

Ten Mile Lake Association

Newsletter

Fall 2016

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

2017 TEN MILE LAKE CALENDAR

SPRING FLING Saturday
5:00 p.m. April 29, 2017
At Tiana Golf Clubhouse

FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADES..... Tuesday
10:00 a.m. July 4, 2017
North Shore Area by Arthur's
South Shore Public Access

WATERCRAFT OPERATOR'S

PERMIT TRAINING Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. June 29, 2017
At the Hackensack Community Center

WELLWATER TESTING Saturday
10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. July 15, 2017
At former Woock's Store (South Shore, Rock Rose Trail &
Lower Ten Mile Lake Road) or Christiansens' (North
Shore, 5457 Co. Rd. 50)

ANNUAL MEETING Saturday
9:30 a.m. August 5, 2017
At Union Congregational Church, Hackensack

TMLA BOARD MEETINGS Saturdays
9:00 a.m.

At Tom & Sarah Cox's May 20, 2017
At Mary Ackerman's June 17, 2017
At Ann & Kurt Owen's July 15, 2017
At John Keagan's August 19, 2017
At Jim & Pat Miller's September 16, 2017

FALL FETE To be Determined
5:00 p.m. September xx, 2017

DEADLINES, MATERIAL FOR NEWSLETTERS:

Spring Issue April 1, 2017

Summer Issue June 15, 2017

Fall Issue September 1, 2017

IT AIN'T OVER

By Gary Anderson, Conservation Committee

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS members of our Ten Mile Lake Association have been hearing about an opportunity to give to the James W. Schwartz Environmental Protection Fund. The Association approved a special appeal to replenish this fund at our annual meeting in 2013. The goal is to raise \$175,000. Thanks to the generosity of many with gifts large and small, we have raised \$154,051. Now, three full years later, while we are a bit short of that goal, as a certain famous baseball manager is reputed to have said, "It ain't over until it's over."

THE FUND REMAINS OPEN at least until the end of 2016 — which means there is time for you to make a gift or an additional gift. As you can see, we are close to the goal. Funds are used very carefully and as wisely as possible to help purchase properties that protect the Ten Mile Lake watershed and shoreline. Significant properties have already been purchased.

THAT EXPLAINS WHY it is important to replenish the fund. It may also help, along with many other environmental protective actions around the lake, to explain why Ten Mile remains so clear and beautiful. Gifts in any amount are gladly and gratefully received and are tax deductible. Simply make out a check to the Ten Mile Lake Association James W. Schwartz Environmental Protection Fund. Mail it to P.O. Box 412, Hackensack, MN 56452.

Ten Mile Lake Association Officers

Ivar Siqueland, President Cell: 218-341-3970
 Karin Arsan, Vice President 675-6247
 Teresa Conway, Treasurer Cell: 612-414-5963
 Ann Owen, Secretary 675-5095

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 Tom Cox 675-6844
 Dave Gapinski 675-5352
 Don Hoppe 675-6265
 Bob Iversen 547-1876
 Sarah Swanstrom 675-6226

Summer Resident Directors

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 Shelley Knuths 675-6340
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Newsletter Editor

Sarah Cox 675-6844
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Geoff Cox geoff@geoff-cox.com

Committees

- Adopt-A-Highway** – Karin Arsan, Denny & Paula Abbott, Mary Ackerman & Jim Reents, Phoebe Alden, Jim & Susan Brandt, Larry Clemens, John Coughlin, Elaine Crabb, Teri Gapinski, Cary & Janet George, Kathy Gogela, John & Lolly Hallberg, Bob & Nancy Horn, Mike and Sandy Kennedy, Paul & Carolyn Krech, Jerry & Melinda McCarty, Ross & Lynn McCown, Emily Minor, Kurt & Ann Owen, Harry & Judy Seward, Kay White, Bob & Carol Williams
- Advisory** – Lee Sand, Bruce Carlson, Jay Cline, Tom Cox, Bob Crom, Al Griggs, Jim Miller, Stan Skaug, Don Willis
- AIS** – Bob Iversen, Bruce Carlson, Jean Carlson, Jay Cline, Warren Gerber, Pat Golden, Marty McCleery, Rick Purvis, Jim Miller, Jim Reents, Bob Rydell, Ivar Siqueland
- Communication & Technology** – Mary Ackerman, Karin Arsan, Lee Sand, Don Hoppe, Geoff Cox, Sarah Cox, Phoebe Alden, Justin Krueger, Diane Power, Harry Seward
- Conservation** – Jim Miller, Gary Anderson, Andy Biebl, Bruce Carlson, Mimi Garbisch Carlson, Tom Cox, Al Griggs, Shelly Knuths, Jim McGill, Tom Moore, Jim Reents, Laura Schwartz, Ivar Siqueland, Diane Westmore, Steve Wilson
- Directory** – Phoebe Alden
- Environment & Ecology** – Bruce Carlson, John Hallberg, Don Hoppe, Bob Iversen, John Keegan, Marty McCleery, Jim Miller, Tom Moore, Ken Regner, Bob Rydell, Judy Seward
- Fisheries** – Steve Helscher, Bruce Carlson, Teri Gapinski, Warren Gerber, Al Griggs, Bob Horn, Rod Owre
- Healthy Lakes** – Marty McCleery, Mary Ackerman, Tom Cox, Tom Moore, Bob Rydell, Andy Seward, Sarah Swanstrom,
- History** – Sue Eikenberry, Karin Arsan, Tom Cox, Christie Dailey, Kathy Edelbrock, Alden Gjevre, Deb Hamilton, Katy Hoover, Cathy Iversen, Kim Moe, Sue Seyala, Muriel Towler, Mary Ann Varela
- Lake Safety** – Rick Hughes & Mark Sand, Lynn Abraham, Bill Brandt, Bob Moe, Lee Sand, Bob Williams, Carole Williams
- Loons** – Bob & Kim Moe, Jim Byers, Bob Horn, Kurt Owen, Sarah Swanstrom
- Nominating** – Dave Gapinski, Don Hoppe, Diane Power, Bob Rydell
- Treasurer's** – Teresa Conway, Jim Hickman, Dave Kaldor, Sarah Swanstrom
- Water Level** – Tom Cox, Jay Cline, Dan Eikenberry, Marty McCleery

SPEAKER AT ANNUAL MEETING DESCRIBES GROUNDWATER RESEARCH

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of TMLA on August 6, Donald Rosenberry described the groundwater studies he does with the U.S. Geological Survey, pointing out that he can provide information from his studies to governments, organizations, or businesses, but that USGS has no power to affect groundwater.

GROUNDWATER, WHICH IS ANY WATER below the water table, comes from rain and snow and flows from high to low. It is 100 to 200 times the amount of surface water, resides in a mix of sand, silt, clay, and gravel, and is about 450 to 550 feet thick.

WE SHOULD CARE about groundwater because it is part of our lake water "budget": it provides nutrients to the lake, it protects the lake during droughts and mitigates droughts, and provides a reliable source of water for wells. While vulnerable to surface spills, it can take many years for a spill to reach all the way to the groundwater. Contaminants are sometimes filtered out before they reach groundwater.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT the pipeline, he acknowledged that in an area like ours it could cause problems. However, glaciers melting and oceans rising have little effect on groundwater.

HE HAS STUDIED White Bear Lake, where for a period of time water was pumped from the Mississippi River to keep the lake level up. Wells in the area are apparently accessing surface water, possibly causing the depletion of the lake. He pointed out that "Water flows to money," so solving the problem of White Bear Lake is a societal problem.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION about the Annual Meeting, see Ivar Siqueland's article on the next page.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK . . .

by Ivar Siqveland, President, TMLA

DESPITE A GLORIOUS SUMMER SATURDAY, TMLA members packed the meeting room at Union Congregational Church for the 64th Annual Meeting of the Ten Mile Lake Association on August 6. How gratifying to see so many members (200 estimated) attend the annual get together! It surely represents the fact that our members are interested and engaged in the actions of their association.

