

Ten Mile Lake Association

Newsletter

FALL, 1987



ASSOCIATION HONORS WARREN GOSS

Warren Goss (above), who has been described as the "guardian of Ten Mile Lake," was singled out for recognition during the Association's annual meeting on August 1. Ross Melagard, president, presented Warren with a plaque in appreciation of his "outstanding contributions to the preservation of our lake."

When Warren, 75, retired in 1969 from the Pillsbury Company he transferred his work time to the lake, where he had purchased a cabin in 1969.

"I had time to lie in a hammock by the shore and wonder what was in our lake," he said. "I decided to start by taking samples of the water and having them tested." A graduate chemical engineer from the University of Washington, he had contacts in the research community. This led to the FMC Corporation of Princeton, NJ, sending a team of scientists out to make a study of Ten Mile in 1975.

They returned the following year and then had water samples sent to their laboratory for a third year. "Their findings were that Ten Mile was blessed with the right qualities of chemicals," Warren said. "We got high marks."

That wasn't all. For 10 years he took tests of dissolved oxygen from the deepest hole, 200 plus feet, to the surface. He tested once a week from spring to fall and once a month in winter.

Warren said he had tested other lakes, including Gull and Woman, and none had the quality of Ten Mile. Warren was president of the Ten Mile Lake Association for four years, and has been active in the Izaak Walton League, Deep Portage, and the Freshwater Biological Foundation.

In other business at the meeting, Ross Melgaard was re-elected president; Robert Larson, re-elected vice president; Lois Sandell, re-elected secretary, and Molly Bliska was elected treasurer. Directors re-elected were Stan Skaug, Walter Kane, Robert Crabb and Virgina Wagner. New directors are Sally Helsman and Eleanor Nelson.

Jim Schwartz, co-chair of the environment and ecology committee, reported that the Association Board had authorized a lakewide study to determine how many culverts were discharging nutrient-laden swamp water into the lake. He said more than 40 culverts had been identified. Of these, perhaps 8 or 10 represented a serious enough threat so that methods of control and/or correction were being investigated and would be brought to the Board for consideration. — Bill Macklin & Jim Schwartz.

OPAL ROBY GIVES LAND TO TMLA

The second major gift to be made to the Ten Mile Lake Association in less than a year was announced at the annual meeting on August 1. President Ross Melgaard told members that Mrs. Opal Roby, a long-time lake resident, was giving the Association approximately three acres of land adjoining her property. It will be designated the Roby Family Wildlife Sanctuary.

In recognition of the gift, Ross read a letter of thanks to Opal. Because she was not feeling well and could not be present, Opal's grandson, Douglas Brown, accepted the letter on her behalf.

The property provides habitat for a large variety of wild creatures and includes a loon nesting site. It is located along Cass County Highway 71.

— Jim Schwartz.

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STEPPED UP FISH STUDY CONSIDERED

An intensified assessment of Ten Mile's fish population is in prospect over the next few years, according to Harlan Fierstine, Area Fisheries Supervisor, Walker.

Fierstine, who assumed his duties this spring following the retirement of John Kollar, wants to take advantage of at least two assessment techniques: Trawling and electro-fishing.

A preliminary trawling operation, which consists of dragging a long net behind boats, was carried out late in the summer. Although no conclusions can be drawn from this single effort, Fierstine said yearling and larger walleyes were netted, as well as a broad variety of other fish, such as northern pike, bluegill, rock bass and perch. He reported no young-of-the-year walleyes in the trawl net.

Electro-fishing is done at night when game fish are feeding in relatively shallow water. As the name indicates, it makes use of an electric shocking device which, when lowered into the water, stuns the fish temporarily. They come to the sur-

face where they can be counted, measured, weighed, examined to determine their age and, finally, returned to the lake.

Fierstine said that, because of the lateness of the season, it probably will be next spring or summer before these techniques can be put into full use. One purpose of the studies is to determine survival rates for game fish that spawn in Ten Mile. -- Jim Schwartz.

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HOFFMANS TAKE MOXNESS TROPHY

Kion Hoffman, with his father, Dr. Byron, as crew, won the Ten Mile Lake regatta on August 15 by finishing first in two races. They will have possession of the Mexness cup for a year.

Tied for second were Dick Garbisch and Dave Brandt. They will share the Dan Gainey trophy. Third was Chris Brandt, who was presented the Kay Gainey trophy. This was the end of summer sailing events for Class C scows.

