McGill, Ross Melgaard, Kim Moe, Larry Urbanski

Lake Level - Walt Kane, Don Brown

Lake Level Mgmt. - Tom Cox, John Alden, Don Brown, Dan Eikenberry, Walt Kane, Marty McCleery, Ray Raetz, Jim Schwartz

Lake Safety - Don Harris, Pat Gjevre, John McManus, Jerry Mills, Bob Moe, Sharon Peterson, Brad Putney, Mary Ann Schmidt, Jerry Unger

Loons - Dick Horn, Bob Moe, Dave Byers, Bob Crom, Chet Malek, Lynn Martin, Kim Moe, Ken Regner, Murry Towler

Membership Coord. - Phoebe Alden

Newsletter - Sarah Cox, Ed.: Jim Schwartz

Zoning & Land Use - Randy Vosbeck, John Alden, Elinor Chase, Pat Golden, Ted Melby, Bob Nelson, Ellie Nelson, Don Patterson, Dick Roberts

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Tom Cox, TMLA President

One July morning this summer, our 9-year-old granddaughter, Stephanie, who was with her mother in our guest cabin, suddenly suffered a seizure. The first thing Sarah did was to call 911. Soon we heard sirens on Lower Ten Mile Lake Road. Hackensack First Responder **Julie Rono** arrived, followed moments later by the Walker Ambulance Service. By then Stephanie had regained consciousness, but after a careful examination, the health and rescue specialists whisked her off for an MRI at St. Joseph's Hospital in Park Rapids, from which she went on to Fargo for further tests. She was home again that evening, and all turned out well. In the meantime all of the gathered Cox family were grateful for the readiness of the First Responders and the Ambulance Service crew to respond to our emergency call.

Did you know that the TMLA will match gifts you make to First Response when you make them through the Association? We don't have the identical policy with regard to the Walker Ambulance service, but Walker Ambulance welcomes contributions as well. If you're ever in the mood, as I am right now, to support these local services, you may send your First Response contribution payable to the TMLA, P.O. Box 412, Hackensack MN, 56452. You can also send a check directly to the Walker Ambulance Service, 513 Front Street, Walker, MN 56484.

On the community front, this summer we've seen plans for all three of our circumscribing county highways, #6, #50 and #71, move ahead. Traffic flowed over the new CSAH #6 Boy River bridge beginning August 27th, and highway #6 widening and resurfacing will start next spring. Cass County will begin work on relocation of CSAH #50 this winter, and we have seen plans for CSAH #71 paving and realignment to begin perhaps in 2005. In July, as an association we completed our purchase of environmentally sensitive property in Kenfield Bay. In August some 155 TMLA members and friends - possibly a record - attended our 51st Annual Meeting. Meanwhile our Association Committees have been diligently at work, as can be seen from articles published elsewhere in this summer's newsletters.

Ours is a vibrant and dynamic association, one that continues, year in and year out, to pursue research, maintain community ties, and provide news and information to its members. I thank all of you for your interest in and concern for our Association's mission to preserve and improve Ten Mile and its environment.

THE HACKENSACK FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

(taken from a report by Dawn Peterson, First Responder, in "Celebrating 1000 Years, 1903-2003, Hackensack, MN")

DURING THE 1970's, a volunteer group of snowmobilers from the small town of Hackensack began a venture inspiring the birth of first response teams statewide. Merv and Mary Parrish, Jim and Jan Garard, PeeWee and Vonnie Shafer, Sonny and Betty Stephan, Gene and Sue Wolter, and Kurt Kenley, through the local Sno-Bo's Club, started a snowmobile rescue team at the request of Sheriff Louis Chalich. They were sworn in as special deputies, and received badges with photo I.D. cards. Chick Steward of Pleasant Lake donated a rescue sled. They coined the term "First Responders" and were the first independent organization of its kind in the State of Minnesota; that is, they were self-governing, rather than under the supervision of a hospital or fire department.

THEY SOON RECOGNIZED THE NEED to respond to ALL medical emergencies to provide significant aid in the first critical hour after an accident. To become legitimate responders, they took advanced first aid courses and fieldwork training, and eventually took the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Technician Refresher Course to become State-certified EMT's. They went out on their first official call in May, 1978. In 1984, they became a non-profit corporation.

This group, in addition to being on call for medical

emergencies of all kinds, is also dedicated to educating the community about precaution and prevention measures. For support, they depend upon donations from local organizations and individuals, as well as a number of community fund-raising events. In 1990, they began to sponsor a summer blood drive.

WITH ENHANCED 911, THE GROUP responds to an average of 130 calls each year. Extensive training and continuing education keeps them abreast of the newest technology, equipment, and procedures. In addition to the initial 110 hours of EMT training, each volunteer must renew his or her certification annually with 28 hours of continuing education, and, every two years, a 24 hour refresher course. They also have monthly training and business meetings.

TEAM MEMBERS USE THEIR OWN CARS, in which they carry a pager; radios; oxygen units; trauma kits; heart defibrillators; medications for allergic reactions, heart attacks, diabetic and asthma related emergencies; cervical spine immobilization devices; and splinting and bandaging supplies. They have dedicated themselves to responding to emergencies, and to providing professional care skillfully with sincere concern to families, friends, and tourists in the Hackensack area.

SOME BOATING SAFETY TIPS!

- ◆ Keep an eye on the weather, especially on larger lakes such as Mille Lacs, Leech, Lake of the Woods, or Superior. Obtain up-to-date weather information from a marine band radio, AM radio, or by simply watching the sky. (Most bad weather in Minnesota comes from the west or southwest.)
 - ◆ Before you leave on a boating or fishing trip, let someone know where you are going and when you will return. If you run into trouble, this information will help authorities in their rescue efforts.
 - ◆ Collisions with a second boat or another object don't just happen. They are usually the result of inattention, fatigue, and a lack of knowledge about local water conditions.
 - ◆ If you are caught in rough weather
 - › put on your Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
 - › keep low in the boat, and
 - › head for the closest shore.
- In heavy waves, your boat handles best when you head into the waves at an angle.