FOLLOWING THE SOCIAL HOUR, we got down to the business at hand. We heard our guest speaker, **Don Rosenberry**, present an interesting, informative, and entertaining speech regarding the relationship between ground water and lakes. Following Mr. Rosenberry's speech we heard from several committee chairs about ongoing activities of their respective committees.

FROM MR. ROSENBERRY'S SPEECH, the committee reports, and the activities of all the committees it is apparent how important the work of TMLA is to the future health and well-being of our cherished lake. Water, in and of itself, has certainly become the focus of our attention both now and in the future. Be it AIS, global warming, increasing agriculture, pipelines, etc. we see more and more attention being paid to water issues. Many of our members have reached out and have become active in organizations outside of TMLA to assist in the fight to keep our waters clean: organizations such as the Association of Cass County Lakes, Leech Lake Watershed Foundation, Northern Water Alliance of Minnesota, Honor the Earth, etc. all have TMLA members belonging and contributing to their efforts. Additionally, we support and work closely with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, Cass County

Soil and Water District, MPCA, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota DNR, and more. Finally, many members attend seminars and meetings pertinent to lake environment and ecology issues.

REGARDING INVOLVEMENT, I WOULD URGE any of you who may be interested in getting involved in any of our committees to simply send an email to: association@tenmilelake.org indicating your interest.

RETURNING TO THE ANNUAL MEETING, we completed our normal business and closed the meeting with recognition of all volunteers, committee chairs, board members, and officers. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to outgoing board member **Bill Brandt** and long-time fisheries committee chair, **Bob Horn**. We went on to recognize and honor five newly elected recipients of the James W. Schwartz award for Distinguished Service. Each of these winners has years of dedicated service to TMLA and they certainly deserve all of our thanks. *Please see the article on pages 5-8 which highlights their accomplishments.*

IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO THANK all those who helped make this year's annual meeting a huge success: **Karin Arsan**, Vice President, who was responsible for overall planning of the meeting; **Don and Heidi Hoppe** for their ongoing help to ensure all went smoothly; **Sarah Swanstrom** for her incredible cookies; my wife **Peg Siqveland** for kitchen assistance; and all those who helped setting up the room in advance. Also thanks to those committees who created the display booths (we all loved the History committee's boathouse display). Finally, we thank **Don Rosenberry** for a wonderful presentation and patience in answering the many member's questions.

THANK YOU FROM NANCY GILLES

In a card, Nancy Gilles has responded to our last donation of money, saying "I'm so grateful for your thoughtfulness, your kindness, and your generous hearts. Thank you again for the gift of money. You all have helped me out so much. I am so grateful to have such wonderful friends.

LATE SUMMER PIPELINE UPDATES – AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2016

James Reents, Pipeline Work Group Coordinator



SANDPIPER PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION: As of August 31, Enbridge has pulled their filing for the Sandpiper Pipeline that was to follow the much opposed route through the Itasca Headwaters and many rivers and wetlands. Good news? Yes. However, this leaves us with their request for a New Line 3 in the same Sandpiper route corridor.

THE NEW LINE 3: When they pulled the Sandpiper filing, Enbridge asked the Public Utilities Commission to move as quickly as possible to approve this new replacement Line 3 along the route they had mapped for the Sandpiper Pipeline. *This is the route to which the Northern Water Alliance network partners are strongly opposed.*

The Department of Commerce filed a letter with the MN Public Utilities Commission (8-26-2016) stating that it is putting its Line 3 Replacement and the Sandpiper Environmental Impact Statement scoping efforts **ON HOLD** until Enbridge makes its intentions regarding these pipelines clear. Their schedule was to provide these documents in September and October this year. As of this writing (9-1-16) we are unclear how the Public Utilities Commission will move forward given the Enbridge communications outlined above.

PIPELINE ABANDONMENT: Enbridge does NOT want to replace their current aging Line 3 Pipeline in its current location. It was constructed in the '60's. They have stated that there are over 900 "anomalies", or **leaks**, in that line. They also propose to abandon the old Line 3 Pipeline where it lies with no removal or remediation. This old Line 3 is currently in an energy corridor that was established in the 1950's. The International Approval to cross from Canada to the US was done in 1963. At that time, there were no processes established for Environmental Reviews or Assessments on pipeline construction.

The Northern Water Alliance of MN is advocating for Federal Review of that border crossing, closing down the current Line 3 totally, and removal and remediation of the Line 3 site at the corporation's expense. The Northern Water Alliance is not anti-pipeline. It is totally against the current proposed routes and abandonment.

ACTION: The Governor needs to hear from all seasonal property owners in Northern Minnesota, all residents, and all visitors to our area. Call him and ask that he not allow any new pipelines or expansions in MN and that abandonment of lines without removal is not an option. Add that a route through our Headwaters must be avoided at all cost. The number to call is 651-201-3400. Donations will be welcomed by Friends of the Headwaters and Honor the Earth — both are non-profit 501c3 organizations and fund the court processes necessary to change the pipeline routes.

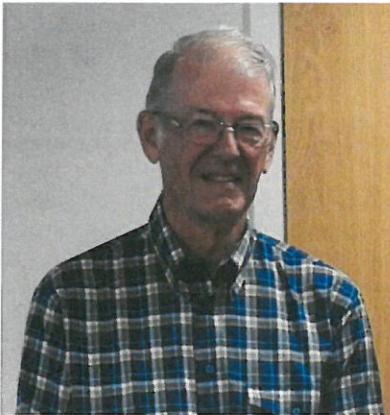
[The Northern Water Alliance of MN is an initiative of the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation.]

James W Schwartz Distinguished Service Awards Given

In 1998 the TMLA created the Schwartz Award as a means of recognizing outstanding contributions to the well-being of Ten Mile Lake and its residents. The first awards went to Warren Goss and Jim Schwartz, founding fathers of this organization. **Lois Sandell** was recognized in 1999, **Willa Shonkwiler-Martin** and **Al Hoover** in 2001, and **John Alden** in 2010.

This year at the TMLA Annual meeting in August five members were recognized with this prestigious award for their outstanding contributions to our organization and their commitment to protecting Ten Mile Lake and its environs.

Bruce Carlson



Bruce Carlson

Bruce Carlson has been coming to Ten Mile every year since 1955. Back in the late 1950's, when working for the Conservation Department (now the DNR) during the summer, he would do various sorts of analyses of Ten Mile water with DNR equipment. After getting his MD-PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1965, he worked in the USSR for a year before becoming a faculty member at the University of Michigan Medical School. His day job for forty years involved chairing the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and later directing the Institute of Gerontology.

His wife Jean was one of his former medical students, and they have two children, Marty and Jim, both of whom still regularly come to the lake. Even though he and Jean (and sometimes kids) lived in Holland, Czechoslovakia, Finland and New Zealand, they always returned to Ten Mile for a month before the start of school.

Besides being an avid fisherman, Bruce has been conducting various sorts of studies on the lake, ranging from tracking walleye movements with acoustic tags in the 1990s to a couple of decades of weekly temperature/oxygen readings every three feet at the 200-foot hole.

After retirement, when he began spending summers at the lake, he began chairing the E & E Committee, as well as being a Director and President of the TMLA. While President, he began raising consciousness of the importance of natural shorelines and did a complete survey (Score Your Shore) of levels of development around the entire Ten Mile shoreline.

