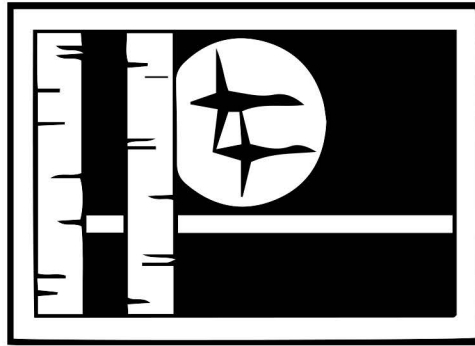


# TEN MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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



**SUMMER 2022**  
[www.tenmilelake.org](http://www.tenmilelake.org)

PO Box 412  
Hackensack MN 56452

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the President's Desk.....	Cover & 3
Ten Mile History Book News Flash .....	3
Annual Meeting .....	4
Minnesota Mule.....	4
Get Involved .....	5
Zebra Mussel Corner .....	6
Watercraft Operators Permit Training .....	6
Searching for Local Events .....	7
Sinatra - Part II Blue .....	7
Fourth of July Boat Parade.....	8
Suckers - One of Our Least Understood Fish .....	10-11
History of the Water Level Committee .....	12-16
And We're Off! .....	16-17
What to do if You Find a Dead Loon .....	17
TMLA Membership Form .....	18

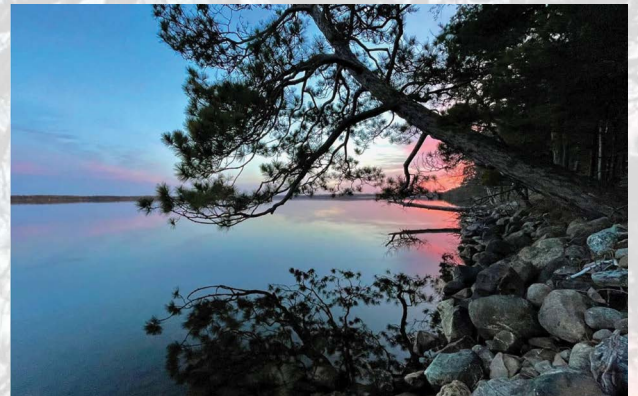
## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*By Linda Schwartz, TMLA President*

We're BACK! Back to this place of memories old and new, inspirational scenic views, changing seasons, and a sense of calm in a chaotic world.

The only downside is our biannual 1800 mile marathon across seven states--always a challenge.

Since 2019, our official (cold months) residence has been a quiet Florida island on the Atlantic called The Hammock. But Ten Mile beckons in the spring.



This May, as we prepared to leave for Minnesota graduations and association meetings, people reported that the ice was STILL on Ten Mile. Many of our Florida friends thought we were crazy. They just don't get it.

So, off we go! Immediately insane drivers racing in and out of lanes around Jacksonville; several accidents around Atlanta offering 30 miles of stop and crawl; a lovely but too brief overnight with friends in Georgia; never ending construction on every bridge in Illinois; and road enraged commuters on the massive interstate around St. Louis. Thankfully, Michael avoided several near-fatalities with zooming motorcycles and a few hot rodders--my screams being the key to our survival.

Next day, Hannibal, MO, to Ten Mile — an 11 hour drive — and we're still married! Six deer, a gaggle of turkeys and two raccoons on the northshore road, and we arrived just as the sun was setting. Wonderful. Next morning, sunrise over the Atlantic had been traded for sunrise





**BECAUSE A BEAUTIFUL LAWN DOESNT HAPPEN BY ITSELF**

- Landscaping (*firepits, patios, retaining walls, gardens, boulders, rip rap*)
- Mowing Maintenance
- Fertilizing / Weed Control Programs (*please see website*)
- Irrigation Installation / Maintenance
- Hydroseeding
- Snow Removal Residential / Commercial
- Fall and Spring Clean up
- Mulching of beds

**Sunshine, your complete lawn & landscape company**



P: 218-652-5296 (LAWN)  
[stacey@sunshinelawnandlandscape.com](mailto:stacey@sunshinelawnandlandscape.com)



Enjoy the crystal clear waters of Ten Mile lake today!  
**[BillHansenRealty.com](http://BillHansenRealty.com)**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (CONTINUED)

over Ten Mile, with a raft of loons as our welcome party. AHHH. Gorgeous!

At this writing, late May has moved into June. The ice is long gone; the forest shifts hourly from its almost barren winter sleep to the lush greenery of summer; hummingbirds vie for the best feeder; songbirds, woodpeckers, bluejays, crows and an occasional eagle swoop in and out; even the squirrels are partying. June also brought a powerful

wind storm, many people lost power, some damage to property, and we had an 80' white pine crash into our front yard, missing the cabin by a few feet. Now we're planting flowers, have a dock and boats and soon we'll have boat parades and fireworks.

Yes, we ARE back and ready for another summer of friends, family and more memorable mornings, sunsets and lake-filled days. See you around the lake!

# TEN MILE HISTORY BOOK NEWS FLASH!

Hello Ten Milers!

We have received 25 histories for the proposed addendum to the 2007 Ten Mile Lake History book and have several who have contacted me that are still writing. At our History Committee meeting this week we decided to allow one more year for articles to be submitted. We encourage not only new Ten Milers, but families who would like to update their information and stories to participate in this collection of lake history. (include fun memories, storms, fish stories, changes in your property, etc. Let the kids chime in on their favorites. Remember photos are encouraged. (be sure to label people, events etc. in the pics)

### **Submit your history to:**

Lynn Schall, [john50588@yahoo.com](mailto:john50588@yahoo.com)

Please use Word or Pages (don't send a "pdf" as it is too difficult to edit.)