TWO POEMS

In the Fall Newsletter, 2001, we included a journal entry written by Cabin Ross, then 14. The Ross family, Greg and Buff, with daughters Clair, Katy, and Cabin, has been coming to the lake for 25 years, starting with

the parents' honeymoon here. They have stayed at the North Shore cabin of Bill and Helen Hall, and at Pinewood Resort. They live in Johnston, Iowa.

REBORN *by Cabin Ross*

My fingers wrestle to release my hair from the band.
I close my eyes to feel the crisp air on my cheeks.
The wind is silent and the lake at peace.
I look out from the dock to see a glass surface
bordered by trees and fog.
North Shore is still asleep on this early morning.
Splash! My father disturbs the silence with his fishlike
dive.
He comes up for air turning the glass into a roaring
sea of white caps.
I am asked to jump in, but my eagerness does not
compete with his.
Slowly taking off my towel I sit on the edge of the
moist wood dock.
My toes go into the water and I jump in surprise.
It's ice! My body will not take the cold.
Not yet! Not yet!
I look at my father in despair and he laughs at my
fear.
There are no fish yet to bite my toes.

Ready. . . . set. . . .
Not yet! Not yet!
I stand up to calm my nerves and dance around the
dock.
My stomach rises to my throat and my hands sway at
my side.
One. . . . Two. . . . Three. . . .
Go! Running, jumping, flying, falling, smacking!
I plunge into the death and sink to the shady depths
below.
I push up from the bottom and shoot for the sky.
Bubbles rush around my face as my nose tingles with
water.
My body is pierced by the icy cold.
I reach for the surface and gasp for my life.
My eyes are opened to the light and I am reborn!
I am filled with new energy and become one with the
lake.
One with Ten Mile Lake.
One with my true home.

Penelope Swan resides on neighboring Birch Lake, but takes daily walks on Ten Mile Lake's Long Beach Road, where she experienced the encounter that led to

the following poem. It is reprinted here through permission by the author from "The Minnesota Poetry Calendar, 2000."

HOW CLOSE THE DEER *by Penelope Swan*

I see her red flank, summer-colored.
Mistake her for a neighbor's dog.
Until she lifts her head, mouth
brimming with buds of staghorn sumac.
She stares, ears up, sky-pointed.
I slow my gait,
cross to the other side
of the loop
and stop.
She crosses, too. Flirts.
Flicking her white-tailed flag,
she is temerity on legs

slim and spindly as ironwood.
In her color-blindness
she walks towards me.
I barely breathe. Want to still
my scent. Her doe-brown eyes
lock mine. Soften me,
the moment. Drowsing
in pine perfume
we are loosed
on the threshold
of some wild, equal footing.

From the Notebook

By Jim Schwartz

ALTHOUGH NOT EVERYONE complies with the voluntary no wake zones the Association has designated at various Ten Mile locations, evidence continues to accumulate that the practice is a good idea. A Penn State study found that establishing no wake zones proved to be an effective method of reducing pollution and improving water quality. Reason: no wake boat speeds stirred up less sediment, thereby enhancing aquatic vegetation growth and increasing water clarity. Other studies have demonstrated the damage that can be done to spawning beds by operating boats at high speeds in water as deep as 15 feet.

-0-

IT'S WELL-KNOWN THAT phosphorus usually is the culprit when lakes turn green from heavy algae blooms. What may not be as understood is where a lot of this phosphorus comes from (us) and whether anything can be done about it (yes). In the case of Ten Mile, likely sources of this potent nutrient are lawn fertilizers, dish washing detergents, leaky or outmoded waste water treatment systems, pet litter, tree leaves, lawn clippings, pesticides, beach bonfire ashes, septic system additives and soil erosion. Ten Milers are fortunate that since the Association adopted its long range management plan in 1994, phosphorus levels have been declining and water clarity has improved. The lesson is a simple one: limit your use of products containing phosphorus.

-0-

AS LAKE WATER TOYS grow in number, size and variety, conflicts tend to mount as well. The Wisconsin Association of Lakes, recognizing that more problems surface as pressures on lakes increase, is promoting a worthy challenge to lake users that has been dubbed "R-E-S-P-E-C-T." Here is what those letters stand for:

Respect: Respect the rights and needs of others.

Environment: Enjoy wildlife from a distance. Leave what's natural undisturbed.

Speed: Heed boating regulations. Adjust your speed to your surroundings.

Peace: Reduce noise to a minimum and reduce your wake.

Enjoyment: Have fun and enjoy these moments with your friends.

Considerate: Be aware of, and responsive to, the needs of others, including the creatures living in the waters and along the shore.

Trash: Dispose of it properly or take it home. Leave only a small footprint.

-0-

A NEW REPORT on potential climate change in the Great Lakes region, issued this summer, poses the possibility of profound changes if current warming trends

continue. According to the Canadian and U.S. scientists who wrote the report, by the end of the century average temperatures from June to August could rise as much as 7 to 10 degrees, leading to lower lake levels, more severe rainstorms, a longer and drier growing season, species changes in northern forests, loss of wetlands, increased air pollution and many other damaging environmental effects unless more effort is put into reducing greenhouse gases. As you might expect, the report drew mixed responses: approval from those who believe global warming is real and skepticism from industry groups characterizing it as overly pessimistic. And so goes the debate. The report is available on the web at www.ucsus.org/greatlakes/glregionmin.htm.

-0-

ANOTHER SUMMER and once again an almost total absence of mallard ducklings along our shore. Taking their place were several broods of red-breasted mergansers, a fast-swimming waterfowl species that gobbles up minnows and small fish, and a relative newcomer to Ten Mile waters. When we first began spending summer vacations here, mergansers were rarely sighted. Now all three species are commonplace: Hooded, American and red-breasted, the latter the trio's most numerous.

-0-

SOME REGIONAL LAKES began the season with surprisingly low clarity readings, possibly brought about by the winter's scarce snowfall and, therefore, higher nutrient concentrations in spring runoffs. Ten Mile was more fortunate. Main lake readings began in the high teens, as usual, and improved to the mid 20s well into August. It was the late Warren Goss who in 1974 got us into the seasonal clarity reading business and we have been doing it ever since. That first year the mean reading was 12.5'. In recent years we have been flirting with a 20' average, a truly significant change. While not a measure of water quality, clarity IS a good indicator. So kudos are in order for Ten Mile residents. Keep up the fine work! (And, by the way, our lake water quality is excellent.)