Bruce is also a member of the AIS, Conservation and Fisheries Committees. In 2007 he wrote the book *Beneath the Surface* (he has also written 14 other books on anatomy, embryology and regeneration), which gives a lay view of how a lake like ours works. In 1985, he began writing articles for In-Fisherman magazine on the theme of better fishing if one understands the biology of the fish. He is also in the eighth year of directing a study on pike growth on Shingobee Lake near Akeley.

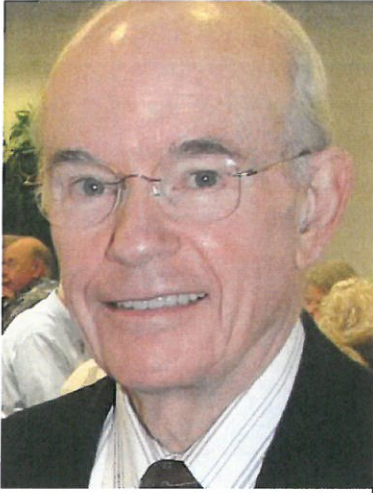
Since retirement, Bruce spends about 1/3 of his time as a Board member of the Fetzer Institute and the Fetzer Memorial Trust, 1/3 writing books and 1/3 fishing and studying Ten Mile and Shingobee Lakes.

Tom Cox

Tom Cox first arrived on Ten Mile on a sunny, quiet July 4th, 1941, when he was five. He returned with his family from the July 4th weekend until the middle of August every summer through elementary and high school, when summer work and then his career began to curtail his Ten Mile time. Still, he never missed at least some time at the cabin each year since 1941, save for one summer when he and wife Sarah were vacationing in New England. **So, when Sarah and Tom** retired in June of 1998, and began

spending five months at the lake every summer, he was soon approached by **Bob Crom** and the late **Jack Adams** after the service at Union Church one Sunday morning and asked if he'd be willing to

take on the job of Association Treasurer. Being newly retired, and new to extended time at the lake, and with "nothing to do," he said yes. And thereby hangs the tale.



Tom Cox

Here is a more or less concise catalog of his Ten Mile Lake Association involvements since that fateful summer of 1998:

- ❖ Treasurer - 1998-2000
- ❖ Financial Management for the Kenfield Bay Property Purchase
- ❖ Founder, Chair of Water Level Committee: 1999 - present
- ❖ Organizer of the Boy River Dam Raiders,
- ❖ Spearheaded Replacement/Reconstruction of Birch Lake Outlet Structure
- ❖ Member and Secretary, History Committee: 2000 - present
- ❖ Member, Healthy Lakes Committee: 2001 - present
- ❖ Editor, Lake Management Plan and Long Range Lake Management Plan: 2001 – Ongoing
- ❖ Vice President: 2001-2003
- ❖ Editor, Compositor, Ten Mile Lake History, 200 Years: 2001-2003
- ❖ President: 2003-2005
- ❖ Founder, Conservation Committee: 2004
- ❖ Chair, Advisory Committee: 2005 - 2007
- ❖ Author, Editor, Compositor, Gifting Policy and Gifting Policy Brochure: 2007
- ❖ Editor, By-laws Revision: 2008
- ❖ Member, Zoning and Land Use Committee: 2005 - 2009
- ❖ Secretary, Conservation Committee: 2006 - present
- ❖ Resident Director, Board of Directors: 2010 - Present

Tom says, "Life on Ten Mile has been very good for me and my family, to say the least. I'm deeply honored to be among those chosen at this year's Annual Meeting to receive the award that memorializes Jim Schwartz, one of the founding fathers of the Ten Mile Lake Association."

Sarah Cox



Sarah Cox

Sarah first came to the lake when she married Tom in 1960, and fell in love with the lake right away. Throughout their working lives, they always came to the lake for at least a month every summer. But Sarah didn't get very involved with the Association until after retirement in 1998. **She tentatively volunteered** to assist with the newsletter. **Jim Schwartz**, the former editor (also President of the Association, Chair of the E & E Committee, and principal conductor of lake studies) wrote the whole newsletter himself at that time. He assigned her a couple of articles to research and write – the first was about septic systems!

Since these proved acceptable, Schwartz named Sarah assistant editor, but within a year, he asked her to take over as editor. He was in his nineties at the time, and had been at it for a long time. She agreed, with some trepidation. Where were the articles going to come from?

Well, they came. One by one, the committees began to send an article three times a year. After Sarah included a couple of History Pages

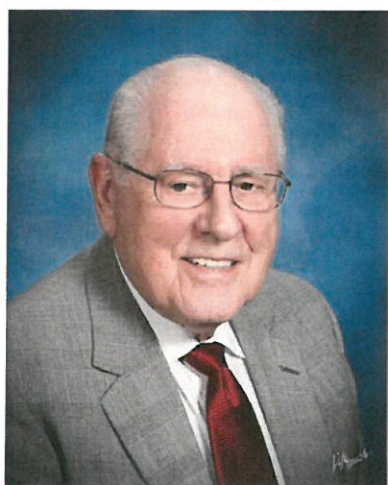
gleaned from old newsletters, the History Committee decided that was their responsibility, and now they send a History Page for each issue.

She has gradually begun to train people to either alert her to, or send her, obituaries of Lake residents who have passed away. Occasionally an article comes in over the transom.

Sarah says "Even though I swear at my computer a lot in the process, I have enjoyed being the editor. Through the work and meeting with the Board regularly, I have gotten to know many more people around the lake than I ever knew before, and to feel that I know what is important and what is going on. So I hope to keep doing it for a while, even though now I have some assistance!"

Bob Crom

In 1980 Bob and Lucy Crom bought four acres of lakeshore property at the entrance to Long's Bay. Soon after becoming year-around residents in May 1993 Bob became active in the Ten Mile Lake



Bob Crom

Association. After serving two years as treasurer he was elected to succeed **Jim Miller** as president in 1999.

In one of his "From the President's Desk" messages in the TMLA Newsletter Bob mentioned a Minnesota Lake Association study which found the average productive tenure of a volunteer in any given organization was three years. He wrote: "Although our Association is extremely fortunate to have many committee members and chairs, co-chairs and Board members who have greatly exceeded that length of dedicated service, the study points up the need to constantly involve new people."

In retrospect Bob describes himself as having been blessed with an extraordinary cadre of talented and dedicated Association members - many of them "new people"- who stepped forward to address TMLA needs during his tenure. Among them was **Tom Cox**, a newly elected board member, who agreed to chair the Water Level Management Committee which spent many hours dealing with issues relating to shoreline erosion, regulation of the flow from the Birch Lake dam, and others relating to high and low lake levels.

The Environmental and Ecology Committee (EEC), co-chaired by **Jim Schwartz** and **Dick Horn**, created a new subcommittee to focus attention on aquascaping and lakescaping practices. **Gail Becher** stepped forward to chair it. Your TMLA Handbook probably still contains a copy of a Property Stewardship Guidelines which was one of the outcomes of their work. Gail subsequently joined Jim as co-chair of the EEC composed of some twenty plus volunteers; one of those was **Bruce Carlson** whose research and leadership has made extraordinary contributions so appropriately recognized by the James Schwartz Award.

In addition to her Subcommittee work, Gail Becher chaired the work group, which included **Phoebe Alden, Sarah Cox and Willa Martin**, that took on the task of developing the loose-leaf Handbook distributed to Association members at the 2001 Annual Meeting.

The recognition of the importance of planning and priority-setting led to the amendment and Board approval of a TMLA Long Range Management Plan in the summer of 2000. **Marty McCleery** stepped forward to share his expertise and leadership in that area. Sixteen years later he continues to do so.

