

Ten Mile Lake Association

Newsletter

Summer 2016

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

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

Coffee and Social Time: 9:30 a.m.

Meeting: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

At Union Congregational Church, Hackensack

DONALD ROSENBERRY OF U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WILL BE SPEAKER

By Karin Arsan, Vice President, TMLA

COME JOIN FELLOW TEN MILERS for a morning of fellowship, updates of your Association's past year's activities, regular TMLA business, and an interesting and informative speech by **Don Rosenberry** of the U.S. Geological Survey.

DON ROSENBERRY IS A RESEARCH hydrologist who has studied groundwater-surface-water connections all across the US. He coordinates research at the Shingobee field station near Akeley and is part of the team that is researching low water levels in White Bear Lake north of St. Paul. Don grew up in Walker and fished with his dad on Ten Mile and Portage Lakes. He lives in Denver, Colorado, where there are not nearly enough lakes.

THE TITLE OF HIS PRESENTATION is "The connection between groundwater and lakes: What every Minnesotan needs to know".

AT THE MEETING HALL, members will find displays with handouts and information presented by several of the TMLA committees including Environment and Ecology, History, Lake Safety, Conservation, and Fisheries.

PLAN TO ARRIVE AT THE MEETING by 9:30 so you will have time to get coffee, visit with all your TMLA neighbors, and view the committee exhibits. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn by 11:30 a.m.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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 Dave Gapinski 675-5352
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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 Siqveland

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 Siqveland, Diane Westmore, Steve Wilson

Directory – Phoebe Alden

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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 Gjevve, 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, Diane Power, Bob Rydell

Treasurer's – Teresa Conway, Jim Hickman, Dave Kaldor, Sarah Swanstrom

Water Level – Tom Cox, Jay Cline, Dan Eikenberry, Marty McCleery

NEW ASSISTANT EDITOR FOR NEWSLETTER

By Sarah Cox, Editor

The Association is pleased to announce that we have a new Assistant Editor to help with the TMLA Newsletter. **Annie Swanstrom** has graciously agreed to help with the preparation and production of the Newsletter. She has experience in writing and editing and newsletter production for other organizations.

Annie is the mother-in-law of Sarah Swanstrom, a TMLA Resident Director. She is also the daughter of Warren Goss, one of the founding fathers of TMLA who helped to originate the program of testing and monitoring that we use to keep the lake safe and clean.

Although Annie has given her house on the lake to her son Art Swanstrom and wife Sarah, and now lives in Pequot Lakes, she is still a member of the Association and willing to contribute.

While we are very pleased to have Annie on the team, the Communications and Technology Committee, under whose aegis the Newsletter falls, believes that there should be a committee working on the Newsletter, so we are still looking for additional volunteers. What we are looking for is a person who is familiar and competent with Microsoft Word and has a reasonable competence in writing and editing. Please call me, **Sarah Cox, at 675-6844**, if you are interested.

NEW CHANGE FOR FALL FETE DATE

The Fall Fete will be held on **Friday, September 16, 2016** at Tianna Country Club in Walker. Gather at 5:00 to mingle (cash bar); Hors d'oeuvre dinner will be served at 5:30. The cost is \$23.00 per person.

This is a change from the listing in the Spring calendar, because September 24 was discovered to conflict with other large public events.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Ivar Siqveland, President, TMLA

Summer has arrived and is now in full swing. I hope that you and your family are off to a safe and happy summer on our beautiful lake.

As usual, our first board meeting of the year was long and busy as your board and our committees brought everyone up to date on any off season activities. Then we began our planning for the summer season.

Marty McCleery, chair of the Healthy Lakes committee, urged those of us with the responsibility of completing our goals for the next three-year cycle to do so in order that we may use them as our planning guide as we move forward.

Bob Iversen, AIS chair, reported on seminars he had attended during the off season, and gave us the good news that Ten Mile is still free of Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, and other invasive species.