-0-

IT'S BEEN YEARS since we've had a reported sighting of the legendary Ten Mile Lake monster. Some possible reasons come to mind: the creature is sulking at the 208' spot, miffed over being ignored for so long; maybe someone did spot the monster but was too embarrassed to tell anyone about such a surprising experience; possibly the allotted time arrived and this exciting lake denizen "gave up its ghost", so to speak; or just maybe (perish the very thought) there never was a Ten Mile Lake monster in the first place. This is one of those "I'll believe it when I see it" things, so if anyone has, let's hear from you.

-0-

IT APPEARS THAT we dodged the bullet on the forest tent caterpillar (FTC) plague. Little, if any, defoliation was noted and the "friendly fly" that heralds the probable end of an FTC outbreak showed up in numbers this season. The fly, slightly larger than a deer fly, has gray stripes down its back. When they land on you, they don't bite, so don't swat 'em. They are nature's FTC control.

THE LOON JOURNAL

by Kim Moe, Member, Loon Committee

END OF SUMMER NOTE: THE LOON COMMITTEE is pleased to report that all four loon chicks hatched this spring appear to have made it through the season!

In the interest of maintaining this good record, we are suggesting you read the following material prepared by the Minnesota Loon Preservation Project.

DEALING WITH HARASSMENT OF LOONS

INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL HARASSMENT of loons by humans is one of the most serious problems loons encounter each summer in Minnesota. Throughout the summer, pairs attempting to nest, raise chicks, and feed are bothered by the recreational activities of humans, but certain activities during critical periods can spell disaster for a summer's reproductive effort. In particular, any repeated disturbance of a loon incubating its eggs or tending newly hatched young can result in abandonment of the nest or the young, and means certain death of the young.

MANY OF US HAVE WITNESSED loons being harassed. Maybe a big powerboat towing water skiers comes roaring by a pair of loons with chicks; or perhaps we see canoeists quietly approach a loon nest, cameras poised; or, even worse, we see young people throwing rocks or shooting at a loon. For many of us, these actions make our blood boil, and we resolve to do something. But what should we do? What is the best way to deal with these problems? You may be considering one of two options:

FIRST, YOU CAN CONSIDER the "soft sell" approach, in which you try to make friends with the guilty party and explain the importance of loons and the problems loons have when disturbed by human activities. When approached in a friendly manner, most people will listen to you, and you may be surprised to find that the persons like loons as much as you do. They just didn't realize that they were disturbing the birds.

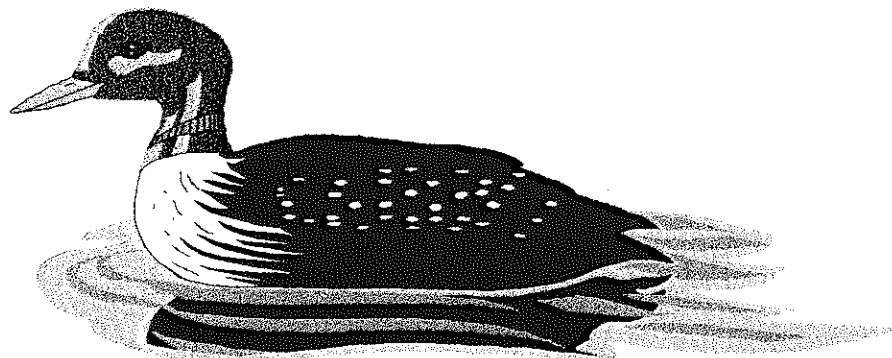
SECOND, YOU MAY CONSIDER the "hard sell" approach, in which you treat the offenders as criminals. The advantage to this is that you will definitely get your message across. The disadvantage is that the people will likely be embarrassed and perhaps a bit angry at you for chewing them out. In many cases, where the soft sell approach might have worked, the hard sell approach alienates people.

CLEARLY, THE SOFT SELL APPROACH is the best method most of the time. People interested in preserving loons should not be on a personal crusade to put everyone who disturbs loons behind bars. Rather, they should be attempting to win people over to their way of thinking.

THERE ARE TIMES when an obvious harassment situation should result in legal action, particularly when the same persons or groups are seen harassing the birds purposely and repeatedly. In these cases is it best to call a Minnesota DNR warden. You will be able to get a lot further in these cases if you follow this procedure:

1. Carefully document the actions involved (date, time, location, boat registration number, actions, etc.)
2. If possible, get witnesses to support your testimony.
3. Call a conservation warden.
4. Be willing to follow through to a court case.

SUCH CASES OF OBVIOUS HARASSMENT tend to be rare. Most often, the harassing persons are simply not knowledgeable enough or aware enough to understand the seriousness of their behavior. Experience tells us that when they are given a friendly message about loons, they can become the loon's best friends.



PHENOLOGY: SOMETHING WE CAN SHARE WITH THE FUTURE

by Gail Becher, Co-Chair, Ecology and Environment Committee

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE fall has returned to Ten Mile. The sights and sounds which surrounded us this summer are now fond memories. — Robins arrive; chorus frogs sing; fresh spring green fills the landscape; yellow-rumped warblers nab a midge; lady slippers dot the forest floor; loons raise their young; pine pollen floats through the air; Northern lights dance in the sky; wild strawberries ripen; immature eagles cry to be fed; monarch butterflies emerge; milkweed blooms; raspberries are picked; purple martins feed young nestlings; temperatures soar; crickets chirp; squirrels gather green acorns; rolling thunder echoes at night; loons begin rafting; cattails shed seeds; Mars brightens the night sky.

THESE OBSERVATIONS REMIND US of the wonderful cycles of our natural world. At our cabin we like to keep track of these comings and goings by means of a practice known as PHENOLOGY. Phenology is the study of relationships between climate and periodically recurring biological events. It is the relationship between climate and the plant and animal world. Phenology is change in the natural world: changes we can see, hear, smell, feel, and taste.

BECOMING AWARE of phenological activities offers one a heightened awareness and understanding of our natural world. The day-to-day, week-to-week, season-to-season, and year-to-year changes, if observed and appreciated, can teach us all.