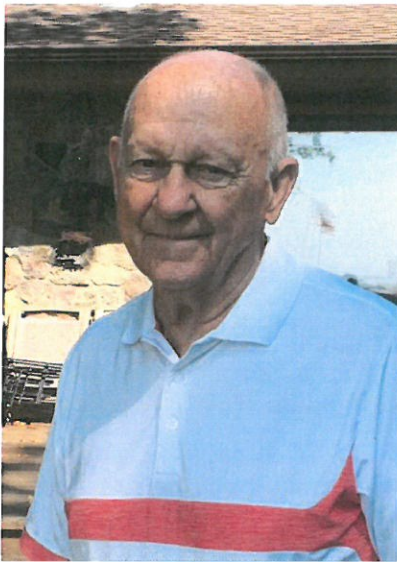
That same summer the Board approved the establishment of a TMLA website. That would not have happened had not **Geoff Cox** and **Jon Brandt** stepped forward with the proposal and expressed a willingness to contribute financially and professionally to put it in place. Sixteen years later Geoff continues to serve as webmaster.

Bob points out many more examples of such significant leadership contributions within the Association that could be cited if space allowed. He expressed a feeling of humility to be among those being honored with the

James Schwartz Award, and a deep appreciation for the 35 years of Ten Mile Lake associations which have enriched his life and those of his family.

Jim Miller

Pat and Jim Miller have had their home on Ten Mile Lake since 1975. They started with a 2-bedroom cabin and have expanded to accommodate their 5 children, 4 sons-in-law, 14 grandchildren, 5 grandchildren-in-law and 5 great grandchildren. Ten Mile has been a family favorite since 1975.



Jim Miller

They became full-time residents in 2012. Jim retired after 52 years as CPA and partner in Larson, Allen and Weishair & Company LLP (LAWCO) on December 31, 2013.

Jim's involvement with TMLA began as a Board member and treasurer in 1992. He became Vice President in 1995 and President from 1997 through 1999. He really saw the commitment of TMLA members when TMLA purchased the Kenfield Bay property for \$170,000 and paid the full purchase price in a short period of time. Shortly thereafter, **Rod and Dorothy Owre** donated an adjoining 5 acres with 500 feet of shoreline in Kenfield Bay

Jim's committee involvements have been and/or are as follows:

- ❖ Advisory Committee since 2000
- ❖ Conservation Committee which he has chaired since 2006. This committee negotiated the 9 Conservation Easements TMLA has on all TMLA parcels and negotiated the purchase of 2 parcels in Lundstrom's Bay which ultimately protected 3,000 feet of shoreline.
- ❖ Environment and Ecology Committee-current member
- ❖ AIS trained volunteer inspector since 2014

- ❖ James W. Schwartz Environmental Protection fund raising committee since 2013.

As chair of the Conservation Committee, Jim wanted to lead by example. As a result, he and Pat improved their shoreline in Flower Pot Bay under the Shoreline Restoration Program with Cass County in 2011. Bio-logs were installed by the Millers and many other committee members.

In 2012 the Millers put 2.77 acres and 240 feet of their shoreline in Flower Pot in a Conservation Easement with Cass County.

Jim takes great pleasure in serving TMLA because its members are so committed to preserving Ten Mile Lake and its watershed. The Millers love their Hidden Paradise!

TEN MILE MEMORIES

By Sue and Dan Eikenberry

From Dan: Going out to eat was a dramatic development and generous gesture on Dad's part. Everyone was thrilled to go to Lou-El's or Roby's. No food preparation or dishes to do!

My dad never got used to calling the refrigerator by that name. To him, it was still the "icebox."

From Sue: When I came to the lake with Dan's sister in junior high, we wanted to fish with **Code Shelton**, but we were scared to touch the minnow or worm (gross!). So we brought our old stained little white gloves which we always wore to Sunday School and church and used those to touch the bait and fish!

When Dan's mother and I were washing the dishes, she once remarked, "Oh, this lovely hot water!" I looked at her quizzically and she said, "Oh, we always had to boil so much water to do up the dishes, pots, and pans. This is so easy now!"

FALL UPDATE ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

By Bob Iverson, Chair, AIS Committee

WE'VE JUST HAD OUR FIRST really cool night at Ten Mile and there are certainly fewer people around and boats on the lake, but the County-provided AIS inspections at the DNR access are in full swing through September. The good news continues to be that we have not discovered any AIS in the lake (other than Chinese and Banded Mystery snails). Thanks to you and your guests for your vigilance.

STATE WIDE, ABOUT 10 MORE LAKES have been declared infested with zebra mussels, the same as last year. At least the pace isn't accelerating. As you probably saw in TMLA's early September email update, there are four more lakes infested with a nasty grass-like algae called starry stonewort, and three of them are near Bemidji. When first reported, this seemed like very rapid spreading but after careful examination it now appears that two of the Bemidji-area lakes had been infested for some time (years) and only Turtle Lake is a new case. People are just now learning how to identify this species, it seems.

ON SEPTEMBER 12, I ATTENDED an AIS conference at the University of Minnesota's AIS Research Center. The researchers at the Center updated the 200 attendees on progress in controlling the major AIS in the state, including zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil and spiny water flea.

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS was given by Prof. Sadowsky: "Unraveling the microorganisms associated with AIS: Potential for biological control?" He and his team are collecting zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil from about a dozen Minnesota lakes and will be analyzing the microorganisms attached to the AIS. According to Prof. Sadowsky, many organisms host microorganisms that are potential pathogens to the host – the challenge is finding the right ones that could kill the AIS without damaging other aquatic organisms. The research is expected to take another three to four years – cross your fingers.

See you in the Spring!

IMPORTANT WATER CONVERSATIONS

By Mary Ackerman, Chair, NWA

The Northern Water Alliance of MN, to which our Association belongs, is hosting Water Conversations to keep property owners, residents and visitors up to date with all the issues and threats that impact our pristine Northern waters. Two Conversations occurred in August as this new outreach was launched. The topic was Pipelines in Northern MN.

Other Water Conversations are in the planning stages. If you have concerns or suggestions for next topics or speakers you would like to recommend, please send your thoughts and suggestions to association@tenmilelake.org and they will be forwarded to the Alliance.

Thank you!

THE HISTORY PAGE

TWO CENTENARIANS

In 2016, two TMLA members reached the age of 100: Dick Garbisch and Helen Schaefer. Sue Eikenberry, Chair of the History Committee, interviewed both of them, asking the same interview questions.

Sue's Questions	Helen's Answers	Dick's Answers
You recently celebrated your 100th birthday. How did you feel about achieving this milestone?	Blessed! I can do more things than I thought I could do. I was still mowing the lawn last year!	I couldn't tell any difference! It was just getting up and being happy.
What's the best thing about being your age?	Being able to do absolutely anything I want to do, and loving life. I get to spend six months here and six in Arizona, and spend holidays with my family.	Going through security at the airport. They let me right through and told other officers I was 100!
What are you most grateful for at this time of your life?	Health! I still get in the lake!	Good health and a good marriage.
What has brought you most joy during the course of your life?	Being able to work and do anything I'd like. I'm close enough to my children, but not too close. I'm very family-oriented.	Children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! We have 19 great-grandchildren and there were 45 of us here for a week this summer. The yard looked like a school playground.
What have you never outgrown?	My love for life! Finding humor in something. I still love to work in my garden.	The ability to go sailing and play tennis. Now we've graduated to pontooning!
What advice do you have for us to remain ageless?	Don't worry. Be thankful.	A happy marriage, not smoking, and good genes.
Have the things that have given you joy changed over the years?	I've learned to appreciate things. As you get older, you appreciate things more. I thank the good Lord for nature.	Not really.
What inspires you?	A beautiful day! Music, constantly.	Wonderful grade school, high school, and college teachers, and Dad and Mother.
What's the best advice anyone has ever given you?	In the 30's I worked in a home. The gentleman who lived there said "Always be yourself. Don't put on airs. Don't try to be what others want."	My Dad said, "Save money for your old age!"