From **Jim Miller**, Conservation chair, we learned that all shoreline restoration projects have been completed and that the number of conservation easements continues to grow. He also reminded us

that we are still approximately \$25,000.00 short of reaching our goal of replacing funds taken from the Schwartz fund to purchase the Lundstrom Bay property.

Mary Ackerman, Communication and Technology committee chair, reported on the many meetings she has had with her committee to ensure the e-mail system put in place last summer is working well. The effort also includes the electronic distribution of the Newsletter which is now on track. Speaking of the Newsletter, editor **Sarah Cox** has been negotiating with printers to ensure quality continues at the best cost. The C and T committee is exploring new initiatives to allow us to keep up with various new technologies.

Karin Arsan, Vice President, briefed us on the planned annual meeting, the speaker, and the program to be held Saturday, August 6, 9:30 AM at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Hackensack.

DON'T FORGET!

By Gary Anderson, Member, Conservation Committee

WHAT DO YOU DO to remember things? The old reminder system was to tie a string around your finger. A newer version is the sticky note. Some people have a bulletin board. The newest is to put a reminder on your computer calendar or smart phone. We all have reminder systems of one sort or another.

THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED to be a reminder about an important mission of our Ten Mile Lake Association. Nearly three years ago we approved a goal of raising \$175,000 to replenish the James Schwartz Environmental Fund. This fund has been used to purchase land that is critical to the water quality of Ten Mile. As a result, some very important property has been set aside to help protect the lake. Our deadline is fast approaching as we anticipate the annual meeting of the association in August. At that meeting we would like to report that we have reached

our goal, greatly strengthening our mission to keep the waters of Ten Mile clean and pure and, of course, beautiful! As of June 26, \$147,316 has been donated to the Schwartz fund; \$4,400 more has been pledged.

HERE IS YOUR REMINDER: If you have not yet made your gift, or if you made a pledge and have not yet fulfilled your pledge, please do so now. Here is an idea - cut out this article from the newsletter and post it somewhere, like on your refrigerator or on your desk. Try whatever method of remembering works for you. Even better, sit down today and make your gift. Gifts in any amount are gladly and gratefully received, and are tax deductible. Simply make out a check to the Ten Mile Lake Association and note in the memo line that it is for the James Schwartz Environmental Fund. Mail to P.O. Box 412, Hackensack, MN 56452. Thanks for remembering!

LOON JOURNAL SUMMER 2016

Kim Abraham Moe

AFTER YOU READ THIS ARTICLE I believe you will see the importance of our manmade floating nests.

A GROUP OF LOON OBSERVERS in Wisconsin is becoming concerned about Canadian geese pushing loons out of prime nesting areas. We hope this never becomes a problem on Ten Mile Lake.

MORE AND MORE PAIRS of geese are showing up on our northern lakes. Geese and loons prefer similar nesting sites that are safe from egg predators. This creates competition for prime nesting sites.

THE INCUBATION TIME for both loon and goose eggs is four weeks. Geese, however, nest two weeks sooner than loons. Geese definitely get the jump on obtaining the best nesting sites. Their goslings hatch 7-10 days before the loon chicks. In addition, a pair of geese will rear broods of 2-6 goslings, while loons hatch only 1-2 chicks a year.

ALTHOUGH THESE TWO SPECIES can coexist in the same territory, it doesn't happen often. An aggressive adult loon will fight, stab the goslings, and chase the geese off the lake and onto shore. Mother Nature can be cruel. As you may have observed, loons are very aggressive during their breeding time, and when they have chicks to protect. Since loons seem to prefer our floating nests over nests on shore, this has helped encourage the chick count on the lake.

TML HAS HAD VERY SUCCESSFUL loon chick counts in the past. We hope this will not change due to problems with geese.

As of June 10th, 2016 Flower Pot Bay has one chick in residence. We hope we will hear about more successes. Members, update us if you notice loons nesting, or with chicks, on other parts of the lake.