HOW ABOUT CREATING A PHENOLOGY CALENDAR OF YOUR OWN? It's easy to do. Simply make note of any observation of interest or indication of the constant

change going on in the natural world. For instance: When did you see the first hummingbird return in the spring, or hear the first loon yodel? When did you watch the northern lights or taste the first ripe wild blueberry? Record these sights and sounds in a notebook, including the date and time. Whenever you feel like it, send in the highlights of your observations, and we'll create a phenology calendar in our TMLA Newsletter. In years to come, we can compare these highlighted events and perhaps begin to draw connections between plant and animal life, and the climate or weather that are associated with them.

CHANGE IS LIFE, and it goes on all around us whether we are aware or not! Keeping a phenology calendar is something we can share with the future. Our delight today can be a part of someone's education tomorrow.

Send your observations to:

Gail Becher
c/o Ten Mile Lake Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 412
Hackensack, MN 56452

[PLEASE NOTE: You can hear phenology reports by John Latimer weekly on the Grand Rapids community radio station, KAXE at 91.7 fm or 89.5 fm. These programs are live on Tuesday mornings at 7:20; a taped version is repeated at about 8:45.

You can also hear, at 7:20 a.m., another wonderful program, "Talking on the Wild Side," by John Latimer and Harry Hutchens.]

NO BURN BARRELS!

The TMLA Board of Directors wants to remind the entire membership of the Association that burn barrels for home burning of household trash are illegal throughout the State of Minnesota. The hardware store may sell burn barrels, but that doesn't mean you are allowed to use them.

For specific kinds of debris such as old untreated lumber, brush, and tree branches, you may be able to get a permit to have a bonfire after five in the evening when the volunteer fire department would be able to respond if things got out of hand. But household materials such as paper, plastics, and other household trash must be removed to an approved facility such as

a transfer station. Treated lumber and most building debris must be taken to a demolition landfill.

With an effort you can recycle a lot of household materials: glass bottles, plastic bottles, newspapers, other clean household paper, cans. This will greatly reduce the amount of material you have to pay for to dispose of at the transfer station.

And think about starting a simple compost pile for all your waste vegetable materials. That will reduce your transportable garbage even more, and you will end up with some useful potting soil!

SEPTEMBER WATER LEVEL LOWEST SINCE 1988

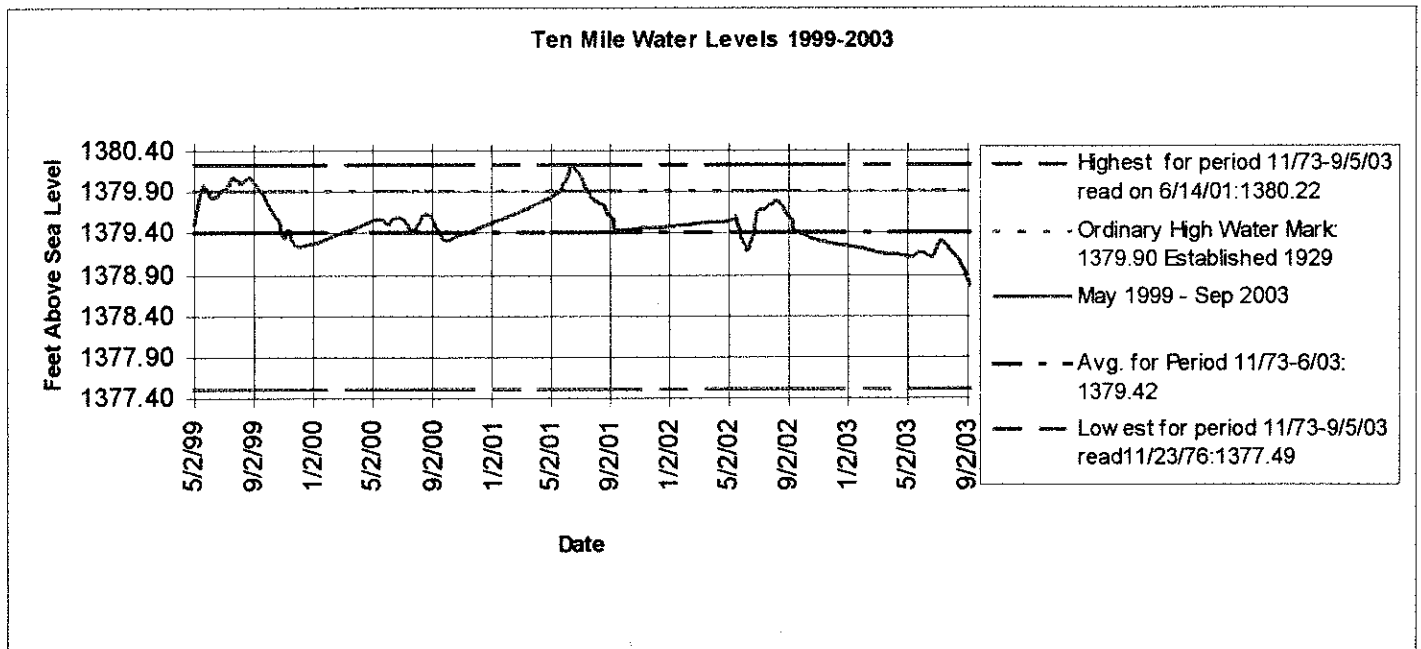
by Tom Cox, Chair, Water Level Management Committee

"THE WATER IS SO LOW!" was a comment heard from more than one Ten Mile property owner as the season wore on this summer -- and not surprisingly. Minnesota on the whole has had abnormally low precipitation this year, and little rain at all since the end of June. On September 5, Walt Kane reported an elevation of 1378.76'. That's 9.8" lower than on this date a year ago, 6.6" lower than on November 1 last year and 4.2" lower than on May 1, 2003. Not since the drought year 1988, when on September 4 the reading was 1378.77', has the lake level been so low on this date. While some folks have been thrilled with the width of their beaches, some have been worried about getting boats off of hoists and out into the water. For the record, in keeping with the County's 2001 agreement with the DNR, the 4-inch stop log (actually 3.75", we now understand), has remained in the Birch Lake Dam control structure for the past two years.