### **or to Lynn at:**

5160 Lower Ten Mile Lake RD, NW, Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone 515-298-3073.

There will be more information at the Annual Meeting and a follow-up in the Fall Newsletter.

This Newsletter is a Publication of the Ten Mile Lake Association, Inc.  
P O Box 412, Hackensack, MN 56452  
[association@tenmilelake.org](mailto:association@tenmilelake.org)

To subscribe to this newsletter, or to enquire about membership in the Ten Mile Lake Association, please contact the membership coordinator at [membership@tenmilelake.org](mailto:membership@tenmilelake.org).

Membership dues are \$40 per year.

Archived newsletters are available on the TMLA website at [www.tenmilelake.org](http://www.tenmilelake.org)

The TMLA welcomes business advertisers to its newsletter. However, the Association does not endorse commercial products, services or establishments to its membership or the general public.

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEN MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022**

**Meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.; coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m.**

**Location: Union Congregational Church, 401 Lake Avenue East, Hackensack**

For me, the annual meeting of the Ten Mile Lake Association is a very gratifying event. I always leave with a renewed appreciation of the hard work, enthusiasm and incredible talents of the many board and committee volunteers that make our lake association one of the best in the state!

We have 14 committees that do the work of the Association (don't panic — they all won't be reporting at the Annual Meeting!). Some do the behind-the-scenes administrative work of finance, membership, board nominations and such. Others focus on the issues that preserve Ten Mile as one of the premier bodies of water in Minnesota. At this year's Annual Meeting, we'll be hearing updates from Bruce Carlson's Environmental and Ecology Committee on water quality and aquatic invasive species, and from our very active Loon Committee on the nesting and loon status in Ten Mile. We'll also have a report from the Water Level committee and receive some important information from our Lake Safety Committee on the buoys and no wake zones.

Our outside speaker will be Mark Gossman, a certified forester who heads the Cass County Land Department. One of the key elements in our lake's water quality is preserving healthy foliage and forestry cover in our watershed. Mark's department manages some of those forested lands, and we'll learn how their work enhances the quality of our lake.

We promise a well-organized and efficient meeting starting at 10:00 a.m., with adjournment scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Please arrive early, enjoy a cup of coffee, browse the exhibit tables and visit with your fellow Ten Milers. And plan on leaving refreshed in your enthusiasm for all of the good things happening around Ten Mile Lake!

Andy Biebl  
TMLA Vice President



## Minnesota Mule from Freshwater Society

### INGREDIENTS

1 to 2 tablespoons elderberry juice, to taste

1 shot vodka (1.5 ounces)

6 to 8 ounces ginger ale

Lime wedge for garnish

In a highball glass, mix together the elderberry juice, vodka, and ginger ale. Fill the glass 1 with ice and serve with a lime wedge garnish.



# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND HELP WITH THE MISSION OF THE TMLA THIS SUMMER

## – VOLUNTEER HERE!

Position	Time required	Please put in subject line:	Email
Board of Directors	1 meeting per month May-September	Bob Horn	association@tenmilelake.org
Newly formed Membership Committee	1 meeting per month (Zoom or in person) May-September,	Annie Swanstrom	membership@tenmilelake.org
Webmaster/Helper	Intermittent posting of articles and pictures, meetings not required	Annie Swanstrom	membership@tenmilelake.org
Donations Coordinator	2-3 times a month get a list from Membership of gifts given and send thank you notes, meetings not required.	Jill Anderson	membership@tenmilelake.org
All committees are always happy to have volunteers	See <a href="http://www.tenmilelake.org">www.tenmilelake.org</a> for committee descriptions and purview	Andy Biebl	association@tenmilelake.org
Newsletter-Dedicated obituary contact	Two to three hours per issue, four times a year. Reach out to families for obituaries and photos, format for the newsletter. Meetings not required.	Allison Hackenmiller	association@tenmilelake.org
Calendar - website	One hour a month mostly summertime, no meetings. Easy training to coordinate adding events and details to the website calendars	Calendar	association@tenmilelake.org
AND DON'T FORGET the Monthly Happy Hour event	Still looking for a replacement place and/or format for our successful fun event at Headwaters last year. Looking for ideas and organizers!	Allison Hackenmiller	association@tenmilelake.org



## ZEBRA MUSSEL CORNER

No additional news about the presence or absence of zebra mussels in Ten Mile since the last update for the Spring Newsletter. Since then, however, I have learned that researchers from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) sampled Ten Mile five times last summer looking for eDNA for several invasive species – zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, rusty crayfish and common carp – and they will continue testing again this year. Unfortunately, it sounds like results for last summer won't be available until this coming fall.

For the benefit of those not familiar with the term eDNA, this is DNA contained in any cellular material

that may be shed by aquatic organisms. These days, incredibly powerful technology allows one to detect and identify the origin of even minute amounts of DNA in the water. Apparently, such DNA only lasts for 7-21 days in water before it becomes broken down. I'm sure this is why the lake is sampled five times during the open water season.

Until we hear anything more suggesting either the presence or absence of zebra mussels in Ten Mile, I'll cease writing this column. I'm hoping that the next communication will also be a negative report.