TEN MILE MEMORIES

By Sue Seyala

With only icy cold pump water available in our cabin kitchen, the kettle became a necessity. Every evening just before supper my grandmother would set a large kettle to boil. After supper an endless supply of fresh steaming water would wash a dishpan full and scald off the suds. At days' end the kettle would provide hot water for our own washing up in those shallow little enamelware pans.

In 1964 a bathroom was added along with a water heater and hot and cold water faucets in the kitchen. Housekeeping certainly became easier without heavy kettles to tote around, but from my childhood perspective, a little bit of magic disappeared along with that big kitchen kettle.

SMALLMOUTH BASS IN TEN MILE LAKE

by Bruce Carlson

AROUND 2000, I WAS LOOKING off our dock and saw a 2" inch fish with a dark vertical streak up its tail and thought, "That looks a lot like a baby smallmouth bass, but there aren't any in Ten Mile." The next year, I caught an 8" smallmouth while fishing for whitefish. Then in 2002, while cruising along the north shore on a calm day, I looked down into the water and saw nest after nest of smallmouths in shallow water. What was going on? The answer is that we still don't know.

ALL ACROSS THE STATE smallmouth bass are appearing in lakes that had never had them before, and in these lakes, their numbers are increasing exponentially. They are obviously being introduced into many lakes, but how and by whom are the questions. The DNR seems as mystified as I am, because they have no official record of stocking smallmouths in most of these lakes. Since they were first seen on the north end of the lake, my suspicion is that they were caught in nearby Portage Lake and then surreptitiously dumped into Ten Mile. Exactly when they would have been introduced is hard to say, but a good guess is the mid- to late 1990's. This is supported by a small aging study conducted on fish caught in 2008. Of 17 fish aged, all were from 3-7 years old except for one 21.1" fish that was 19 years old. This large fish could have been one of the transplants.

GIVEN THE MYSTERY OF THEIR ORIGIN, the fact is that smallmouth bass are here to stay in Ten Mile. Not only are they here to stay, but their population is ballooning, and the growth and condition of these fish is excellent. It is not at all uncommon to catch 20" fish. In some lakes there has been considerable controversy concerning introduced smallmouth bass, because fishermen in these lakes contend that as the bass thrive, the walleye fishing has gone downhill. In most cases, this is difficult to prove one way or the other, so the controversy remains. In other lakes, there has been no noticeable effect. To date, this has been the case in Ten Mile, but it is still too early to know if this will continue.

TEN MILE LAKE HAS ALWAYS had a good population of largemouth bass, and for the most part, largemouths occupy different habitat from smallmouths. Largemouth bass are often greenish in color and have a dark stripe running along the length of their body, and the corner of the mouth extends past the eye. Smallmouth bass, on the

other hand, are a bronze color (hence their nickname: "bronzebacks") and often have a few faint vertical stripes. The mouth does not extend past the eye. Largemouth bass like weedy water with soft bottoms and can tolerate much warmer water than do smallmouths. An ideal summer temperature for largemouths is in the mid- to upper-70s, whereas smallmouths prefer water about 10 degrees cooler. Smallmouth bass love rocks and rubble, in large part because that habitat supports crayfish, their favorite food. Paradoxically, despite the fact that largemouth bass are considered warm water fish and smallmouths, cool water fish, smallmouth bass are much more inactive in the winter than are largemouths. In the springtime, largemouth bass bite voraciously on the opening of the pike and walleye season, when the water temperature can be in the upper 40's or low 50's. The first smallmouths don't appear until several weeks later. In mid-summer, largemouth bass are commonly found in 15-20 feet of water, although I have caught a number of them in water as deep as 45 feet. Once the shallow water hits 68 degrees smallmouth bass leave the shallows and head for rocky underwater islands or bars that top out at 25 to 30 feet. When looking through underwater cameras, I frequently see smallmouth bass and walleyes swimming within a few feet of each other in these habitats. The smallmouths stay in deep water until early fall, usually around the third week of September, when they return to the shallows for their fall feeding binge.

