



# BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION INFORMER

FALL EDITION 2013

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This morning is so-far a picture- perfect late summer day, mild with a nice breeze. I can tell that the sun's angle is nearer the horizon by looking at the longer shadows being cast across the lawn on the west side of the house. I will miss the summer flowers but then we may all enjoy the color of blossoms of the "short-day" plants - goldenrod (unless you have allergies!), mums, Russian sage, and sunflowers - in addition the color of the fall fruits, e.g., tomatoes, peppers, squash and the like. The world would indeed be drab without color. There is always a bit of head-scratching over what to include in our newsletter. Yes, we will comment on a few important events affecting BSL. There are announcements pertinent to our fall fund raiser, and data on transparency. But you will see some that you think are odd. I agree that two articles related to wild turkeys may have nothing to do with our lake - but fall is coming and with it Thanksgiving. So why not? The story of Bear-56 is complementary to a story about "Wisdom" in our Spring issue. She is a Laysan albatross, captured in late 2012 and now 62 years old, the oldest documented living bird.

Now to recap some 2013 events since our Spring Issue. We had a good attendance at our Annual Meeting. Eric Altena, Area Supervisor, DNR Fisheries provided an entertaining and informative slide show on the work of his department and its relevance to Sauk Lake. All attendees received a dwarf bush honeysuckle prior to leaving. I hope all are growing well. (Of course I am referring to the honeysuckle not the attendees!)



We hosted the Land of Lakes Bowfishing Tournament on schedule, June 8th. Eighteen teams participated. You may know that the Board voted to add \$500 to the prize money, specifying that it should go to the team that harvested the greatest number of carp. Hunting hours were from 9:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. I was informed that rain fell for roughly half the night-time hours. Despite the adverse weather, a total of 681 fish were shot with an estimate of 65% being carp. One team shot 135 carp and claimed the \$500 prize. My thanks go to Board member Jeff Mayer for volunteering to meet the teams early Sunday morning and presenting the check.

We continue to have discussions with the SRWD over the change in treatment methods for invasive weeds. (Readers are asked to review this on Page 1 of our Spring Newsletter). I recently received a Project Agreement prepared by the SRWD attorney, John Kolb. It would involve the Association and the City to devise a Work Plan and Budget. In general, it would define responsibilities (very few), coordinate with the DNR to update our Vegetative Management plan and agree on a budget with a stipulation on an amount related to the reserve fund.

Our position is that the BSLA would be responsible for weed control on the lake exclusive of the littoral zone (that strip of water closest to the shoreline). Individual property owners would be responsible to acquire a DNR permit to control invasive weeds around their dock providing a channel to open water. There are a few other issues - generally legal which would be binding on both parties. We will provide members with more details when the work plan and budget are finalized.

As you all know, the first Wednesday of the Month @ 1:00 P.M. is the time to activate Tornado Warning Sirens around the state. Shortly after 1:00 P.M. on September 4th, I received a call from a resident on Alcott that the "Southern-

most" siren was not sounding properly. She described the noise. I drove to site to verify the sound. It was a subdued sound-staccato like- like repeated impacts of a hammer. Upon investigation and later with the help of Pete Leko and Dennis Schiebold, it was determined that one of the 12V Marine rechargeable batteries was dead. Pete managed to open the upper level control box, and flipped a switch eliminating all sound. Since then, a matching battery has been ordered and I await a call to pick it up. Newer members may not be aware that about 9(?) years ago, the Association purchased two sirens, the other located at Diamond Point.

Recently, I have heard comments by two active fishermen that the slot limit for walleyes be raised to 15" replacing the current 10". Is there support from you, our members, to agree to this change? It would require a petition movement. If you have thoughts on this issue, contact your Board members.

Our participation at the Stearns County Fair was again extremely successful. Our un-official tally of visitors was 694. Thanks to all board members (and wives) who staffed our booth.

We collectively thank all of our members for your support. Your membership dues support the programs which benefit you as stipulated in our Bylaws. However, a decline has occurred. If you have any thoughts as to why this has happened, talk to our Board members.