Bruce Carlson

# **FREE! - FREE! - FREE!**

## **Watercraft Operators Permit Training**

### **THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022**

**8:30 am to 2:30 pm, The Hackensack HUB (Behind the Post Office)**

Pick up kids at City Dock

Hands on Training by Cass County Sheriffs Water Safety

Ages 12 – 17 • Lunch & Snack Provided

To pre-register email name, age, and contact information to [leann\\_sand2001@yahoo.com](mailto:leann_sand2001@yahoo.com)

Sponsored by Hackensack Lions and the Area Lake Associations



### **MEMBERSHIP NOTE:**

There are a few of you who haven't paid your 2022 dues. Please pay now if you haven't – we depend on dues revenue to defray the expenses of our committees, who do such good work for us. You can check in two ways:

Call the membership coordinator, Annie, at 218-429-1164

*(she is packing and moving so you may have to leave a message. She WILL call you back.)*

Sign into the Anchor and check your account balance

**DUES ARE \$40 PER CALENDAR YEAR – PLEASE PAY TODAY!**



## SEARCHING FOR LOCAL EVENTS?

Are you aware of all of the amazing events happening around the lakes area? If you are at the cabin for a short amount of time, you may miss the Spring or Summer editions of the TMLA Newsletter listing local Things To Do! As a lake association that is committed to preserving and protecting TML and its environs, and as a volunteer organization, the task of updating our website calendar with every possible event - or worse, deciding which events to include and which to leave off - falls outside of both the time we can commit and the scope of our organization.

However, we do have links to the Hackensack and Walker Chamber of Commerce calendars under the Events tab of our website, and those are a great place to look for events in our area! The Northwoods Art Council has many events posted on their website and on their social media pages. Social media has become a great way to hear about local happenings, and following hashtags like #walkermn and #hackensackmn on Instagram should get you some great results. Posting about events that you might be involved in or even just interested in and using those tags in your post is very helpful to others interested in local events. You

can also post using #tmlake #tenmilelakemn and #tenmilelakeassociation to reach anyone following those hashtags. This is the great feature of Instagram that is often overlooked - you don't need to be friends with someone to see posts about a common interest! Just follow the right hashtags and you'll see posts no matter who shares them! To do that, use the search feature to type in a hashtag, click on the Tags tab, select the one you want, and click Follow. Anytime anyone uses that tag in a post, you will see that post! Magic!

Allison Hackenmiller



## “SINATRA – PART II BLUE”



The Northwoods Arts Council (NAC) is excited to announce that world-renowned percussionist Josh Duffee and his Big Band are returning to us for two concerts in the Hackensack Community Building! This year's theme is “Sinatra – Part II Blue” and will feature vocalist Jason Richards. Josh and Jason will be joined by 15 talented musicians on stage, bringing popular Sinatra favorites (and beloved instrumentals from the Big Band Era) to music fans of all ages!

Performances will be held at 7:30 pm on Friday, July 8 and Saturday, July 9. Tickets are on sale on the NAC website [www.northwoodsartscouncil.com](http://www.northwoodsartscouncil.com) and at Swanson's and Southside in Hackensack. Hope to see you there!



# JOIN US FOR THE TEN MILE LAKE FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

**DECORATE YOUR BOAT AND YOURSELF  
AND COME OUT AND ENJOY SUMMER!**

**Starting at 10 am, at two spots:**

Long Bay near the restaurant, and Robinson Bay near the public access



*Take us with you wherever you go!*  
*Here for all your financial needs.*

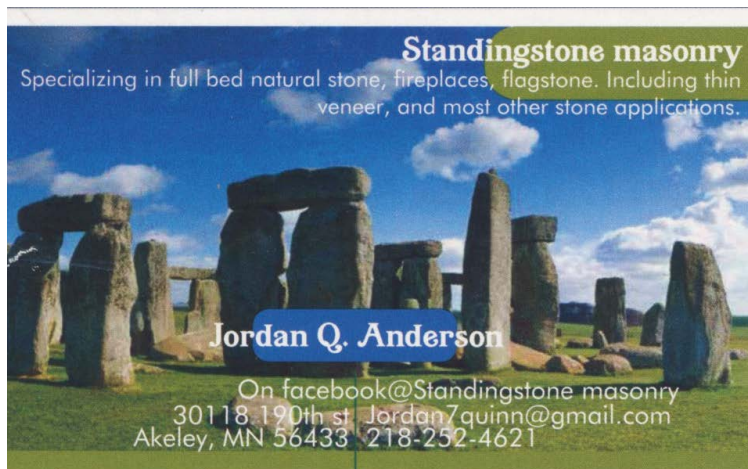
[www.fnbnorth.com](http://www.fnbnorth.com)  
600 Minnesota Ave  
Walker, MN 56484  
218-547-1160



Member FDIC



**Standingstone masonry**  
Specializing in full bed natural stone, fireplaces, flagstone. Including thin veneer, and most other stone applications.



**Jordan Q. Anderson**  
On facebook@Standingstone masonry  
30118 190th st Jordan7quinn@gmail.com  
Akeley, MN 56433 218-252-4621

**NORTHWOODS DOCK & SERVICE**  
• BOAT HOISTS • DOCK SYSTEMS •  
**Shore Station**  
Innovation in Recreation Since 1954  
Minnesota's "Original" Barge Service



Minnesota's Lakefront Equipment Headquarters  
Dean Garoutte • 218.675.5175  
Hwy 371 NW, Hackensack, MN 56452  
nwdock@uslink.net  
www.northwoodsdockservice.com

**ShoreStation**

**Edina Realty**  
405 S State 371, Hackensack



**Buying or Selling?  
We're here to help!**  
Realtors®  
Kris Biessener  
218-838-5642  
Karen Tooker  
218-839-3848  
www.KarenandKris.com