SMALLMOUTH BASS ARE a wonderful game fish and have been famously described as "...inch for inch, pound for pound, the gamest fish that swims." In early June, when they are in the shallows, they can be easily caught by casting small (3-4" long) minnow-like baits or jigs of various sorts. I personally prefer to go after them with a fly rod at this time. In the summer, when they go deep, they can be caught on live bait – either minnows, worms, or especially crayfish tails – or jigs fished over underwater islands or off bars. They bite best in the early morning or evening, but they can be caught all day and all night. They have no problem attacking an artificial bait on a moonless night, although they are more active when the moon is out. In the fall, when they return to the shallows, they can be caught by the same techniques used in

the spring, but they are more likely to be associated with rocky bottoms, whereas in the spring they can also be caught over sand.

EVER SINCE THEIR INTRODUCTION into the lake, smallmouths have been spreading from the north toward the south end of the lake. Smallmouths are not as peripatetic as walleyes, which will often swim across the lake in an evening. Over the past ten to fifteen years, I have tracked their spread by locating nests in the spring, and each year I have found nests a few hundred yards south of where they ended the year before. By now, smallmouth bass can be found all over the lake, but they are still most prevalent in the north end, and they also tend to be larger there, mainly because the resident populations have been there a longer time.

SMALLMOUTH BASS ARE REASONABLY good eating fish, although most bass fishermen practice catch-and-release. Around Chicago, many fishermen soak fillets in milk for a half hour or so to remove any fishy taste. If you do decide to keep smallmouth bass, I would recommend your saving small ones (less than 16") and releasing the larger ones for potential trophy fish. Large bass grow slowly, but there is a good chance that in a few more years, Ten Mile will have one of the best trophy smallmouth fisheries in the state.

BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL, Ten Mile is likely to see increasing numbers of smallmouth bass tournaments, such as the one earlier this spring. In many parts of the country, fishing tournaments are commonplace, but this is a new phenomenon for Ten Mile. While quite popular, fishing tournaments are often controversial for a number of reasons. As might be expected, people living on the lakes often don't like them because of the disruption, but it is important to recognize that essentially all lakes are public resources. This is certainly the view of most DNRs, including Minnesota's.

ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL ASPECT IS what happens to the fish caught in tournaments. All

tournaments practice catch and release, meaning that caught fish are kept in live wells until weigh-in. Then after weigh-in, they are released back into the lake. It is often asked if this practice harms or kills the fish. Especially in very warm weather, the fish are often stressed, and some die before weigh-in. (This results in a penalty for the angler.) A number of scientific studies have involved placing fish released from tournaments into large enclosures within the lake to assess their survival over the next few days. There is definitely some mortality, but in most cases the rate has been deemed to be acceptable.

IN THE CASE OF THE RECENT Ten Mile smallmouth tournament, thermal stress was not likely to be an issue. The most important negative aspect is that many of the fish caught were likely to have been male bass guarding the nests, which are located in water 4 to 6 feet deep. When the fish are taken across the lake for weigh-in and then released, they will not find their way back to the nests in time, if at all. This means that any eggs or newly hatched bass from these nests would probably not survive for long in an unguarded nest.

WHETHER OR NOT TO FISH for bass guarding nests at all is a matter of some debate. In some lakes even a short period away from nests by the guardian allows small fish, especially sunfish, to swoop in and eat whatever small bass they can. I don't think that short-term predation is a significant problem in Ten Mile just because of the nature of the locations where smallmouth nests are found. It is my sense that if one catches a nesting bass and releases it right away in the same area, it will find its way back to the nest very quickly and immediate predation is not a huge problem. I have looked at hundreds of smallmouth nests in recent years and have never seen smaller predator fish hovering nearby. Nevertheless, a long absence by the protective male is not conducive to survival of the young.

THANKS TO THE URBANSKIS

The History Committee wishes to thank **Larry Urbanski** upon his retirement after many, many years as an active and contributing member. Thanks as well to **Joan Urbanski** for graciously hosting the committee for its three summer meetings every year for many years. They have been a joy and a support to the committee. We wish them a long and happy retirement!