Sue's questions	Helen's answers	Dick's answers
When you get to the lake, how do you unwind?	We would put on our suits and get in the lake. Or, if it wasn't a lake day, we'd play cards.	It's easy. I read a lot. I enjoy my book club. We like to go on the pontoon and out to dinner with friends.
What do you like best about Ten Mile Lake?	The water and the wonderful people around the lake.	Being quiet. There are no noisy resorts. There is not even much boating activity on the lake. There is only one public access, and everyone is careful about the quality of the lake.
What is your favorite picture memory?	I think about the children, when they were young, and being in the lake.	Sailing in Class C sailboat races. At one time there were 22 Class C boats on the lake. At most, there were only about ten out at a time, though.
What is your favorite lake activity?	Dog paddling in the lake! And I bought a pontoon for my 100 th birthday!	Tennis, or sailing. I like looking at the lake. Every day is different.
Has your definition of what it means to be at the lake changed over the years?	I've grown to appreciate it more. In our early days we stayed at Woock's cabins. Then in 1958, we bought the property. We wanted our children to grow up at the lake.	No. I've enjoyed from the first day on.



Helen Schaefer at 100



Dick Garbisch at 100

A FOURTH OF JULY LOON STORY

By Kurt Owen

On the 4th of July my wife Ann came outside to tell me I had a phone call from a woman about a wounded loon on Lower Ten Mile Lake Road and Plainview Drive. She thought it was hit by a vehicle. My first thought was why is she calling me? My wife said she had gotten my name from the Ten Mile Lake website as a Loon Committee member. At the 2015 Ten Mile Lake Association Annual Meeting I saw the sign-up sheet for the Loon committee and thought I would enjoy being a part of that so I signed up. I did not think too much more about it until Jessica called.

When I went to investigate the situation I met **Jessica Hinkley**, who was on her way around the lake on her bicycle training for a triathlon when she saw a loon in the middle of the road. Trying to figure out who to call, she began calling members of the Loon Committee and I was the first one on the list who was available. By then she had enlisted the help of a passerby (we don't know his name) who picked up the loon from the road and put it on a piece of cardboard on the side of the road.

We both tried calling DNR, the Sheriff's office, and others to figure out what to do with the loon. The advice we got was to be careful about picking it up as they are large birds with very sharp, powerful beaks. Otherwise there seemed to be no place to take it. It

was suggested to let nature take its course. Triathletes are pretty persistent people; Jessica was not ready to let nature take its course.

We decided to try picking it up and getting it to the lake. As I took off to get a blanket to cover the loon to help pick it up safely, **Logan Anderson** stopped by on his four wheeler to see what was happening. At about that time the loon decided to flop into the nearby woods. Jesse's dad, **Steve Hinkley**, arrived about this time. Logan started to follow the loon through the woods which were part of his family's property.

By the time I got back with the blanket I found everyone at the Anderson home by the lake. Logan had followed the loon through the woods for a while. Eventually he picked it up and carried it to the lake where it swam out into the water and began fishing as if nothing were wrong.

Knowing that loons cannot take off to fly from land, we all began speculating about why the loon was in the road. The consensus among us was that the loon must have decided that the wet blacktop of Lower Ten Mile Lake Road looked like a good pond to land on. Whatever the reason, I think the persistence of Jesse the triathlete, and the "can do" attitude of Logan, sure made that loon's day.

THE LOON JOURNAL

By Kim and Bob Moe

Our TML Loon Committee and several volunteers were of great help this summer! Due to health issues Bob and I were not able to come back to Ten Mile the entire summer. Needless to say, we really missed life on the lake and all our summer friends and activities!

I was able to contribute some information for the newsletters. Loon committee members, **Jim Beyer** and **Bob Horn** put out the floating platforms early this spring. Numerous residents stayed in touch by phone and texts informing us about nesting pairs, location of the nests, number of chicks hatched and survival status.

Karla Seibert and **Lori Larson** (Temporary LOON Ladies) updated the loon information and statistics for 2016. They also set up an informative display for the Annual Meeting.

Taking several of the floating nests in is the next task that will be done this fall. **Jim Beyer** and **Craig Seibert** will pull them to shore to avoid ice damage.

We thank all our TML residents for always respecting and protecting our loon population. There is no doubt that Ten Mile folks love their loons! Our loons seem to love Ten Mile Lake!

FIVE CHICKS HATCHED IN 2016

- 1 in Flower Pot Bay
- 1 in Long's Bay
- 2 in Kenfield Bay
- 1 in Boone Point area to Sandy Beach area (This chick is hatched in a pond across the Boone Point Road!)

FISHING CHATTER

By Steve Helscher, Chair, Fisheries Committee

I AM EXCITED AND HONORED to be the Fisheries Chair for the TMLA. I want to extend a heartfelt **"THANK YOU!"** to **Bob Horn** for leading the committee the past ten years. Our family has been on Ten Mile since 1915 when my grandfather purchased Boone Point. At that time he was a principal for the Boone Iowa school district. My brother and family and two cousins and their families still enjoy Ten Mile and are still on Boone Point. After the recent summer storm and power outage, it gave all of us a taste of what it would have been like to live here day after day without the conveniences we are accustomed to.

AS I WRITE this article for the fall Newsletter, our family and our friends have gone home, having enjoyed their time here this summer. It is late August and we can see the turning of the seasons drawing near; some of our hardwood tree leaves are beginning to change color.

THE DNR WAS ON THE LAKE mid-August doing near-shore seining and electro-fishing. They did not do any gill or trap netting. We were in Iowa that week so I was not able to observe any of their work. 2017 is the next year scheduled for walleye stocking.

AS A FISHERMAN, I have enjoyed the influx of the Smallmouth Bass and the continued growth of the Northern Pike population. I do have concerns

about the **QUALITY** of the bluegill/sunfish population. I can't remember having a problem of catching good size "sunnies" anytime we wanted. Now it seems that it takes longer to catch them. I am a believer in returning to the water the really big fish. Those are the genes that we want to continue to inhabit the lake. It has been recommended that any "sunnies" over 8 inches and any crappie over 12 inches be returned to the water. If we can discipline ourselves to follow these guidelines, we should see better results within 10 years.

WALLEYE FISHING HAS BEEN spotty for many this year. I have had sporadic luck throughout the summer. I troll at dusk pulling crankbaits. Other members of my family like to live bait fish during the day. Neither presentation has been as productive for us as other years. I guess that is why it is called fishing and not catching.

I AM OPEN to any suggestions, questions, comments and fishing results you may have. We are all fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful lake we all love. Please contact me at steveandbarb@tds.net

BARB AND I ARE HEADED to Iowa for the winter. Have a great Fall/Winter and see you all next spring!

TEN MILE MEMORIES

By Sue and Dan Eikenberry

From Dan: Going out to eat was a dramatic development and generous gesture on Dad's part. Everyone was thrilled to go to Lou-El's or Roby's. No food preparation or dishes to do!

My dad never got used to calling the refrigerator by that name. To him, it was still the "icebox."

From Sue: When I came to the lake with Dan's sister in junior high, we wanted to fish with **Code Shelton**, but we were scared to touch the minnow or worm (gross!). So we brought our old stained little white gloves which we always wore to Sunday School and church and used those to touch the bait and fish!