**LASTLY, NOTE THE PROMINENT REFERENCE TO OUR FALL FUND-RAISER ON SEPTEMBER 21st AT THE COUNTRY CLUB COMMENCING AT 5:00 P.M.** This is a time to enjoy a good meal and hob-nob with fellow members and friends. Perhaps you may get to know someone you have never met!

*As Bugs-Bunny used to say at the end of the Warner-Bros. cartoon "That's All Folks".....*

## LAKE WATCH SOUTH HALF

FOLLOWING ARE THE SECCHI DISK READINGS  
TAKEN TO DATE IN 2013

Date	Depth (In feet)	Color	Water Temp degrees F
5-28-13	3.5	Brown	60
6-06-13	5.5	Brown	58
6-12-13	9.0	Clear	60
6-19-13	7.0	Clear	72
7-03-13	3.5	Brown	76
7-12-13	3.0	Brown	77
7-17-13	2.5	Brown	77
7-24-13	2.0	Brown	77
7-29-13	2.0	Brown	72
8-06-13	2.0	Brown	73
8-14-13	2.0	Brown	71
8-21-13	1.5	Brown	77
8-28-13	1.5	Brown	78

THE ELEVATION OF THE LAKE ON MAY 16th, 2013, THE DAY THE GAGE WAS SET, WAS 1226.64 OR 3/4" BELOW THE SUMMER TARGET ELEVATION OF 1226.70. HEAVY THUNDERSTORMS ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 20th IN OUR AREA AND TO THE WEST AND MORE RAIN ON JUNE 21st and 22nd RESULTED IN THE LAKE REACHING AN ELEVATION OF 1228.48 OR 1FOOT 9 3/8" ABOVE THE TARGET ELEVATION ON JUNE 25th. MOST DOCKS WERE UNDERWATER AND SOME FLOATED AWAY. OTHERS WERE REMOVED FOR A TIME. LAKE ELEVATION WAS AGAIN BACK TO NORMAL BY JULY 12th. EVEN WITH A LACK OF RAIN THE PAST MONTH, THE LAKE HAS BEEN VERY CLOSE TO THE TARGET SUMMER ELEVATION.

SUBMITTED BY VERN BECKERMANN

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Members, you are our best source for events, issues, and information. Our "collective" eyes and ears come across many tidbits of information in the months between newsletters. If you would like this newsletter to mention these topics, please give me a call at 320.351.2513.



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please mention their advertisement  
in our newsletter!*



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## 2013 Big Sauk Lake Association Membership

Below is a listing of BSLA Residential and Business members who have paid dues for calendar year 2013 as of August 25, 2013. **THANK YOU** for your support of Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Centre community!

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(\$25 per Year: Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2013)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please cut out and include with your payment to:

**BSLA, Box 282, Sauk Centre, MN 56378**

**THANK YOU for your support of Big Sauk Lake!**

The Big Sauk Lake Association is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, and a tax-exempt, environmental organization under Article 501 (c) (3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code.

# WHAT DON'T WE KNOW ABOUT WILD TURKEYS?

*Editor's Note: Think of this article as a companion to the one on "White meat vs. Dark". A number of our readers have hunted wild turkeys and recognize the physical features and behavior of these birds. Others only know of the turkey, dressed and wrapped in the meat department of their favorite grocery store. Consider this as a further educational article.*

As recently as a generation ago, folks rarely encountered Wild Turkeys. Hunting pressure had eliminated them from much of their original range. But extensive reintroduction efforts brought the turkey back from the brink and just about every state in the continental US now has a population of wild turkey, some in the thousands.

## Snoods, Wattles and Beards

So what exactly is a turkey's snood? Male, or tom, turkeys have a number of features that experts believe are intended to attract female turkeys (hens). These include the familiar fleshy red wattles on its neck and throat as well as a fleshy mass over their beak known as a snood. As turkeys are polygamous and happy to mate with as many hens as they can attract, it seems reasonable to conclude that a more spectacular wattle and snood will result in more breeding success.