Dave Brandt, commodore, said he was pleased that eight boats turned out for the races under ideal conditions. After a lull in racing on the lake. Brandt organized two events this summer. "I'd like more races next year." he said, adding he was happy with the competition in the Moxness race.

Others participating were skippers Brad Putney, Jim Brandt, Jr., and Jim Ellerston.

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NECROLOGY

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of two more of our members. They are Dwight Bruns, who succumbed to a heart attack Jan. 22, 1987, at St. Mary's in Rochester, and Mabel (Mrs. Clyde) Thomas. The information supplied to us on Mrs. Thomas' death did not provide the date and cause.

NEW BOAT LANDING IN PLANNING STAGE

A boat launching site on the east side of Ten Mile could become a real-ity by 1990, according to Dick Kimball, area water access specialist at the Department of Natural Resources headquarters in Bemidji.

As planned, the launching site will have spaces for 15 to 20 car-trailer

PETITION OPPOSES ACCESS PROJECT

More than 60 residents of the Long Bay area have filed a petition with the Department of Natural Resources objecting to the proposed landing. The petition cites four reasons why the signers oppose the project:

- 1. Locating the access at the end of Long Bay will have the effect of funneling traffic to the main lake through the relatively long, narrow bay.
- 2. The proposed access would have a negative effect on the area's wild-life. In particular it would threaten the pair of loons that annually nests in the Boy River and raises its young in Long Bay as well as a long-established nesting site for blue herons in the immediate vicinity.
- 3. The increased boat traffic would further endanger those who, because of the relatively calm waters of Long Bay, come there to ski and teach skiers.
- 4. The proposed 371 location would pose a traffic hazard for access users and other traffic due to hills both north and south of the site.

The petitioners also expressed the belief that the project would have a negative effect on property values and would represent an added attraction to the area for commercial enterprises. They recommended that, if a new access is needed on Ten Mile, the DNR find a more suitable site for it. — Jim Schwartz.

units, trash containers and, possibly, either portable or permanent toilets. Kimball said the site will be serviced once or twice weekly depending upon need. Location of the

new access would be approximately 500 feet north of the Ten Mile Inn.

In Kimball's opinion, the landing would not have a major impact on the area's residents. He said legitimate usage peaks only about three times during a season — at the fishing opener, on Memorial Day weekend and over the Fourth of July holiday. He added that improper usage, such as partying and similar activities, are seldom a problem at accesses located along well-traveled highways.

The project now is in the land appraisal stage. Once that process is completed, the DNR will make purchase offers to the property owners. If the offers are accepted, the DNR will take options on the properties and then invite public comment. Kimball said public input can take one or both of two forms: either letters or appearance at a public hearing.

He said he anticipated a public meeting would be scheduled. Although the DNR would prefer a summer date to permit seasonal residents an opportunity to appear in person, he said the hearing might have to be set during winter months. Reason: the DNR has only two months to complete negotiations once an option has been taken. Public comment is required before any purchase is concluded.

Even if there are no delays in the approval process, it is not likely that the new access will be in place before 1990. Kimball explained that several others in the area are farther along in the process. — Jim Schwartz.

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NINE ON LATEST SEPTIC HONOR ROLL

Since our summer newsletter, seven residents have upgraded their septic systems to code: Arthur Thomas, Howard Sandell, John Edwards, Marian Kennedy, Wm. Christofferson, James Bowman and Mariana Elsenpeter.

Walter Kane and Ivar Sigveland III had installed new systems earlier but the projects escaped our attention.

A TEN MILE LAKE HORSE?

Ten Mile Lake is, in a manner of speaking, getting the "run-around." J. Robert Harris of Rehobeth Beach, Del., has named a bay colt race horse after our lake.

In the colt's first race at Pimlico, MD., on Aug. 18, Ten Mile Lake finished in the middle of the pack. Track watchers said he showed promise. They call it "running green."

Harris is a friend of Garbisches and the Knopfs, who have cabins on Ten Mile Lake. He has been a summer visitor on the lake. -- Bill Macklin.

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HOW BIG IS AN 11-YEAR-OLD WALLEYE?

If you've ever wondered what the growth rate is for the fingerlings we have been putting into the lake each fall, we now have a partial, though confusing, answer. Late this summer a walleye was netted that weighed 7 1/4 pounds, was 27 1/4 inches long and had a clipped right pectoral fin.