When Dan's mother and I were washing the dishes, she once remarked, "Oh, this lovely hot water!" I looked at her quizzically and she said, "Oh, we always had to boil so much water to do up the dishes, pots, and pans. This is so easy now!"

STUCK IN THE STORM

By Justin Krueger

IN THE TWILIGHT HOURS of July 20th my mother, **Sandi Krueger**, went to the Moon Dance Jam Pre-Festival. Like most 20-somethings, I was out with my friends playing Pokémon GO. The midnight hour struck; lightning arced between clouds near the horizon. Out on the Walker City Dock, while battling a Pokémon gym, I heard a raucous party being held at the Chase. The staff dawdled down to the docks to secure the boats. Irked but unconcerned, they casually tied them down.

MY MOTHER CALLED at about 12:45 am, waiting at Charlie's Boat Bar needing a ride. When I arrived she was the last one there. We spent a few moments chatting with the staff. The DJ was packing up his things in a trailer. Then the lights went out: the casino, the gas station, everything. I turned on a flashlight to help the DJ while everyone nonchalantly talked in the dark. At this point the sky was calm. No wind, no rain, no sound of rustling; only faint distant thunder. The power fizzed on after 2 minutes or so. My mother and I decided it was time to head home to Flower Pot Bay.

I WAS DRIVING around the bend onto 371, and as we passed the old Moon Dance Ranch, the car was suddenly bombarded with a wall of rain and wind. The rain wasn't that strong yet, but the wind had it traveling at high speeds – sideways. I glanced down at my phone for any notifications as my mom was quick to implore "It's raining branches! Pay attention, we could get hit by a tree!" That very moment a somewhat large branch glided sideways right into my path, making me swerve to avoid it. I couldn't help but laugh. But I agreed with her and focused on the drive.

WE PASSED SEVERAL TREES that had fallen across 371, covering large sections of road. Shortly after turning onto Upper Ten Mile Lake Road, I realized my wheels were not touching the ground – complete loss of contact followed by gently lowering back down with a bounce: the SUV was gliding like a paper airplane.

THEN WE SAW the flattened trees at the intersection of county 50 and 71. We realized this was no small storm. We drove around the first of the massive downed trees and carefully over a powerline that had visibly shorted out. Turning the corner onto 71, we were greeted with nothing but trees on the road. They were flattened as far as I could see. I easily avoided the first and the second, but then two trees had fallen atop each other. The two trunks had created a tunnel, just large enough for my Ford Escape. We crept on through and around another tree before I came across one I couldn't move or break. The rain was picking up and we needed to figure things out, so we pulled into Becher's driveway hoping the walls of earth on either side would protect us enough;

since the trees behind us had already fallen for the most part.

WE COULD NOT SEE Becher's home even with all of the trees down. I called my roommates at home to see if "home" was still there. All was well, beyond ruined sleep and horrific sounds from the outside. One told me the wind was trying to rip the roof off. I decided to try the dirt road, County 50. I wiggled my way off of 71 and got a fair distance before I came across more trees. Luckily these were more manageable. The rain and wind were slowly getting stronger with branches flying like leaves in the wind. I got out and broke off the tree tops so I could get by. I did that about 3 times before I came across one I couldn't pass.

WE TURNED AROUND – and when we reached the intersection of 50 and 71, a gust of wind once more lifted and rocked the vehicle. Carefully I crossed the powerline again heading out to 371 and up to the casino.

THE CASINO HAD a fair number of visitors coming in one by one, telling the front desk "Our home has a tree on it, so we're going to need a room tonight." We checked the weather, got some snacks and left after resting about an hour.

WITH THE STORM MOSTLY passed, I planned to try Lower Ten Mile Lake Road and up 71. Lower Ten Mile was surprisingly devoid of fallen trees. There were one or two occasionally. Never a small tree either, only large ones. As we drove up 71, the real mess started after the north end of Hiram Loop Road. I would get out of the car, break up the top of the tree, hop in, dip down into the ditch and back up, drive fifty feet, repeat. We made it a good way towards home that way. Then we reached a point where the trees were so numerous and large I couldn't pass once again.

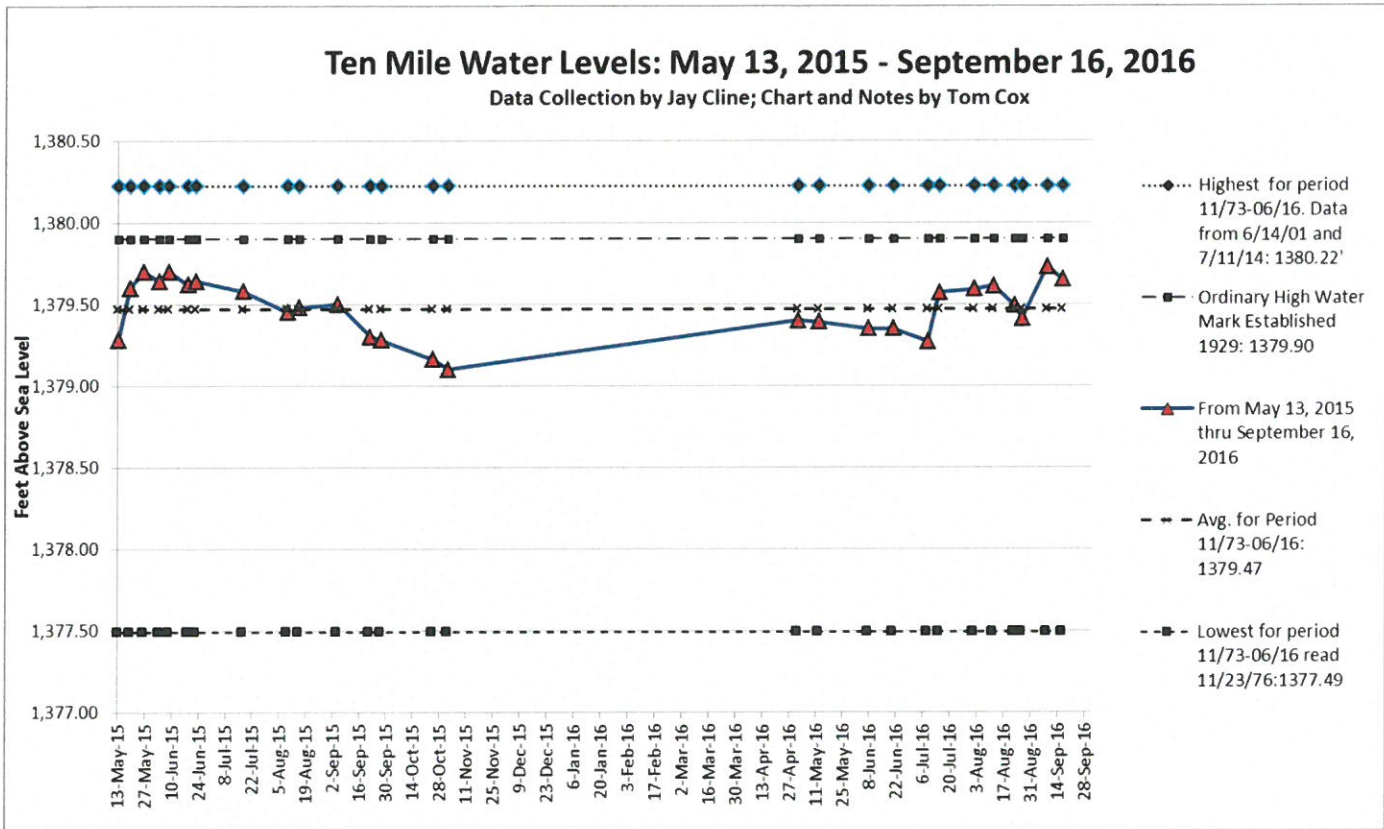
SHORTLY AFTER 4 A.M. we admitted defeat. I happily exclaimed, "At least I'm not bored!" And we turned around.