**R R F** | **RED RIVER FLAGS**

**FLAGS, FLAGPOLES, AND FLAGPOLE PARTS**  
*Quality Products at a competitive price  
with excellent customer service*

Denise Tollefson  
PO Box 68, Akeley, MN 56433  
(218) 443-0065 • Denise@redriverflags.com  
www.RedRiverFlags.com  
Our Flags are Made in the USA

**WILKENING**  
*Fireplace*

**WOOD, GAS, PELLET AND ELECTRIC  
FIREPLACES STOVES AND INSERTS**



Complete installation available  
Call **800-367-7976**  
9608 State 371 NW | Walker | wilkeningfireplace.biz

**100TH ANNIVERSARY**  
1922 2022  
TIANNA  
Country Club Walker, MN

**100 Years - a 1000 Memories...  
Let's Make More!**



18 Beautiful Holes • Practice Facility • Pro Shop • Memberships  
Leagues • Junior Programs • Bar & Restaurant  
**Tianna Country Club 218-547-1712**  
www.tianna.com

## SUCKERS – ONE OF OUR LEAST UNDERSTOOD FISH\*



Figure 1

*\*Note – This article is an experiment – The figures you see below are single frame stills from my underwater movies from Ten Mile Lake. The actual movies are available to you in two ways – if you are reading the newsletter in it's electronic form, click on the links near the pictures. Or go to the website ([www.tenmilelake.org](http://www.tenmilelake.org)) "Science Corner" and find the links there. Please let us know if you experience any difficulties in accessing the videos.*

My first introduction to suckers occurred when I was a kid, worm fishing for perch in a lake north of Duluth. A couple of times, instead of a wimpy perch bite, my rod doubled over, and after a titanic battle (at least for a 10-year-old), a sucker or a redhorse came to the surface. My next experience with them involved pulling them out of gill nets, when I was conducting lake surveys while working for the Minnesota DNR in the late 1950s. For most of my life I labored under the impression that suckers were slow-moving warm water fish that lived mostly on muddy bottoms. Not until I began taking underwater videos in Ten Mile, over 25 years ago, did I begin to realize how wrong my impressions were.

My guess is that most Ten Mile residents have never seen a living sucker in the lake and that their only exposure to them has been sightings of long-dead suckers floating on top of the lake. Yet, suckers are among the most common fish in the lake. Their habits just don't happen to intersect with those of humans. The one time when humans connect with suckers is in the early spring, when suckers in lakes swim up inflowing streams to spawn. This even happens in the Boy River, where they swim up

from Pleasant Lake. Occasionally, when looking at the 6-foot wide "river" below the Birchwood Char House in Hackensack, one sees several people standing alongside the stream. They are looking to spear spawning suckers, which some folks like to turn into pickled fish.

Ten Mile doesn't have a swiftly moving inflowing stream, so our suckers spawn in shallow water along gravelly bars, especially the one running north of the island. They mainly spawn at night, and some folks who are out at night have noticed lots of fish breaking water in those shallows. After spawning, the adults generally disappear from view. While the water is still very cold in the spring, suckers can be found almost anywhere in the lake, but as the water warms, they head to deeper cooler surroundings. Suckers are bottom-feeding fish which will eat almost anything that they can fit into their downturned circular mouths (Figure 1, above). (An incidental note – almost any fish with a downturned mouth is a bottom-feeder.)



Figure 2



## SUCKERS – ONE OF OUR LEAST UNDERSTOOD FISH\*

This includes insect larvae, plant material, snails, etc. They are very slow-moving, and many times I have actually hit them with my underwater camera. My big surprise from taking videos is that suckers, rather than being warm-water fish, prefer cold water – in the upper 50s. This means that in the summer, many of them live in deep water below the thermocline. I often find them in schools, especially associated with deep underwater boulder piles (Fig. 2, previous page bottom).

In these locations, they are often seen resting on the bottom, about the only fish I regularly see doing so. In this location, they represent the perfect food for large northern pike, for whom nothing makes a better meal than a sucker or a whitefish. Large pike also prefer to live in deep water of the same temperature, which is one reason few Ten Mile anglers catch large pike in the summer. They are fishing way too shallow.



Suckers feed mainly over soft bottoms, and they do so by diving their head into the silt and sucking up whatever becomes dislodged (Fig. 3, below left). This photo is a frame from a video of a feeding sucker. This single frame is fairly poor quality, but the video is clearer and the movement of the fish is instructive.

Many soft areas of lake bottom are peppered with what look like underwater golf divots (Fig. 4, below right). These depressions are actually places where suckers or whitefish have been hunting for food.

Bruce Carlson



Carpet  
Vinyl Flooring  
Laminate Flooring

**Kensack**  
arpets  
Flooring & Blinds

Window Blinds  
Floor Care  
Wood Flooring  
Area Rugs

500 Hwy 371 South  
PO Box 36  
Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone 218-675-6947  
Free Estimates  
We Do Window Blind Repair

**Gas Up • Stock Up • Eat Up**

**Gas • Diesel • Groceries • Hot Food to Go  
Ice • Pop • Movies • ATM • Premium Oils  
Recycling Site**

**SOUTHSIDE**  
**FUEL**  
**PLUS**

Hwy. 371, Hackensack, MN  
218-675-6834

One block East of the Paul Bunyan Trail  
Hours: Open daily at 5:30 a.m.



**POWER BALL**

**VISA** **MasterCard** **DISCOVER**



**24 HOUR**  
pay at the pump

# HISTORY OF THE WATER LEVEL COMMITTEE

June 20th, 1999. On the campus of Carleton College, I was attending the memorial service for life-long Ten Miler Marge Garbisch. Marge had died in September 1998, but her husband, Dick, postponed her memorial service so that it would coincide with the 60th anniversary of her Carleton graduation, when others of her class would also be present to share and celebrate her memory.