A tom's plumage follows the same principles. Bright colors and unique features rule the day. His feathers have areas of green, copper, bronze, red, purple, and gold iridescence. Most males also have a beard; in reality a group of specialized feathers growing from the center of his breast.

## Strutting Their Stuff

Males attract hens by a behavior known as "strutting", in which they display for females by puffing out their feathers, spreading out their tails and dragging their wings. Gobbling, drumming or booming and spitting are signs of social dominance and are also techniques toms use to attract females.

## Overcoming Adversity

Wildlife managers estimate that the entire population of Wild Turkeys in the US was as low as 30,000 in the early 20th century. By the 1930's, they were almost totally extirpated from Canada and found only in remote pockets within the US. Populations have rebounded spectacularly since programs across the country were put in place to protect and encourage the breeding of surviving wild populations. The rebound has reached the point where hunting has been legalized in the lower 48 states and current estimates place the entire Wild Turkey population at over 7 million.

## Wild Turkey or Bald Eagle?

In the early days of the republic, Benjamin Franklin strongly objected to the choice of the Bald Eagle as our national symbol, preferring the Wild Turkey. Franklin thought the Bald Eagle's habit of stealing prey caught by other birds particularly offensive, as inappropriate quality and wrote, "For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America."

Thus, the turkey a uniquely North American bird, is an American original and worthy of our respect.

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## WHAT'S WITH A MONARCH WAY-STATION?

Joy Turnbull-Dunham has an interesting job. She is the education director at the Hartley Nature Center near Duluth. As she explains one of her roles: "I educated myself about raising monarch (butterflies) from eggs to adults, which takes about a month, when we release them. We became a certified way station out of concern for the population decline of monarchs. This alone isn't hugely helping the monarch population, but to have kids [who attend weekly camp] watch it is incredibly cool. We're still collecting eggs, so we have every stage right now: eggs, caterpillars and chrysalises that are awaiting their transformation to become butterflies in our nature center building. The numbers are pretty small compared to past years, but they're here. We have a large butterfly garden here with a lot of host plants, for monarchs and other butterfly larvae too.

The coolest part about releasing a monarch is when you say goodbye and hope to see its great-great grandchildren next summer!"

*Editor's Note: Credit for this story is attributed to the Star-Tribune, August 23, 2013*

Clean and-drain Sites a New Tactic in War on Invasives

Minnesota's 2.3 million boaters will see something new at boat landings around the state this summer: "clean and drain" areas where they can clean their boats of aquatic invasive species.

The idea is to give boaters a specific, well marked place to park and clean their boats while getting out of the way of other ramp users. Boaters will have a place to toss their weeds, zebra mussels and discard minnows and leeches - a recycling bin.

"We want them to pull off the ramp and up to these areas so we can get rid of congestion at the ramps, and simplify what boaters need to do and where they can do it," said Nancy Stewart public water access program coordinator at the Department of natural Resources.

Another goal is to eliminate the piles of discarded weeds and bait that sometimes build up at ramps and parking areas.

Officials said the move is part of the state's continuing effort to slow the spread of invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil, a

battle that DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr acknowledged the state is losing. About 200 of the clean-and -drain areas are expected to be added by fall to the state's existing boat landings - mostly to high-use sites and on infested waters. Many will use stenciled lanes, signs and compost bins. (These are not to be confused with decontamination sites where boats are power washed and disinfected.)

Landwehr said the only hope of eliminating invasive species is if scientists come up with silver bullet to kill them. Meanwhile boaters must take responsibility to clean and drain their boats - and the vast majority are. "We had 5 million boat launches last year, at thousands of accesses," he said, yet had single-digit increases in the number of infested waters.

Last year, DNR enforcement documented a 20 percent violation rate. "This year the violation is about 10 percent," Landwehr said.

*Continued on page 5*

# What Changes Do The Shorter Days of Fall Bring About In Our Plants and Animals?

"With the fall equinox happening soon and fall almost upon us, we're seeing our days rapidly getting shorter. Some of us like the change but it seems most folks aren't too happy to see the daylight get shorter and nights become longer."