NEARING LOWER TEN MILE we saw a light flashing in the distance. As we got closer, we thankfully realized it was a County worker! We pulled up alongside each other. I yelled "I don't suppose you have a chainsaw?" He responded "I sure do!" When we told him where we lived, he said to follow him and he would get us home. We followed him from tree to tree where he would cut off enough to clear one lane, and occasionally move some by attaching a chain to his truck, leaving the rest for the bulldozer coming up 50 from 371.

HOME AT LAST, just after 5 am. More trees were down than I've ever seen in my area. Our fire ring used to be surrounded by trees; now you look up to an open sky. But we're just happy to be alive.

WATER LEVELS IN TEN MILE LAKE

By Tom Cox, Chair, Water Level Committee



Note: On September 8th, the day after the big September 7th rain, Ten Mile Lake stood at 1,379.73 feet above sea level, or 3.8 inches higher than on August 26th. It stood .03 feet (or .36 inches) higher than its highest of last summer (in May and June, 2015); and .26 feet (or 3.12 inches) higher than its all-time average of 1379.47 feet. But on the 8th it was still .49 feet (or 5.88 inches) lower than its record high of 1,380.22 feet recorded on June 14th, 2001 and again on July 11th, 2014. As of September 16th, the water had dropped almost an inch (.96") from the level it reached on the 8th, the day after the big rain.

REMEMBERING OUR TEN MILE LAKE FRIENDS

George J. Benesh

George Jerome Benesh, age 90, of Port Edwards, WI passed away at home surrounded by family on Monday, July 11, 2016.



George J. Benesh

George was born on July 15, 1925 in Walker, MN while his parents, George Sr. and Anna (Brotten) Benesh, were on vacation. George graduated from Edison High School in Minneapolis in 1943 before being drafted into the U.S. Navy the same year.

In 1946 George married his high school sweetheart, Irene Brinda (he nicknamed her Jo). August 3, 2016 would

have been their 70th wedding anniversary.

George's deep loves were: his family, his cabin on Ten Mile Lake near Hackensack, MN (the site of 3 major birthday parties), sailing, model trains and reading.

George claims "I am a lucky man" because of my beautiful wife Jo, 2 wonderful daughters, Linda (Douglas) Gremban and Amy (David) Rasmussen and proud grandchildren, Jeffrey (Meghan) Gremban, Matthew (Kristin) Rasmussen, Michael (Kristin) Gremban, Megan Rasmussen and Nicholas Gremban, plus 6 special great grandchildren, Spencer, Abbie, Hunter, Nora, William and Martin, and his constant companion Winston.

George was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Gladys and Frances, and niece Ana Mae.

(Information provided by Dave Rasmussen and Marty McCleery)



Donald Lionel Buck



Donald L. Buck

Donald Lionel Buck of Edina completed his life on January 27, 2016, passing away peacefully in the company of his family. He was born June 23, 1925, in Minneapolis. His parents were Merle Lionel and Irene Adelaide (Nelson) Buck. He grew up in South

Minneapolis, earned his Eagle Scout Award, and served in the Air Force. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1949 with a degree in Business.

He began his career at First National Bank, working first in Northfield and later in Sioux Falls. Don also worked at General Mills and later as comptroller at Research, Inc. before starting an engineering company, Data Myte. He consulted at several firms, started RotoCarve, and taught a course on Entrepreneurship at St. Thomas University, before retiring in 1994. Don was an active member of Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina.

While attending his home church one Sunday he noticed an attractive woman in the choir. One thing led to another and he married that young blonde, Mary Virginia Thorvig, on October 7, 1950. Family was Don's treasure. He often marveled at the wonderful result of that day he saw Mary singing in the choir: four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

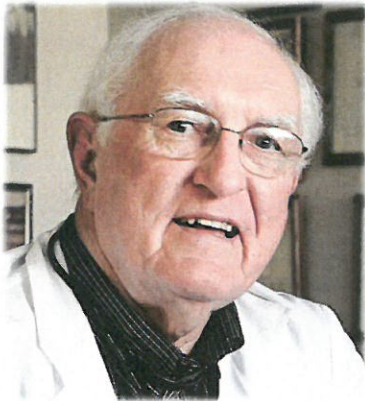
Don enjoyed bringing the family together around a fire in the fireplace, both at their Edina home and the beloved family cabin on Ten Mile.

(Contributed by David Buck)



Jack K. Lewis, M.D.

Jack K. Lewis, age 82, of Omaha NE passed away June 20, 2016. Survived by wife of 56 years, Kathy Lewis; sons John and Todd, daughter Cindy (Liekhus), sister Judy Bachman, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Jack K. Lewis

Lewis attended Stanford University in California and played quarterback there. He graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1960. He practiced medicine in Omaha NE with his father Raymond. He also worked with Dr Sam Watson who retired at the end of 1999. After Watson retired Lewis' son John, a physician

assistant, became his partner.

Jack Lewis was as well known for his community service as he was for his medical practice. He served 12 years on the Westside school board and worked with the Omaha Police Foundation, The Omaha Sports Hall of Fame, the Great Plains Amateur Boxing board and many other civic organizations.

He was a longtime Omaha Central High School booster and served as it's sports team doctor for more than 50 years. He was physician to the old Omaha Knights hockey team, at the Ak-Sar-Ben horse track, and at a variety of events at the Civic Auditorium.

Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said he had tremendous respect for Lewis due to his hard work and generous philanthropy while working with the Omaha Police Foundation.

He practiced medicine until a month ago. He recently became ill, and died June 20th of complications from surgery. Lewis' wife Kathy said he had enthusiasm and energy for many activities. "He enjoyed being a doctor most of all," she said.

The Lewis family had a summer cabin on the north shore of Ten Mile Lake.

(Information provided by Todd Lewis, Kay White and Omaha World Herald newspaper)



Chuck Krueger

Charles Lee Krueger, age 72 of Andover and Hackensack, Minnesota, passed away surrounded by his family on August 22, 2016. Charles was preceded in death by his parents Roland and Delma Krueger. Chuck is survived by his sister Katie; wife Nancy; children Nicole (Chris), Aaron (Jill); grandchildren Blake, McKenzie, Lilli, Madison, and Myah.

Chuck will long be remembered for his fish fries that coincided with Harry Rhodes' pig roasts on Forseman Point. Chuck is also remembered by many of his Ten Mile friends and neighbors as an avid fisherman, hunter and a person that cared much about Ten Mile Lake, its history and its future.

Chuck served on the Ten Mile Lake board throughout the years and will always be thought of as a compassionate giver of his time for the betterment of Ten Mile Lake.

A celebration of life event for Chuck will be held at the Hackensack American Legion on September 10, 2016 at noon. We love you Chuck, you will be missed by many, but we know you are now fishing on the best lake there is on the waters of heaven!



Chuck Krueger

(Information provided by Kari Ann Kather)



Beverly Riess

Beverly Ann Riess, 70, passed away on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. Beverly was born in Sheldon, Iowa to Marshall and Maureen (Wilcoxon) Wynn. Growing up, Beverly happily spent her teenage years in Monticello, IA. With her winning smile and vibrant spirit, she was a natural leader in community and school activities, including leading the band with her flaming baton.



Beverly Riess

Her adventurous spirit led her to the University of Northern Colorado where she earned her undergraduate degree in education. She taught in Nevada before returning to Iowa to teach second grade and earn her Master's Degree in education at the University of Northern Iowa.

Bev married the love of her life, Bill Riess, in 1978. Bev's greatest passion was education.