Among the long-time Ten Milers present was George Brandt, whom I had known of but never met. George was the owner of Angel Island (aka Brandt's Island), just off Ten Mile's western shore. He and I struck up a conversation, and were soon sharing mutual alarm over Ten Mile's extraordinarily high water level, which two days before had reached 1,379.85 feet above sea level, just six tenths of an inch below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHW) of 1,379.90' established by the DNR in 1929.

Why the alarm? High water just by itself, let alone when it is driven by boat wakes and wind, ravages shoreline, particularly sandy beaches, docks and boathouses. Nor does it ignore the rockier stretches. In winter, when high water freezes, it can move ice berms, and throw up decks, porches and walkways, and crush cabin foundations. I was alarmed because at my property on the south shore, since the '70s we had lost some 20 feet of beach and in 1999 the water was devouring the sand bank at a distressing rate. George was alarmed because high water and waves were undercutting the island, which among other things had entirely lost an idyllic walking path along its south shore. George was convinced that the erosion was causing the island's entire southern bank, above which Al Woock, in the '50s, had built George's cabin, to settle, causing a crack in the cabin's slab and stone fireplace. George was adamant: something must be done to prevent the water's rising any further, and, indeed, to cause it to recede.

Our alarm was better founded than, at the time, we knew. By July 16th that summer, the water level would rise to 1,380.08', 2.16 inches above the OHW. Two years later, on June 14th, 2001, the water rose to 1,380.23', 3.96 inches above its OHW and the highest level recorded since detailed records began to be kept in November 1973.

Ten Mile has no inlets: its water comes entirely from underground springs and precipitation. In the summer it loses about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch a day from evaporation. Otherwise its only relief is the Boy River, of which it is the source, and which flows out of the lake from the southernmost end of Long's Bay and then courses through Birch Lake and fourteen other lakes on its 100-mile journey and 84-foot drop to its mouth at Leech Lake.

For years, Ten Mile's water level was controlled in part by a 4" stop log in a concrete outlet structure on the southeast shore of Birch Lake at Hackensack. An outlet structure of one kind or another has been in that spot for over 100 years; the structure that existed in the early 2000s dated to 1976. Permitted by the DNR but built and owned by Cass County, the structure's operation was the responsibility of the Cass County Engineer, and was the subject of great, not to say violent, controversy over its century-long history.



*The "old" Birch Lake Outlet Structure, May 5, 2002*

In the late 1990s, Ten Mile, Birch Lake and Pleasant Lake residents all sought to influence the County Engineer's manipulation of the stop log. In those years, when Ten Mile's water was abnormally high, George Brandt or I would call our County Commissioner, Glen Witham, and urge him to ask the Engineer, Dave Enblom, to take the log out. That would allow Ten Mile's level to drop, but it would cause water in Birch and Pleasant lakes to rise, and residents of those lakes would call Glen and ask him to direct Enblom to put the log back in. It was a never-ending struggle that amounted to near-harassment of our County Commissioner and Engineer, and rarely resulted in the outcome sought by any of the lakes' residents.



# HISTORY OF THE WATER LEVEL COMMITTEE

In the hope of mobilizing the community to address the high water problem, on July 9, 1999, I approached the Ten Mile Lake Association's Board of Directors with a proposal to create a formal Water Level Committee. The Board agreed, and appointed me the committee's chair. I recruited other Ten Milers whom I knew to be interested, and before long we had a committee of nine: John Alden, George Brandt, Don Brown, myself, Bob Crom (ex officio – as the then President of the Board), Dan Eikenberry, Walter J. "Red" Kane, Marty McCleery, Jim Miller and Jim Schwartz.

Meanwhile, in addition to the issue of the Birch Lake Outlet Structure, there was also the issue of the beaver dam immediately downstream of the Boy River Bridge on CSAH 6 (Lower Ten Mile Lake Road). Beavers worked, well, like beavers, to build up that dam, and it was clear that the dam was preventing water from flowing out of Ten Mile. In the summer of 2000, in conversations at the weekly Ten Mile Men's Coffees, it was suggested that we gather a group of men to go down to the river and manually pull the dam out: hence the creation of the Ten Mile Dam Raiders. Member of the Water Level Committee, Don Brown, Tom Cox, Bob Crom, Dan Eikenberry, and others – Geoff Cox, Ray Raetz and Don Patterson – over the next two years repeatedly donned hip boots, brought rakes and hoes and a trailer, waded into the river, and pulled out logs, sticks and branches and carted them off to the Cass County Landfill. The task was frustrating, not to say futile, as the beavers rebuilt their dam almost as quickly as it could be removed.



*Summer 2003: The Dam Raiders:  
Bob Crom, Tom Cox, Dan Eikenberry,  
Ray Raetz, Don Brown, Don Patterson*

Later that summer (2000), at the instigation of the newly-formed Water Level Committee, Ten Mile representatives joined with representatives of the Birch and Pleasant Lakes Associations to form the Birch Lake Dam - Tri-Lake Management Board, which on June 26, 2001, submitted an overture to the Cass County Board of Commissioners requesting that the "Commissioners, in consultation with the County Engineer, ask the DNR to issue an amended [dam] permit that will, in the DNR's and the Engineer's judgment, as effectively as possible address the multiple environmental issues that arise in the Tri-Lake area during periods of extraordinarily high and extraordinarily low water."