THE HISTORY PAGE

BODACIOUS BOATHOUSES OF TEN MILE LAKE

By Sue Eikenberry

In our travels around the lake the History Committee found 32 boathouses, which is amazing because according to the Cass County Environmental Services Department, **boathouses could no longer be built after 1991**. So they are a part of the lake's history and we are happy to feature all of them at the History table at the Annual Meeting, August 6.

Some of our boathouses have upper level living areas, some with decks; some have flower boxes; some have been beautifully maintained; and some are, um, charming, but we love them all! No two are exactly alike. Each is unique.

Boathouses are:

- Garages for your lake craft
- Buildings designed especially for the storage of boats, normally smaller craft for sports
- They are typically located on open water

Often the boats stored are row boats. Other boats such as a small motor boat may also be stored. Some boathouses are modified to include living quarters on the second level, which offer a great view of the lake. They usually have sturdy doors, and the floor may be a continuation of the sand beach, or rock or concrete. It will keep a pleasure craft safely out of the elements and could store other beach and boat paraphernalia. Boathouses are the most comprehensive solution to protecting your marine investment. They totally block harsh UV light, and provide shelter from wind and rain.

They come in a variety of colors and are made from a variety of building materials. In visiting with some owners, a few have been granted repair permits. Some are no longer in use or are in use for the storage of things other than boats,

Owners of the featured boathouses may have the specially matted photos at the conclusion of the meeting, compliments of the History Committee.



AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED NEW PIPELINE CORRIDOR

By Mary Ackerman, Member, Northern Water Alliance

SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 2015, much about the proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 relocation has been up in the air. This was due to a suit brought by Friends of the Headwaters against the MNPUC (Minnesota Public Utilities Commission). The outcome, appealed to the State Supreme Court by both the MNPUC, and the applicant, North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC, ordered a full environmental impact statement be prepared complying with the State's law prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Need (CON). The Supreme Court chose not to hear the appeal after review and found for the Appellate Court Decision vacating the June, 2015 issuance of the PUC's Certificate of Need for the proposed Sandpiper pipeline and ordering a full EIS (Environmental Impact Statement).

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING of the EIS for both the Sandpiper and the Line 3 relocation were held in several communities around both Central and Northern Minnesota in May. Written public comments were also accepted by the Department of Commerce (DOC, the agency that supports the PUC). There was a great deal of discussion regarding which among the State Government agencies should lead the EIS. This will be the first EIS for a pipeline in Minnesota. DOC has never before conducted an EIS, but they appear to be leading this one.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT period was a letter from the USEPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) Region 5 raising not only many of the concerns we have had but also supporting the Treaty Rights of the

Ojibwe Bands impacted by the proposal. We were heartened by the EPA's insistence in reviewing the environmental impact, not just of the pipeline construction but the impacts from extraction to consumption. This, on top of similar public written and oral testimony, should force the DOC to expand the scope of the EIS which the applicant was trying to limit.

AT THE MOMENT, WE are waiting for the DOC to compile the revised scoping document to present to the PUC in June or July. If adopted by the PUC, the EIS will proceed. The MN Environmental Protection Act, (MNEPA) mandates that the EIS needs to be prepared within 280 days (unless extended by the Governor). So, at the moment, we're in a wait and watch mode. Active groups which could use your support, financial and otherwise, are Honor the Earth (honorearth.org) representing both Treaty Rights and the Bands' concerns; and Friends of the Headwaters (friendsoftheheadwaters.org), the organization responsible for financing the suit which forced the EIS. Both groups anticipate fund raising events this summer. We'll keep you posted

REMEMBER, THERE IS A GREAT RESOURCE for all information concerning WATER. The Northern Water Alliance, hosted by the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, is working to create a robust website with the best information from several non-profit organizations, research sources, and agencies. Go to www.leechlakewatershed.org and become a member. It's free!