She was selected as the Student Teaching Coordinator for UNI where she placed student teachers in Des Moines classrooms. Educators throughout Iowa will fondly remember their wise, caring and supportive mentor. She was recognized for her work with the Alumni Association and the University of Northern Iowa Foundation. In 2013 she received the distinguished Alumni Service Award from UNI.

Bev and Bill loved spending their summers at 10 Mile Lake in Minnesota. The consummate hostess, Bev gathered her neighbors and friends for conversation, connections and laughter. Bev loved spending time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren, Luke and Allie.

Beverly is survived by her husband, Bill Riess and daughter, Jennifer (Tim) Lundberg; grandchildren Luke and Allie of Des Moines; sisters, Marlene Behn of Cedar Falls and Colleen Bowers of Mason City; and three generations of nieces and nephews. And she loved them all.

Beverly was preceded in death by her parents, brothers-in-law, Parke Behn and Bud Bowers and nephew, Brock Behn.

(Information provided by Maggie McGill.)



WORTH THE WAIT

By Jim Krotz

Pastor Urban, Hizzoner the Mare, Slacker Jack, Ed the bait shop entrepreneur, and I were sitting around Swanson's Bait Shop the other afternoon - "counting the dead flies between the window and the screen" is the way Slacker Jack puts it - when we got to talking about the price of land around Leech Lake and Ten Mile Lake. Ed the owner opened the conversation by saying, "Lake lots without buildings are starting at \$200,000 and with a cabin or home from \$400,000 to over \$1.5 million."

"**And then all the toys you gotta have,**" interjected Slacker Jack, "like a fishing boat with an eight-horse motor, a speed boat with a 140-horsepower motor, a pontoon boat to take the women for a ride at night, jet skis. It could get expensive."

"**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,** where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also, Matthew 6:20," quoted the good Reverend Urban.

Slacker responded, "I keep my boats covered and store them in my neighbor's Butler Building for \$300 per winter. So they shouldn't rust and are relatively free from being stolen."

Ed the bait shop owner added, "Someday, if we're not careful all these possessions will begin to own us, keeping us from doing things that give meaning to life, such as spending time with our friends and

families and appreciating nature. Ain't that why we live up here in the north country?

"The more we consume, the more we pollute our lakes, rivers, land, and artesian aquifers," argued Hizzoner the Mare. "Our landfills are

becoming overloaded like a dead, bloated hog. I read the other day in *National Geographic* or some magazine that eight million tons of plastic trash ends up in the oceans. That is more than the total found floating on the surface. Scientists predict more plastic than fish will be in the oceans by 2050."

"Hey, Frank, I think I just caught another bottle bass," joked Slacker.

"You're an idiot, Slack," Hizzoner snapped.

It was then I remembered the strongest and longest dream I've had since I was nine or ten years old: to own woodland. "I remember my folks considered buying a 40-acre parcel on the Lemonweir River back in 1960. Our neighbors the Farleys were selling 40 acres adjacent to my Uncle Earl's land in Clearfield Township. It was a beautiful woods--oak trees, poplars, paper birches, a few pines, and best of all some gigantic white pines across the river. The crook in the river which we called the Big Eddy flowed through the land. Deer, squirrel, rabbits, and grouse abounded. The river had almost any fish you could name except trout, muskies, and sturgeon.

"The Lemonweir River was a menagerie of fish -- even mudpuppies and dogfish and old boots," quipped Slacker.

"The Farley's wanted \$1,000 for these 40 acres--a reasonable sum in 1960. My parents offered \$500 and were turned down. "We'd have to buy an easement from Hank Nelson and then pay to put in a driveway. We just don't have the money," The Five-Foot General reasoned. I was heartsick. I could see myself riding my bike three miles to my cousins' and tromping that land with my .22 or 20-gauge shotgun. I had visions of fishing the Big Eddy every sunny day in the summer. It was the answer to this boy's prayers. Ole and The Five-Foot General never made another offer. We never bought any land.

"Soon after I was married in 1970, I got a call one Friday night asking whether I wanted to buy 80 acres where we deer hunted for \$10,000. I was still

in college and" -- "and you didn't have a pot to pee in or window to throw it out," interrupted Slacker. He was right about the window. Our little one-bedroom apartment only had a skylight except for windows on the unheated porch. Needless to say, we didn't buy that land.

"Getting forest land was always a dream of mine. It didn't need a lake, river, or pond, just woodland. When I left Colorado in the '80s I told people I was leaving so I could buy land and live in the country. It never happened. Three daughters happened and the expenses that go with children. Finally, in 2012 I bought 3.5 acres across Hiram Loop Rd from Ten Mile Lake. No buildings but several different biomes.

"From the road to 100 yards back are mostly red oak, birch, poplar, and a few white pine. Then two small marshes, with water in the spring and almost dry by August, separate the woods from a thick spruce thicket. In July wild irises border these marshes. The pine thicket has a sphagnum moss floor. Here, in May I can find pink lady slippers. More hilly woodland follows where fox, deer, porcupine, turkeys, and all kinds of woodpeckers hang out. Across Highway 71 is the Chippewa National Forest, which gives me thousands more acres of land although I have to share it.

"Three years ago in May, a family of foxes had burrowed dens into a bank about 20 feet from the dirt road that loops past the lake homes. Since most people had been gone since September, the bank probably seemed a good place to have kits and rear them. As traffic increased the foxes moved. One day I was in the woodland behind the spruce thicket when I heard a horrendous, eerie, high-pitched screech. I didn't know what it was at first. Then I saw a fox and realized that it was alarming the rest that I was in the vicinity. I'm in heaven," I said.

Reverend Urban said, "Amen."

And Slacker Jack mumbled, "You still need to get a boat and motor."

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To subscribe to this Newsletter, or to enquire about membership in the Ten Mile Lake Association, please contact the Membership Secretary. Membership dues are \$40.00 per year. All TMLA Newsletters can also be found on the TMLA website, [tenmilelake.org](http://www.tenmilelake.org)

TMLA NEWSLETTER, Fall, 2016
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Page 1 <i>Annual Meeting</i>
<i>It Ain't Over (Gary Anderson)</i> | Page 10-11 <i>The History Page: Two Centenarians (Sue Eikenberry)</i> |
| Page 2 <i>List of Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs</i>
<i>Speaker at Annual Meeting Describes</i>
<i>Groundwater Research</i> | Page 12 <i>The Loon Journal: (Kim and Bob Moe)</i>
<i>A Fourth of July Loon Story (Kurt Owen)</i> |
| Page 3 <i>From the President's Desk (Ivar Siqveland)</i>
<i>Thank You From Nancy Gilles</i> | Page 13 <i>Fishing Chatter (Steve Helscher)</i>
<i>Ten Mile Memories (Sue and Dan Eikenberry)</i> |
| Page 4 <i>Late Summer Pipeline Updates (Jim Reentz)</i> | Page 14 <i>Stuck in the Storm (Justin Krueger)</i> |
| Page 5-8 <i>James W. Schwartz Awards Given: Bruce Carlson, Tom Cox, Sarah Cox, Robert Crom, and Jim Miller.</i> | Page 15 <i>Water Levels in Ten Mile Lake (Tom Cox)</i> |
| Page 9 <i>Fall Update on Aquatic Invasive Species (Bob Iverson)</i>
<i>Important Water Conversations (Mary Ackerman)</i> | Page 16-18 <i>Remembering Our Ten Mile Lake Friends: George J. Benesh, Donald Lionel Buck, Jack K. Lewis, MD, Chuck Krueger, Beverly Riess</i> |
| | Page 18-19 <i>Worth the Wait (Jim Krotzman)</i> |