PERHAPS THE MOST EXCITING water level news to report is that the DNR's two-year study of the

Ten Mile-Boy River-Birch Lake-Birch Lake Dam-Pleasant Lake hydrology and hydraulics is now nearly complete. Dana Dostert of the DNR has made a Draft Report available to all who are interested. The bottom line: the DNR recommends a new, fixed weir control structure be installed on the dam's existing sill, one with a V-shaped opening that would let more water escape into the Boy River during periods of high flow, and less during periods of low flow. Meanwhile, the report affirms our surmise that precipitation and evaporation have a major effect on the level of Ten Mile, at times considerably more effect than the outflow at the dam. The hydraulics of the upper Boy River system are complex. You may see the DNR's full report, with historic photos of the dam, on the TMLA website at www.tenmilelake.org.

HERE IS AN UPDATED CHART of water levels based on readings taken since the creation of the TMLA Water Level Committee in 1999.



THE HISTORY PAGE

The Ten Mile Lake History Committee continues to seek family and neighborhood histories.

The Committee plans to develop and publish a Ten Mile Lake History Book.

Below is a guide describing what you might include in your story.

Please let the committee hear from you!

HOW TO WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

In writing family histories, please remember that the Committee is interested in your family history **AS IT RELATES TO TEN MILE LAKE**, rather than a chronicle of your family's entire life. Here are some of the questions you might want to cover in your account:

- When did your family first come to Ten Mile Lake?
- How did you happen to come to Ten Mile Lake?
- Did you camp? Rent? Homestead? Purchase?
- What is the history of your lot, cabin, or homestead?
- What impact did World War I, the Great Depression, and/or World War II have on your Ten Mile Lake experience?
- What significant relationships has your family had with other lake families?
- What has your relationship been to the Ten Mile Lake Association? (Have members of your family been officers, directors, committee chairs, or served on committees?)
- What particularly strong memories do you or other family members have about activities and events on or about the Lake?
- Do you have pictures or clippings the committee can copy and possibly publish?

Your help will be invaluable to the Committee as it works to create a chronicle that will be of special interest to all Ten Milers.

Please mail your completed family history to:

**Lorraine Stromquist
4175 County 71, NW
Hackensack, MN 56452
(Telephone — 218-675-6037)**

WELL WATER TESTING RESULTS

by Forrest J. Watson, Member, Environment and Ecology Committee

Well Water Testing for TML residents took place on July 12 this summer; 68 households participated in the test. The following table summarizes TMLA's Well Water Testing results. Although tests are conducted for *Total Coliform Bacteria* and *Nitrate Nitrogen*, only the

former is shown in the table because we have never had a well with *Nitrate Nitrogen* that exceeded the EPA and MN Department of Health drinking water limits of 10.00 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

YEAR	DATE	# OF WELLS TESTED	# SHOWING COLIFORM BACTERIA	PER-CENT
2003	July 12	68	11	16
2002	July 13	70	15	21
2001	July 14	114	25	22
2000	July 15	51	9	18
1999	July 17	82	9	11
1998	July 11	118	14	12
1996	August 4	n/a	37	n/a
1990	July 7	160	32	20
1984	n/a	23	7	30

It should be noted that although the upper limit for *Nitrate* for safe drinking water is 10.00 mg/L, any well with concentrations between 1 and 10 mg/L should be tested annually. The individual reports on well testing result received by homeowners from Instrumental Research, Inc., will show the specific amount of *Nitrate*. Boiling the water will *not* remove nitrates; in fact, it can actually increase the concentration.

Most *Coliform Bacteria* do not cause illness, but if they show up in a water test they indicate that surface contamination (such as fecal wastes) has somehow entered the water and DISEASE-CAUSING ORGANISMS MAY ALSO BE PRESENT. With few exceptions, if a well is disinfected with a strong solution of chlorine the disease-causing organisms will be killed. Boiling of the water is also effective in destroying any *coliform bacteria*.



NEW OFFICERS FOR TMLA

Pictured at left are the new officers of the Ten Mile Lake Association: from the left, Tom Cox, President; Joyce McManus, Treasurer; Anne McGill, Secretary; Al Griggs, Vice President; and Don Willis, Chair of the Advisory Committee and immediate past president.

The picture was taken by Joe Willis.

PROTECT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM!

By John Alden, Watershed Coordinator

AS THE WINTER SEASON APPROACHES, and in view of the difficulties many residents had with their septic systems during the winter of 2002-3, I thought I might provide some advice on how to protect your individual sewage treatment systems during the coming winter. I am a licensed professional septic system designer, and I have met with the Cass County Environmental Services Department (ESD) to discuss Best Management Practices for owners of septic systems.

THE PRIMARY RECOMMENDATION from ESD is that you should maintain the fluids and solids in your septic tank during the fall and winter seasons. In other words, **DO NOT PUMP YOUR TANK IN THE FALL.** If the winter frost goes to sub-soil levels of 8 to 10 feet, as it did this past winter, the contents of the tank will help to prevent the tank from collapsing under the pressure of expanding frozen soil. It is therefore best to pump your tank, when necessary, in the spring of the year.

A SECOND RECOMMENDATION: The use of advertised septic system additives may be greatly detrimental to

your septic system drainfields. This is true for both gravity systems and mound systems. The purpose of a septic tank is to have the solids settle out to the bottom of the septic tank. When the tank is pumped out, these solids will be removed. Additives such as Rid-A do too good a job: they break down the solids before they have reached the bottom of the tank. The additives keep the former solids in liquid suspension that allows the slurry to go directly into the drainfield of the system. Then, unfortunately, the drainfields clog and fail prematurely. **DO NOT USE THESE ADDITIVES IN A TEN MILE LAKE SEPTIC SYSTEM.**

WHEN SHOULD YOU PUMP YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM? Septic tank pumping schedules depend on the number of year-round residents, the number of summer friends and family, their length of stay, and the basic design of an individual septic system. Staff at the Cass County ESP are very willing to consult with you and help you decide when and how often you need to pump your system.

AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

by Jim Schwartz, Member, Environment and Ecology Committee

YOU MAY BE AWARE that a few septic systems around the lake have been undergoing an experimental treatment, with the concurrence of the Environment and Ecology Committee (EEC). Cass County Department of Environmental Services is also observing this experimental treatment.

INITIAL RESULTS from the 10 septic systems undergoing experimental treatment for nutrient and solids reduction were encouraging. Phosphorus concentrations were down from control systems by 75%, nitrogen by 70% and solids (sludge and scum) by about 90%.

THE STUDY WILL RUN through this season, when the EEC will consider whether to recommend the treatment for all of Ten Mile's septic systems. Any such decision, of course, will depend upon favorable results from remaining tests.

GOALS OF THE TREATMENT are to:

- (1) reduce nutrient flows into drain fields;
- (2) in so doing, cut flows from drain fields to the lake, and
- (3) prolong the effective life of septic systems by decreasing the formation of solids.

If approved, annual cost of the process to individual property owners would range from about \$35 for seasonal residents to approximately \$65 for those who live here all year.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS could be substantial: better treatment of waste water, considerably longer life for septic systems, greater intervals between pumping and, best of all, a healthier Ten Mile Lake.

AN INVESTMENT WITH EXCELLENT DIVIDENDS

by Bob Crom, Member, Advisory Committee

WHEN JIM SCHWARTZ SUGGESTED the idea that the Association establish a paid watershed coordinator position some five or six years ago, few, if any, would have predicted how quickly this investment would start paying dividends.

SOME OF THOSE DIVIDENDS are long term and not immediately measurable. Although experience demonstrates their importance, it's difficult to put a precise value on such things as maintaining regular and positive working relationships with Cass County technicians and managers to enhance data and cost sharing. Likewise, you can't put an annual value on data collection and analysis of water run-off flowing into Ten Mile nor on integrating our chemical, physical and biological sampling sites into geographic positioning systems. These, among numerous others, are examples of specific responsibilities and accomplishments of John Alden, our TMLA Watershed Coordinator.

ON THE OTHER HAND, some of the somewhat unanticipated dividends are obvious and very measurable. Over the past three years resulting

research grants have totaled more than \$45,000. These grants are making possible expanded and continuing research efforts. Funds from the Mississippi Headwaters Board and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are supporting an environmental assessment research using the geographic information system models TMLA had a role in developing. Funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources are being used to identify environmentally sensitive areas in the Upper Boy River watershed of which Ten Mile is a part. These and other ongoing research efforts supported by such funds continue our thirty-year plus efforts to learn more about changes in levels of critical elements and pollutants, and about water flows into and out of Ten Mile Lake.

IN SHORT, IN ADDITION to the long term dividends evidenced in part by the retention of enviable readings for clarity and nutrient levels, TMLA's Watershed Coordinator investment has paid measurable dividends that approximate our total investment since the coordinator's position was established.

ON MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP

Here is a list of the new members who have joined TMLA during 2003 or for 2004. We are delighted to welcome these new members, and we hope that you will welcome them too, when you encounter them at meetings or in the neighborhood. We believe that, by joining the Association, they have shown they care about Ten Mile Lake and about preserving it for the future.

We also want to urge all of our members to pay attention when new people move into your section of the lakeshore. Make sure they hear about the Association and what its goals are. Tell them about all the projects we are working on to increase our knowledge about the lake and the watershed, and to protect TML. Invite them to become members, and send their names and addresses to Phoebe Alden, our Membership Coordinator, so that she can mail out a *Newsletter* and a membership application form.

You can call Phoebe at 218-547-3114, e-mail her at

phoebealden@netscape.net

or send information to her c/o the Ten Mile Lake Association Inc., P.O. Box 412, Hackensack, MN 56452.

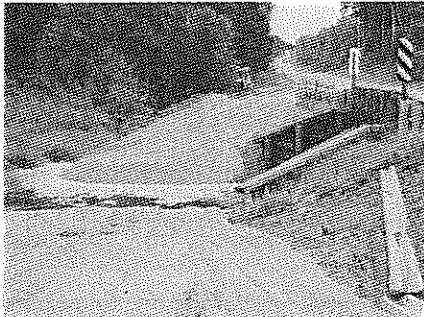
New Members:

Anderson, Milt & Kathy (De Land)
 Bellingtier, Albert & Marietta
 Bock, Jim & Jo Anne
 Cline, Jay and Julie
 Edelbrock, Paul & Katherine (Campbell)
 Edwards, Bruce & Susan
 Eikenberry, John & Sarah
 Erickson, Sigve
 Ferris, Dave & Cindy
 Froistad, Eric O
 Iversen, Rob & Jennifer
 Jewell, Bill & Kathy
 Jones, Dale & Harriet
 Kadrmas, Sue & Dan
 Larson, Paul & Lori
 Mayer, Solveig & Chris
 McGill, Meghan
 McManus, Lori & Steve Plaunt
 Patzloff, Paul and Sarah (Macklin)
 Petrie, Dan & Cindee
 Schieck, Joel & Pearl
 Shuck, Daniel & Barb
 Sigveland, John & Elizabeth

BOY RIVER BRIDGE NEARS COMPLETION

By Tom Cox

Replacement of the Boy River Bridge on Lower Ten Mile Lake Road began in late June with the construction of a gravel bypass just upstream of the existing structure. Duiniuck Brothers Construction of Willmar temporarily spanned the channel with a concrete bridge from another bridge construction site elsewhere in MN. Workmen closed the old bridge, and posted signs advising cars, three at a time, to take turns negotiating the bypass.

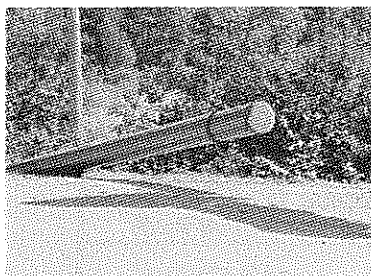


June 27: Bypass Construction

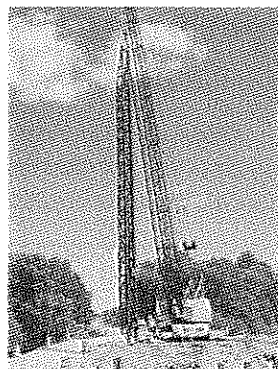
sel-powered pile driver. Within the next day or two the crew drove some dozen pilings deep into the earth on each side of the channel. With just their tops poking above ground, the pilings would provide the solid anchor for the new abutments.