Three weeks later, on July 18, 2001, members of the Tri-Lake Management Board and representatives of Cass County and the DNR met. At the time of that meeting, Ten Mile Lake water levels were near the highest recorded in 28 years. During the meeting, DNR Waters (short for the DNR's Division of Ecological and Water Resources) agreed to conduct a two-year study to investigate the operation of the Birch Lake outlet dam and the effects that dam has on water levels on Ten Mile Lake, Birch and Pleasant Lakes. It was also decided that the four-inch stoplog, which had been in the dam perpetually since 1999, would remain in place during the two-year study.

At a meeting that fall, on September 8, 2001, the newly established Water Level Committee adopted the following goals:

1. Monitor and record Ten Mile Lake water levels.
2. Monitor and record the water level and flow at the Birch Lake Outlet Structure.
3. Monitor and record the condition of the Boy River between Ten Mile and Birch Lakes.
4. Monitor shoreline erosion and other effects of high-water levels on Ten Mile Lake.
5. Monitor beaver dam activity under the CSAH 6 Bridge and organize removal of dam construction materials and other debris as necessary to keep an open flow under the bridge.
6. Cooperate with the County Engineer's Office regarding the operation of the Birch Lake Outlet Structure.

# HISTORY OF THE WATER LEVEL COMMITTEE

7. Advocate for and provide technical and practical assistance to the DNR's water level studies pertaining to the County's application for a new or amended permit for the Birch Lake Outlet Structure.

Lake levels on Ten Mile Lake have been recorded since 1973 as part of the Lake Level Minnesota Program. Under this program, each spring the DNR installs a staff gage in the relatively quiet water of Long's Bay, and surveys it to a known elevation. For years, Mildred "Millie" Borchert, who lived on Twin Hills Road above Long's Bay, read the gage, usually weekly, and gave her data to DNR Waters for its archives. Meanwhile, Long's Bay resident Walt Kane also read the gage and reported his data to the TMLA Board. Walt continued to do so until 2008. Sadly, Walt died on February 10, 2009, and Millie passed away on March 8 that same winter. That summer, 2009, Jay Cline, also a Long's Bay resident, volunteered to become our new "water meter reader," both for Ten Mile and for the DNR, a role which he has held these past thirteen years. From 2000 through 2020, I recorded Walt's and Jay's data, and presented them in graphic form to the Association in the TMLA Newsletter.

In October 2003, DNR Waters, having completed its two year hydrological study, published its report on The Impact of the Birch Lake Outlet Dam on the Water Levels of Ten Mile Lake and Birch Lake, by Dana Dostert, Ph.D. Along with its study of the lengthy history of the dam and the hydrology of the watershed, the report recommended construction of a V-shaped weir that would control the water's flow volume at varying water level heights. The report makes absorbing reading for those interested in the history and hydrology of Ten Mile, Birch Lake and the Boy River's flow.<sup>1</sup>

The County accepted the recommendations in the DNR's report and completed its construction of a new outlet structure in the summer of 2005. The DNR's new weir design was similar, if not identical, to the design George Brandt had proposed in 1999, at which time he wrote that "The case for study is constructive, but delay in taking initial, obvious, measures should be unacceptable." It had taken six years for George's proposal to become a reality.



*The new Birch Lake Outlet Structure Weir under construction, June 23, 2005.*



*The new outlet structure, with its V-shaped weir, newly opened, June 25, 2005.*

Fortunately, whether due to the new outlet structure or to drier weather, in 2005 the lake level receded to its more-or-less normal levels, and over much of the rest of the decade removal of the beaver dam lost its urgency. Moreover, one of the principal aims of the Water Level Committee having been achieved, the committee's efforts lost their intensity and the committee ceased regular meetings. Over the next decade, five of its original members passed away. George Brandt died in 2002, Walt Kane in 2009, John Alden in 2010, Jim Schwartz in 2011 and Don Brown in 2012.

Water levels remained more or less normal, until the summer of 2019, when they again rose to extraordinary heights, again causing significant shoreline erosion and again raising alarm among shoreline property owners. Karin Arsan, President of the TMLA Board at the time, brought the issue to the Association's Board, which endorsed her proposal to approach the DNR about the removal of the beaver dam below the CSAH 6 bridge. The Dam Raiders having demobilized years earlier,



# HISTORY OF THE WATER LEVEL COMMITTEE

beavers, unmolested, had built their dam to an unprecedented height, so high, in fact, that when our regional DNR hydrologist, Darrin Hoverson came at Karin's request to inspect, he estimated that the differential in the water levels above and below the dam was about eighteen inches.

Meanwhile, life-long Ten Miler John Crabb had recently canoed the Boy River and determined that the beaver dam in question was the only one impeding the river's flow. One solution, he said, would be to remove much of the dam by demolition. Hoverson said the DNR would not object, and on September 12, 2018, John obtained a DNR permit to blow up the dam. With TMLA Board approval, John arranged a contract with USDA-affiliated Wildlife Services for the demolition, which occurred on October 2, 2018. Further, to keep the dam open, John arranged a contract with Ten Mile's District 3 County Commissioner, Jeff Peterson, to remove beavers from the river.