That clipped right fin provided the clue to the fish's age. In 1976 a volunteer crew helped DNR personnel clip the right pectoral fin of 14,980 fingerlings stocked in Ten Mile that fall. So, those fish now are 11 years old.

But wait. That's not the entire story. Another walleye caught earlier this summer also had a clipped right fin. Length: 20"; weight: 2 1/2 lbs., almost five pounds lighter than the "classmate."

Why the big difference? Your guess is as good as ours. Maybe one was a male, the other a female. Or, some fish may grow more rapidly than others, or are more adept at foraging for food. Whatever the correct answer, the comparative sizes surprised the anglers (two were involved).

During the 1984 season that same couple boated seven walleyes having clipped fins — five the right pectoral and two the left. Lengths? Weights? Sorry, they kept no records of those figures. (Left fins were

clipped on 1,440 stocked fingerlings
in 1981.)

If you have netted any clipped fin walleyes, we'd appreciate it if you would report what you can recall to Bill Macklin, Newsletter Editor, and Virginia Wagner, Fisheries Committee Chair. And if you catch any in the future, record the weight and length, note which fin was clipped and relay the data to Bill and Virginia. The information is important because it could have a bearing on future management plans for Ten Mile. — Jim Schwartz.

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CISCOES DWARFED BY ENVIRONMENT

Ten Mile's dwarf tullibees are not a distinct race, as had at first been thought, but are governed in size by the characteristics of their environment. That is one of the preliminary conclusions reached by Ted Halpern, a University of Minnesota graduate student, who has made the dwarf tullibee the subject of his dissertation.

Halpern discussed some of his findings in a speech to members of the Ten Mile Lake Association at their annual meeting August 1. He said when Ten Mile Lake tullibees were put into other lakes in the region, they grew from their maximum size of 4.5 inches in Ten Mile to almost 9 inches in the other lakes in one season.

Halpern said his comparisons of the tullibees in Ten Mile Lake, Elk Lake and Lake Itasca indicated that Ten Mile tullibees grow slower, have a much smaller maximum size, reach maturity earlier, have a shorter life span and produce far fewer eggs. He added, however, that tullibee survival may be better in Ten Mile than in the other two lakes because of less predation and a much greater proportional amount of shore line.

He estimated that the tullibee population in Ten Mile is on the order of several millions. He intends to try acoustical instruments to see if he can reach a more specific population estimate. — Jim Schwartz.

DIRECTORY ADDRESS CHANGES

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NO MAJOR CHANGE IN WATER CLARITY

The news continues to be favorable as far as Ten Mile's water clarity is concerned. The average Secchi disc depth reading for the summer was 17.8 feet on weekly tests taken from June through mid-September. Best reading was 21' on July 7; worst was 14.5', recorded three consecutive weeks from August 25 through September 9.

In Long Bay, the season's average was better than in the main lake: 18.2". Best: 20' worst: Overall, the figures are reassuring. They indicate we are at least holding our own.

Ten Mile has participated in the state's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program for more than ten In 1986, 252 lakes cooperated in the vears. The average Secchi disc reading for the studv. entire group was 8.8'. Best reading: Clearwater in Cook County with a 29.8'average. Ten Mile ranked fifteenth with its 17.5' average -- best in Cass County. -- Jim Schwartz.

TIPS ON WATER SAFETY AND COURTESY

The sheriff's office tells us that fewer complaint calls come in from Ten Mile than from other area lakes. It is our goal to continue practicing water safety and toward this end we have a few reminders and suggestions:

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- 1. Pleasure craft should give fishing boats a wide berth. Fishing lines have been cut by motor boats coming too close. Large wakes can be created and a possible danger may result.
- 2. All rafts must be off the lake by November 1. All four sides of a raft must have reflectors, and the raft must not be more than 100 feet off shore. Permits are required for rafts. You merely telephone the sheriff's office and the permit will be mailed. No cost is involved.
- 3. Buoys also are required to have permits. The preferred colors are blue and white. By adhering to these rules you are practicing water safety and you also are protecting yourself against a possible legal action.
- 4. Water skiers and jet skiers must be off shore far enough that the wake will not endanger swimmers. The noise

level of a jet ski motor may not exceed that of a motorboat. It is sucgested that jet skiers head directly from shore toward the middle of the

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We unde all residents to continue their good water safety habits. --Stan Slaug.

PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERTS MAKES LOON VIDEO

A Ten Mile summer resident, Peter Roberts, who is building a reputation as a fine wildlife photographer, is in print with a videotape on looms.

It can be ordered from the gift shop, Deep Portage Center. Hackensack, MN 56452. Cost is \$24.95 plus \$2 shipping.

Major portions of the film were taken on Ten Mile by Roberts from blinds. A preview of the film was shown to the Tuesday Ten Mile men's coffee club during the summer.

Peter, son of Joanne Roberts, did not make it to the lake this summer. He was busy elsewhere shooting wildlife films. -- Bill Macklin.

STOCK 30,170 WALLEYES IN TEN MILE

Crews from the Department of Natural Resources stocked 30,170 walleye fingerlings in Ten Mile Lake during late September and early October.

The "take" from Hiram Pond had its good and bad sides. The good was the fingerling size, ranging from about 8 to more than 15 inches long. The bad was in the numbers, only 2,725, which means carryover from last year. Survival rate, however, should be high.

The remaining 27,295 came from two other pends, one producing 16 fish to the pound and the other 90.

TMLA members Ed Swanson, Harry Hotovec, Walter Kane and Jim Schwartz helped with the trapping operation.

-- Jim Schwartz.

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RANDOM NOTES: Two goslings were raised by a pair of Canada geese in the Pinewood Resort area this summer... A flock of 8 to 10 pheasants was spotted a short distance from Ten Mile in late September; Conservation Officer Dave Smith says they probably will not last long in this area... If you haven't paid your dues (\$10), send your check now to Lois Sandell, Secretary, HC 75, Box 646, Hackensack, MN 56452... Deep Portage merits your support; call 682-2325 to learn how to become a member.

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INSECT STINGS CAN BE DANGEROUS

A "sting operation" in Minnesota this summer was felt by at least two Ten Mile Lake residents.

One, Karen Kellogg, was stung by an insect as she walked to her car one morning. The offender was either a bee, hornet or wasp -- all cousins with potentially dangerous venom.

"I felt awful," she said, "but was alone at the cabin and decided to go to work at the family's Hackensack restaurant." She was woozy driving in and looked as though she might pass out when she arrived.

Her son. Jeff, restaurant manager,



took the wheel and drove her to the Pine River Clinic. She was given an antidote and told it was a close call. Such stings can be fatal. The physician prescribed medication that can be administered by needle.

Another target was Clara Brecht, a resident of Arizona spending the summer with her husband on Ten Mile. She was stung by a bee and had an immediate reaction. "I felt feverish, then light-headed, had difficulty breathing and knew something from the sting was more than my system could tolerate," said Clara.

She called a neighbor, Jean Ackerman, who has been on the lake long enough to know everyone up and down the shore. Jean is from Lincoln, NE, and immediately decided it was a case for Dr. Donald Purvis, an internist from her city who lives a mile down the shore.

She phoned Dr. Purvis, who left his porterhouse steak and boated to the Brecht cabin — it's faster than by road — with an antidote kit kept on hand for his wife. By then Clara had passed out. An adrenalin shot brought her around but she was two days shaking off the hives.

"I tried to pay him later," she said, "but he wouldn't take anything. So I took him porterhouse steaks to make up for what he had let get cold when he rushed to my aid. I heard that someone else on the lake had taken a porterhouse steak to a doctor who had aided them. I guess that is the standard fee."

If you are unfortunate enough to be stung on vacation, far from your home town family physician, 30 miles from the nearest hospital, Ten Mile Lake is the place. There are 13 doctors' names in the Ten Mile Lake directory. And there may be more who prefer to be plain persons without disclosing their professions. — Bill Macklin.

MEMBERSHIP NOW TOPS 600

We welcome these 36 members who have joined since publication of the Summer Newsletter. Our membership now totals 613.

BEASLEY, Steven and Nancy 15030 Cherrywood Drive Laurel, MD 20707

BEAVER, Darrell & Jean Rural Route 1, Box 101 Hayfield, MN 55940

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BENING, Raymond 2385 Williams Palo Alto, CA 94306 MANLOVE. J. C., M.D.

BRANDT, Tom & Patty 2 South 326 Deerpath Rd.

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Know a prospective Association member? Send the name to Mrs. Lois Sandell. She'll forward materials and invite the individual to join. and invite the individual