"Plants and animals are affected too. It's these variations in day length that help them set their internal clocks."

"Migratory birds are a prime example. A Dark-eyed Junco nesting in northern Canada responds to the first shortening of the days of summer with a series of physical changes: its reproductive organs become inactive and shrink in size, hormones stimulate the rapid growth of a new set of feathers (its non-breeding plumage), and fat deposits develop to provide fuel for the long migratory flight ahead."

"Thus the preparation for migration starts as soon as the days begin to shorten. And the process must operate in reverse when the bird is in its winter habitat in the United States. As soon as days begin to lengthen, the Dark-eyed Junco must gear up physically for the flight north and breeding season. If it fails to do so, it likely won't survive a long-distance migration."

"Plants in temperate zones must also set their calendars accurately to in order to flower and, for deciduous species, develop and drop leaves at the optimal time. Plants set their internal calendars using several attributes from the sunlight they receive. In fact, the angle of the sun may be more important to a plant than day length." That's because plant cells produce compounds called phytochromes in response to different portions of the light spectrum. Readers may remember that sunlight is really made up of 7 primary colors which comprises the solar spectrum. We were expected to learn "ROYGBIV" representing the names of those colors. We also learned that light travels in waves and that red light had the longest wavelength, and violet the shortest. Another important discovery was that violet light waves carried the greatest energy which decreased as the spectrum shifts to the red end. Further analysis revealed that light also transmitted waves having even more energy than the violet - the ultraviolet - these contribute to sunburn;

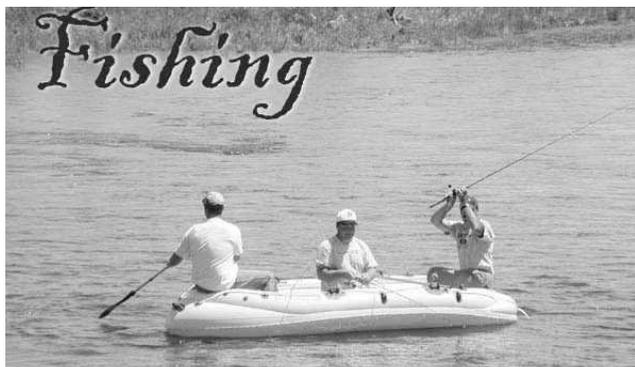
Waves having less energy than red were called infrared - these are generally connected to heating the days. One of the most important phytochromes is chlorophyll a. It absorbs light primarily in both the violet and red end of the spectrum. It gives most plants the green color we admire. Another phytochrome is chlorophyll b which is in a subclass of phytochromes called carotenoids. These molecules absorb light of different wavelengths which gives them colors of red, orange and yellow. Think of tomatoes, carrots and citrus fruits as well the myriad colors of our beautiful array of flowers. One of the more interesting carotenoids is called beta-carotene. When split in half, it forms 2 molecules of Vitamin A. Vitamin A is changed into a new pigment called retinal in cells behind your eye triggering a nerve impulse in the retina which enables you to see! This is why, as a child, you were told to eat your carrots.

As the sun's angle above the horizon gradually decreases day by day in the fall, plants receive less and less solar energy. As a result, their cells stop making the green chlorophyll a which allows the other colored phytochromes to appear (the carotenoids) giving us the blaze of fall colors. Since chlor-a is the major pigment involved in photosynthesis, the leaves will eventually drop as cell activity ends. In warmer regions of the earth, a low sun angle (called indirect sunlight) also allows more infrared waves to be absorbed increasing pigments in those plants which are called far-red phytochromes

In the spring, the increasing sun angle allows plants and especially the soil to absorb wavelengths in the red and infra-red parts of the spectrum, sufficient to start germination.

"So the cycle of life and its related migrations and transitions are deeply connected to the heavens." We should stand in awe of these wonders.