July 8: Only the Old Abutments Remain



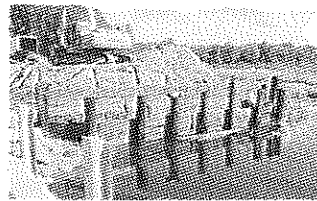
July 15: A Back Hoe Drags a Steel Piling to the Waiting Pile Driver.



After they drove the pilings, the crew installed forms to contain and give the new concrete abutments their shape. As the summer wore on, water in the channel ran lower and lower. But navigation under the bypass was impossible in any case, so for two months there was no "thoroughfare" between Ten Mile and Birch Lakes.

Within a few days, a huge back hoe demolished the old bridge, arranged riprap to stabilize the channel banks and prepared locations for the new abutments.

Soon there came a delivery of steel pilings and a die-

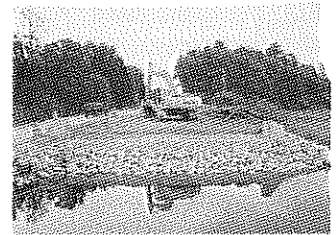


July 22: Old Abutment Hides the Tops of the New Pilings

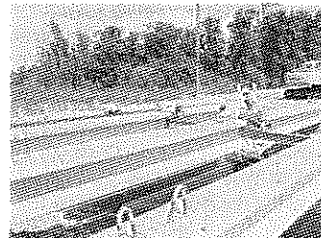
allow trucks to pour the new concrete abutments.

With the new abutments in place, it was time for delivery of the 59-foot prestressed concrete bridge beams. A ten-ton crane arrived to lift the beams and set them into place.

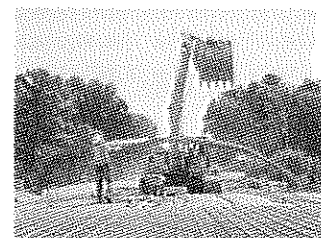
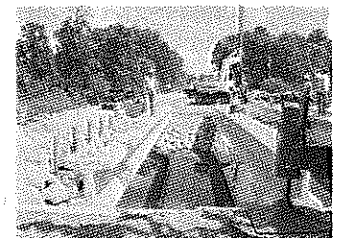
In the photo at the left, the back hoe is removing more of the old road and fill to



August 1: New Abutment, with Riprap, Ready for Placement of the Bridge Beams.



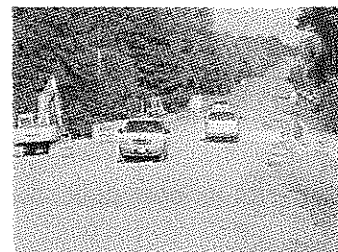
August 4: Workmen prepare to install a Steel Platform on the Concrete Bridge Beams.



August 9: A Back Hoe Moves More Rebar onto the Deck

Next, the crew laid steel platform pieces across the beams, and then arranged a multi-layered web of rebar across the platform. With several layers of rebar in place, the ready-mix trucks poured the concrete deck.

Curing the deck seemed to take awhile, but at last, on August 27th, the new bridge opened for traffic. As of this writing, all that remains is to repave the approaches, put the finishing touches on the concrete and install new guard rails and reflective signs.



August 27: Open for Traffic



Project Engineer Jim Bachtle, Erickson Engineering
Project Foreman Dan Web, Duiniuck Bros. Construction

REMEMBERING OUR TEN MILE LAKE FRIENDS

Edwin O. Bostrom

Edwin O. Bostrom died Wednesday, January 29, 2003. He was born in Walker, MN on December 17, 1922. He graduated from Hackensack High School in 1940, and served in the U. S. Navy from 1943 to 1945. He married Lois M. Deer October 17, 1946. He received his bachelor's degree from Bemidji State Teacher's College in 1949, his master's degree from Colorado State College of Education in 1950, and his doctorate in education from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1971. He was employed from 1950 to 1981 by Boulder Valley Public Schools, where he was an industrial arts teacher at Boulder High School and the first principal of the Boulder Valley Vocational and Technical Center. He was a member of the Boulder Elks and past president of the Boulder Lions and Boulder Toastmasters Clubs. After retiring from Boulder Valley Public Schools, he formed the Sunshine Canyon Enterprises Corporation in Moab, Utah.

He is survived by Lois M. Deer of Ten Mile Lake; three daughters: Mary Lois (Michael) Davis of Centerville, VA, Holly Bostrom-Deer (John Palka) of Golden CO, and Diane (Richard) Westmore of Greenwood Village, CO; two sisters: Tiny Rich of Hackensack and Katherine (Donovan) Robinson of Pine River; three brothers: Wallace of Champlin, MN, Gordon of Rutland, ND, and Jack (Betty) of Del Rio, TX; four granddaughters; two great-granddaughters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on July 12 at the Hackensack Senior Center.

(Information from the Walker Pilot Independent, July 10, 2003.)

Ann Shaw

Ann Shaw, 70, a resident of Ten Mile Lake since 1985, died at her home Thursday, June 26, surrounded by her family. She was born in St. Paul, MN

She is survived by her husband, Floyd N. Shaw; one son, Floyd N. Shaw, Jr.; one granddaughter; three sisters, and one brother.

(Information from the Walker Pilot-Independent, July 3, 2003.)

Willa Shonkwiler-Martin

Willa Shonkwiler-Martin, 78, died Friday, August 8, at the Woodrest Nursing Home in Walker, MN. Willa was born November 6, 1924, to Sadie and William Humphries in Brownwood, Texas. She attended public schools in Brownwood, and later, Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Representative Lyndon Johnson appointed her to work in intelligence in Washington, D.C., where she had the privilege of meeting President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Willa married Omar Shonkwiler in Humboldt, Iowa, in 1945. They later moved to Minneapolis, and eventually their permanent home on Lundstrom's Bay, Ten Mile Lake. While in Minneapolis, they adopted Rebecca, the daughter of Willa's sister who had died of cancer. Omar died in 1974.