REPORT ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

By Bob Iversen, Chair, AIS Committee

At the time of this writing (early June) the fishing and boating season is well underway on Ten Mile, and so is the AIS prevention program. Cass County has been providing DNR-trained inspectors since the week before the walleye fishing opener, and this will continue until after Labor Day. Thank you, Cass County (and to the Minnesota legislature for providing the counties with \$10 million in annual funding)!

Over the winter, Environmental Sentry Protection, the maker of our I-LIDS motion-activated video camera, developed an improved version of the electronics which was installed in our unit this spring. The results are excellent: better video quality and a louder audio message. Also, for those of us who review the video clips, there are far fewer "false alarms" caused by moving tree branches or shadows.

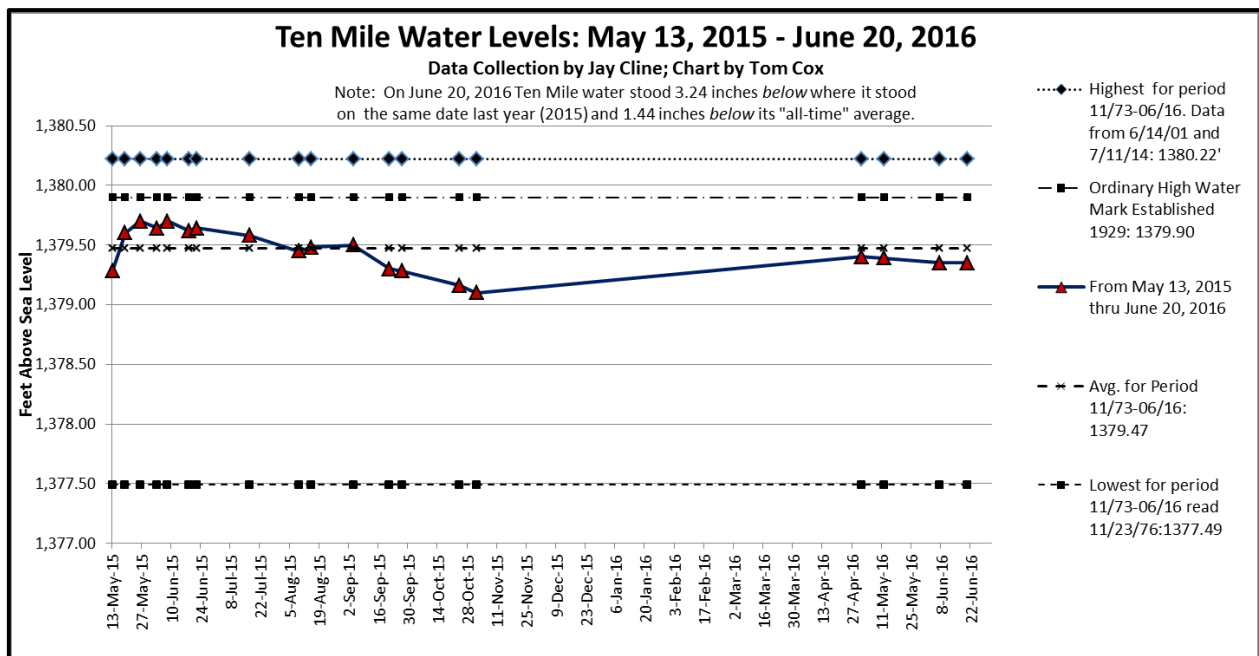
In April, I attended the semiannual State of Water Conference in Alexandria. It was very interesting learning what many of the counties are doing with the state funding -- we may incorporate some of those ideas for Cass County. One scary topic at the conference was a new form of AIS that

was discovered in Lake Koronis near Paynesville last summer: starry stonewort. This is a grass-like algae that forms a very dense mat on the surface.



Starry Stonewort

At present, even though it has been in lakes in New York and Michigan for years, there is no cure once a lake is infested. Another reason to Clean, Drain and Dry all watercraft. Please make sure your lake guests do the same!



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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

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