*Editor's Note: Quoted material for this article is credited to a website called eNature.com..Other comments are derived from a background in biology.*



Continued from page 4

Stewart said the cost to create the clean-and-drain areas ranges from around \$2,000 to \$12,000.

Stewart noted that officials don't want boaters to throw trash in the recycle bins, and also said anglers should dispose of unwanted worms or night crawlers in the garbage because they are considered invasive species.

*Editor's Note: This somewhat condensed article was found in the Star-Tribune, July 17, 2013.*

*Author: Doug Smith  
(Have any of our readers encountered these sites?)*

**Visit Us on the Web**  
For BSLA information, notices, and lake-related links  
or to contact us.



This site is courtesy of the  
World Wide Web Foundry, I I C.  
A BIG thank you to BSLA member,  
**Lynn Woodward.**

# Choose Your Side: White Meat or Dark?

While we come together as friends and families at Thanksgiving gatherings, once at the table, many of us divide into two separate and oppositional camps; those who prefer the legs and thighs of our traditional bird for their dark meat, versus those who opt for the whiter breast meat. We may know which kind of meat we prefer but few of us know the reason for the difference.

It's a question of fibers. The muscles of all birds possess several types of fibers. In fact, each muscle usually has a mixture of these fibers. Because red ones predominate in the leg and thigh muscles of birds like turkeys and chickens, the tissue appears dark. The breast tissue, meanwhile, is composed mostly of white muscle fibers. Why? Because the breast muscles of these birds serve a different purpose than their leg and thigh muscles.

Turkeys and chickens, remember, are ground-dwelling birds that spend all of their waking hours walking, running, and scratching for food. The muscles in their legs are adapted for constant use and do not fatigue easily. The individual red fibers are very fine and contain an abundance of compounds that make them efficient at aerobic respiration (requiring oxygen).

These tissues are also high in both fat and sugar,

which act as fuel for aerobic metabolism (low or without oxygen). Small songbirds by contrast, can fly efficiently for hours at a time because they have a predominance of red fibers in their flight muscles.

While turkeys can fly too, they aren't capable of sustained flight. The large muscles we call "white meat" are adapted for explosive burst of power - such as when one of these heavy-bodied birds is surprised by a predator and must escape in flash of speed (turkeys have been clocked at 55 mph). These muscles are powered by anaerobic metabolism and tend to fatigue quickly.

The opposite is true of ducks and geese. These birds are long-distance fliers, and their large breast muscles consist of dark meat that is high in fat content. Yet the birds with the

greatest concentration of red muscle fibers in their flight muscles are not the ones that make the longest migratory flights. No, it's the birds that utilize the highest number of wing beats during sustained flight. And which birds are those? Hummingbirds, of course!

*Editor's Note: This article was obtained from "NatureWatch", a blog under the auspices of eNature.com*

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## DON'T THROW BACK THOSE BABY FISH

Conventional Wisdom;

Fish should only be caught as adults, after reproducing.

Contrary View:

Catching only adult fish harms ecosystems.

Fishermen call them keepers; the mature fish above the legal minimum length that end up in the ice chest, as opposed to the small fry that get tossed back. Size regulations apply to everyone from a retiree hooking a sturgeon (minimum length 43 inches) on Oregon's Columbia River to a trawler pulling up cod (minimum length 22 inches) off some of New England's coast. Ignore the rules, and you get fined.

The rationale is that young fish should be left in the population until they can mature and breed - and, besides, larger fish make better filets. The problem is that selective harvesting has been counterproductive, altering natural ecosystems and creating evolutionary pressures that end up harming fisheries.

For centuries fishermen have worried that too few fish spawn during breeding season, leading to longstanding rules leading to minimum length. With widespread concern over a collapse of the world's fisheries, during the past 50 years those length restrictions have only increased. Some of the concern relates to what fishermen call by catch, which in

1994 meant 27 million metric tons of young fish and unwanted species that get thrown back dead each year. That was about a quarter of the world's total catch, which is why most trawlers now use nets with a large mesh that smaller and baby fish can escape through.