Willa became the village Clerk of Walker in 1970, a job she held until her retirement in 1992. She was very active in the Union Congregational Church of Hackensack, and was instrumental in starting a permanent choir there. She also served as historian for the Ten Mile Lake Association, and was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 203, and of the Retired Clerks Association of Minnesota.

In 1981, Willa married Fred V. Martin of Hackensack, a graduate of North Dakota State University, who was also active in community affairs.

Survivors include her husband, Fred; her daughter, Rebecca Lyng (Tim); two grandsons, Ben and Dan, of Moorhead, MN; one brother, Ross Humphries, of Florida, and a special nephew, Clyde Adkisson, of Fargo, ND, whom Willa raised through high school. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and two sisters.

A service was held for Willa at Union Congregational Church in Hackensack, followed by burial at the Hillcrest Cemetery, on August 12, 1003.

Clyde S. Thomas

Clyde S. Thomas, a long-time Ten Miler, died on Monday, June 17th, 2002. He and his wife, Louise Luce Thomas, honeymooned on the lake in the 1920's at a cottage owned by Louise's cousin, Emily Johnston.

Continued, next page:

REMEMBERING. . . cont.; Clyde S. Thomas

They visited the lake regularly, and eventually inherited the cottage in 1968. The Thomas family enjoyed Ten Mile Lake for 25 years before selling to Randy and Patty Olson.

Clyde owned and operated the Our Own Hardware store in Sauk Center, MN. He and Louise moved to Friendship Village of Bloomington in 1980. Louise died in 1985.

Clyde is survived by his son, Arthur Thomas of Kansas; his daughter, Margaret Human of Maryland; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He is remembered for his quick wit, his sunny disposition, his inquisitive mind, and his beautiful woodcarvings, and will be missed by his many Ten Mile Lake friends, including Ann-Lee (Anderson) Zalk and Helen Anderson.

(Information provided by Ann-Lee Zalk. The editor apologizes for failing to include this material in an earlier edition.)

Bruce Miller

The Association has learned of the death of Bruce Miller on June 19, 2003. An obituary will be printed in the Spring 2004 Newsletter.

Note: Jeremy Franklin, grandson of Eloise W. Ball Allensworth, has pointed out several errors in the obituary of his grandmother, which appeared in the Spring 2002 issue of The Newsletter. These errors have been corrected on the TMLA Website, at

<http://www.tenmilelake.org>

FISHING NEWS

by Jim Schwartz, Member, Fisheries Committee

A FISHERY SURVEY conducted by the Department of Natural Resources in mid-August turned up numbers on selected species that were fairly consistent with those of earlier samplings. One notable change was the netting of six smallmouth bass, five in gill nets and one in a trap net. Association records indicate only one of this species had been logged in previous Ten Mile Lake test nettings. Now, however, increasing numbers of anglers are reporting smallmouth bass catches, indicating the species has established itself and in all likelihood will become more common in the years ahead.

THE AUGUST SURVEY, done by the DNR's area Walker fisheries office, used 12 gill nets set at depths from 10' to 40' and 12 trap nets set outward from the shoreline, all at various locations around the lake. The species, counts and test years, where available, are as shown below. A complete report providing a detailed summary of species counts and other information, including how the Ten Mile Lake survey compares with findings on other similar lakes, will be available in about a year.

RESULTS OF DNR FISHERIES SURVEYS

SPECIES	GILL NETS				TRAP NETS	
	SURVEY YEAR					
	2003	2002	1997	1994	2003	1998
Rock Bass	264	174	148	222	35	35
Northern Pike	125	80	81	85	NA	NA
Pumpkinseed Sunfish	102	51	22	33	NA	NA
Walleyed Pike	101	80	127	127	3	1
Bluegill	47	22	21	51	275	358
Largemouth Bass	27	23	10	8	20	35
Smallmouth Bass	5	0	0	0	1	0
Black Crappie	3	1	0	1	6	1
Yellow Perch	NA	150	NA	88	NA	NA

This Newsletter is a Publication
of the
Ten Mile Lake Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 412
Hackensack, MN 56452

EDITOR:
Sarah J. Cox
5688 Fernhurst Drive, NW
Hackensack, MN 56452
scoxreston@aol.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Jim Schwartz
4850 Hiram Loop Road
hackensack, MN 56452
jim@uslink.net

TMLA WEBSITE:
<http://www.tenmilelake.org>
Webmaster: Geoff Cox
geoff@geoff-cox.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:
Phoebe Alden
5168 Park Point Road
Hackensack, MN 56452
phoebealden@netscape.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1	<i>TMLA Calendar for 2004 Annual Meeting Attended by Record Number Found: A Pair of Glasses</i>	Page 9	<i>The History Page — How To Write Your Family History</i>
Page 2	<i>List of Officers Directors, Committee Chairs From the President's Desk (Tom Cox)</i>	Page 10	<i>Well Water Testing Results (Forrest Watson) New Officers for TMLA</i>
Page 3	<i>The Hackensack First Response Team (Dawn Peterson) Some Boating Safety Tips</i>	Page 11	<i>Protect Your Septic System (John Alden) An Experimental Study (Jim Schwartz)</i>
Page 4	<i>Two Poems: "Reborn" (Cabin Ross) "How Close the Deer" (Penelope Swan)</i>	Page 12	<i>An Investment with Excellent Dividends (Bob Crom) On Members and Membership — New Members</i>
Page 5	<i>From the Notebook (Jim Schwartz)</i>	Page 13	<i>Boy River Bridge Nears Completion (Tom Cox)</i>
Page 6	<i>The Loon Journal (Kim Moe)</i>	Page 14	<i>Remembering Our Ten Mile Lake Friends: Edwin O. Bostrom, Ann Shaw, Willa Shonkwiler-Martin, Clyde S. Thomas</i>
Page 7	<i>Phenology: Something We Can Share With the Future (Gail Becher) No Burn Barrels!</i>	Page 15	<i>Fishing News (Jim Schwartz)</i>
Page 8	<i>September Water Level Lowest Since 1998 (Tom Cox)</i>		