*Dam demolition, October 2, 2018.*



*Brent Foster and his crew sandbagging the Boy River at the site of the beaver dam demolition, December 28, 2018.*

To its surprise, later in the fall of 2018, not long after the demolition, the Association Board received notice from the DNR of the threatened flooding of an alfalfa field on the Boy River just below Pleasant Lake. The field belonged to Jack Carder, a respected contractor well known and well-liked in Ten Mile circles. Jack argued to the DNR that the threatened flooding of his field, nearby roads and possibly even his house, was due to the flow of water released by the beaver dam demolition, for which the DNR agreed the Ten Mile Association was responsible. Jack further argued that in order to protect his field, which he had only just recently planted in anticipation of a spring crop, he needed to build, at significant expense, an earth berm along its edge to protect against the rising water. While the Board was not convinced that the flooding was its responsibility, in the interest of preserving friendly relations with Jack, the Board agreed to compensate Jack for the expense he incurred to protect his field and, with the help of John Crabb, to arrange with another local contractor, Brent Foster and his crew, to sandbag the river at the dam location. The sandbagging slowed the river's flow, and thus removed the downstream threat. The following spring John personally removed the sandbags to allow the river to resume its natural flow.

Given his interest in the beaver dam situation and its impact on Ten Mile's water level, John joined the Water Level Committee that summer, and in the summer of 2019, as I approached my mid-eighties, I invited John to take over as chair of the committee, which he agreed to do, with the understanding that I would continue to use Jay Cline's data to prepare at least annual lake level charts for the TMLA newsletter. Unhappily, within a year of his assuming the chair, John contracted inoperable cancer. He fought his illness valiantly and was able to continue his work on behalf of the Association through 2021 until shortly before his death on November 27th. Before he died, he recruited his cousin, Mimi Garbisch Carlson, to take his place as Committee chair.

Beginning last summer (2021), Mimi assumed responsibility for the water level charts that appear in the TMLA newsletter, with Jay Cline continuing to provide her with weekly data. It is interesting to

# HISTORY OF THE WATER LEVEL COMMITTEE

me to note that the Ten Mile Association's Water Level Committee, the inspiration for which arose in a chance meeting at Mimi's mother's memorial service in 1999, should lead over 23 years to Mimi, herself, becoming Committee Chair.

Yogi Berra was probably right: "Predictions are hard, especially when they're about the future." Ten Mile's water levels are impossible to predict. Who would have thought that after the dangerously high levels of 2019 and 2020, in the summer of 2021 Cass County would see its worst drought since 1988, and water levels so low that to a considerable extent beaches reappeared where formerly they had vanished, and boat owners were warned to remove their boats from the lake earlier than usual

lest low water strand them in their lifts come Fall. The Ten Mile Association's Water Level Committee has made the lake level its preoccupation over the past twenty years and more. Like the weather, those preoccupations will always be of interest and concern to Ten Mile property owners.

By Tom Cox

- 1 A detailed, illustrated history of the outlet structure dating back to the early 1900s, together with watershed hydrology and the DNR's recommendations to address the high water situation, appears in the DNR's 2003 Report, The Impact of the Birch Lake Dam on the Water Levels of Birch Lake and Ten Mile Lake, a comprehensive study of the Birch and Ten Mile Watershed, which is available in the TMLA website library.

## AND WE'RE OFF!

It's summer on Ten Mile Lake and, just like that, things are going in full gear. The ice wasn't out until mid-May, but the loons were back as soon as there was open water. I saw several loons sitting on floating ice chunks outside my kitchen window on May 18th. I thought I was seeing penguins until I saw them move with their distinctive waddle and plop back into the water. My heart lifted at the sight because, if the loons have returned, it means that winter is finally and firmly in retreat.

You might wonder how they get here so fast and how they seem to know exactly when the ice breaks up, appearing almost as soon as it begins to break apart. What looks like magic or an impeccable bond with nature is, in fact, the result of good old-fashioned scouting and waiting for the right moment, informed by real-time observation. Loons begin their migration north and wait in stages on lakes to the south, flying reconnaissance missions in order to know when they can return to their native lakes and begin the important business of reclaiming historically successful nesting sites, defending those nesting sites from younger males, and finding mates. If you were on Ten Mile for the latter half of May and early June, you heard the loons making their classic cries and tremolos, indicating that they were busy defending, informing, and wooing their way to the next generation.



Late May and early June are hugely important in the loon reproduction cycle. Like us, loons are creatures of habit and tend to go with what has worked in the past. If a nesting site has produced a successful chick

hatch in prior years, that male loon will return to the site and attract either the previous mate or a new one. Likewise, if a younger male is able to chase an older male off a successful nesting site, a new couple will take up residence. Sheryl and I are happy to report that we have four successful nesting sites this year – three on platforms and one natural nest - all with loons sitting on eggs and all appear to have survived the Memorial Day storm. We also think there is a new natural nest in Long Bay; we have seen loon activity in that area that indicates nesting but have not been able to get close enough to see a nest because of rocks and shallow water.

What happens next? The month of June is critical to producing a successful chick hatch. Most of the eggs on our lake were laid in the last few days of May this year. The incubation period for eggs is



## AND WE'RE OFF!



24-28 days which means most of our chicks should hatch in the last few days of June and that the chicks will be very young and vulnerable through all the festivities over the 4th of July. Loons don't prosper unless their chicks live long enough to reproduce, which can take four to

five years. Here are a few things all of us can do to help ensure that there will always be loons on our beloved Ten Mile Lake:

**1. No Swish, No Splash 'til After the Bash:** Loon eggs are vulnerable to being swept away by waves and big wakes. Please stay at least 200 feet away from nesting loons and observe no wake zones. In all likelihood, the loons will be hatched and either in the water or on their parents' backs by the 4th of July weekend. Until then, please do your part to provide calm waters whenever possible.

**2. Get the Lead Out:** Lead sinkers and jig heads poison our loons and other wildlife. Please clean out your tackle boxes and stop using lead fishing gear.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Cass County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of American are sponsoring tackle exchange events at the Lakeside Concert in Hackensack on June 24th from 5-7PM and at Rendezvous Brewing on July 19th and August 9th from 12-3:00 PM. Take advantage of this free opportunity to try new, lead-free fishing alternatives.

**3. 10 for Ten Mile:** Chick hatches vary from year to year and depend on many factors. In the past several years, we have averaged 1-3 chicks per year. Historically, that number has been as high as 11 chicks. Our committee would like to try to increase the number of nesting sites and successful chick hatches on our lake and have set a goal of working towards 10 successful chicks hatched each year, hence our "10 for Ten Mile" slogan. We will have more information for you at our annual meeting on August 6th. Until then, please help us by thinking about and identifying possible sites for sheltered nesting on Ten Mile. We would like to add two artificial nesting platforms for next season and will need people to sponsor and monitor those platforms. Look for the opportunity to be a loon sponsor at our loon table on August 6th.

See you on the open waters!

Erin Adams and Sheryl Ducharme  
Loon committee co-chairs

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A DEAD LOON



Take a photo of the loon where it was found, if possible.



Wear gloves to retrieve the loon if it is safe to do so and the loon is not already badly decomposed.



Double bag the loon in two garbage bags.



Place the loon in a freezer to prevent further decomposition.



Write down the date found, finder's name & info, lake name, and county.

The National Loon Center will continue research into causes of loon mortality by facilitating necropsies of deceased loons, a project that began in 2021.

Please follow the steps below if you find a dead loon this summer:

Following these steps please contact the NLC at 218-692-LOON (5666). Deceased loons are transported to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy studies.

# TMLA MEMBERSHIP FORM

TMLA Membership dues were billed on January 1st for the 2022 year. If you have signed up for autopay your credit or debit card was charged on the same day. For those who have not, you may pay online, on the phone or through the mail. If you have already paid, you should NOT get a bill. If you have questions or problems regarding billing or membership please contact the Membership Coordinator at [membership@tenmilelake.org](mailto:membership@tenmilelake.org)

If you are not a member but would like to be, you can join online from the website, [www.tenmilelake.org](http://www.tenmilelake.org) or by phone or mail. TMLA Membership, P O Box 412, Hackensack MN 56452, or call 218-429-1164.

## Mail-in Membership Form

**Family name:** (for example Jane and John Doe, or if single Mary Smith)

**Owner:**

(this is the owner of the membership, not necessarily of the property - one vote, one name attached)

**Personal cell phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current/Previous Occupation if you want it listed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Retired?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse/Partner of owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current/Previous Occupation if you want it listed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Retired?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Children, list name and year of birth:** (only children 18 or younger are included in family memberships) \_\_\_\_\_

**Ten Mile Lake address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cabin phone if you have one:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone if you have one:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Anything else you want us to know?** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact us: [membership@tenmilelake.org](mailto:membership@tenmilelake.org) or [association@tenmilelake.org](mailto:association@tenmilelake.org)

You may mail this form to:

Ten Mile Lake Membership Coordinator, P O Box 412, Hackensack, MN 56452.

Include your check for \$40.00. If you care to add a donation, please specify either the General Fund or the James W Schwarz Environmental Preservation Fund, and if it is a memorial or celebration, let us know who/what it is for and whom to notify of your gift.





WOODTICK  
CONSTRUCTION  
RESTORING TEN MILE LAKE MEMORIES

ART SWANSTROM • 218-341-5187 • LIC# BC635087

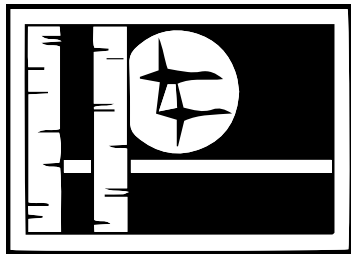
We do *“Whatever it Takes”*  
to make our home a better place.



218-829-7790 • Fax: 218-829-0977

[www.lakespringing.com](http://www.lakespringing.com)

1223 Oak Street, Brainerd, MN 56401



## TEN MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 412  
Hackensack MN 56452

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Brainerd, MN  
Permit No. 471

### SAVERNOTES

Corporate Mailing Address  
16526 W 78th Street, Suite 169  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346



TMLA Member  
**BUSINESS CONTACT**  
Dave Rasmussen, Chief Manager  
612.868-9187  
DRasmussen@SaverNotes.com

# Earn 3x More Interest with this strategy

• If you have \$10,000 in CD's you are probably earning .5% or \$50 in interest. Take \$2,000 and invest in SaverNotes notes earning 6% for \$120 and the remaining \$8,000 will still earn \$40 for a total of \$160 or more than 3 times what you are earning now with little additional risk.

Regular	\$2,000 +
IRA	\$25,000 +
Term	Interest Rate
2 Year	3.00%
3 Year	4.00%
5 Year	6.00%

- We are approved by the State of Minnesota with the help of legal, wealth management, accounting and banking professionals
- You do not have to be a high-net-worth investor, if you can write a check, are 18 or older and a Minnesota resident you can invest in SaverNotes notes
- We also have solutions for non-Minnesota residents as well
- You can invest through your IRA
- We have made it very easy to invest, there are no expenses to you, and we have paid interest every quarter and returned the principal upon maturity of the note. However, most investors rollover their investment as they can't earn anything close to the interest they earn at SaverNotes.
- Check us out at [SaverNotes.com](http://SaverNotes.com) or you can call me for more information.



Hold your camera up to this  
symbol and it will take you  
to SaverNotes website