But guarding baby fish doesn't protect our fisheries at all. Unlike humans or other mammals that dote upon their few offspring for years after birth, a female Atlantic cod lays millions of eggs each time it spawns, letting the small fry fend for themselves. A tiny fraction of offspring escape starvation or predation (including fishermen) and end up contributing their genes to the next generation. Despite the seemingly large number of tiny fish that fishermen and regulators thought were going to waste, the number was small compared to death by non-human predators and lack of plankton and other food sources. The bottom line is that size restrictions have not improved populations in fisheries.

In fact, the restrictions have made things worse. By targeting only the largest, oldest fish in a species, we're inadvertently manipulating fish genetics. When fishermen take large fish out of the population, they put evolutionary pressure on fish to stay small and mature quickly. In the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in eastern Canada, the average length of 6-year old cod has

decreased from about 21.5 inches in the 1970's to 18.5 inches today. A recent analysis of 37 commercial fish stocks found that most matured earlier and at a smaller size than in the past.

These smaller fish produce fewer eggs, which is bad news for the future of the population.

And if selective fishing is bad for a single fish stock, it's even worse for marine ecosystems. Taking only the heavy weights out of our oceans has left us with an unnatural, bottom-heavy ecosystem that is more difficult to harvest sustainably because it is unstable.

Rebuilding the world's fisheries will require tossing out a piece of folk wisdom that has led to harmful policies. We should stop penalizing fishermen for catching young fish and find more uses for anchovy-sized fish in our diets and as animal feed.

*Editor's Note: The article was submitted by a BSLA member earlier this year but was not included in the Spring INFORMER due to space restrictions. The editor included it to stimulate some thought on issues like slot limits.*

*Source: DISCOVER MAGAZINE, March 2013; Author Brendan Borrell, journalist who frequently reports on natural resources and conservation biology.*

## On the Lighter Side . . .

A couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach almost every day.

She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around and then speak to them. Generally, the people would respond negatively and she would wander off. But occasionally someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money and something that she carried in the bag.

The couple assumed that she was selling drugs and debated calling the cops, but since they didn't know for sure, they decided to just continue watching her. After a couple of weeks the wife said, "Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with boom boxes and other electronic devices?" He hadn't and said so. Then one day she said, "Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really up to."

The plan went off without a hitch and the wife was excited when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave. The man then walked up the beach and met his wife at the road. "Well, is she selling drugs?" she asked excitedly. "No, she's not," he said. "Well, what is it then? What does she do?" his wife asked.

Her husband answered with a big grin, "She's a battery salesperson." "Batteries?" cried the wife? "Yes!" he replied. "You see, she sells C-cells by the seashore!!"

## The Psychiatrist and the Proctologist

Best friends graduating from medical school at the same time decided that in spite of two different specialities, they would open a practice together to share office space and personnel.

Dr. Smith was the psychiatrist and Dr. Jones was the proctologist. They put up a sign reading: Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones: "Hysterias and Posteriors". The town council was livid and insisted they change it.

The docs changed it to read: Schizoids and Hemorrhoids. This was also not acceptable so they again changed the sign to read Catatonics and High Colonics - no go. Next they tried Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives - thumbs down again.

Then came Minds and Behinds - still no good. Another attempt resulted in Lost souls and Butt holes - no way. Freaks and Cheeks - Loons and Moons - forget it.

Almost at their wit's end, the docs finally came up with: Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones - Specializing in Odds and Ends. The town council loved it!

## Now, Something For The Techies Among Our Readers.

### OBSCURE ENGINEERING CONVERSION FACTORS

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter= Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese Soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 micro-scope
4. Time between slipping on a fruit peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. 365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer = 1 Lite year
6. Half a large intestine = 1 semicolon
7. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
8. Basic unit of of 1 case of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
9. 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds
10. 1,000 cc's of wet socks = 1 literhosen
11. 8 nickels = 2 paradigms
12. Raising 1 trillion males of the bovine family = 1 terabull mistake

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"Editor's Note" Readers may wonder why this article is in the Newsletter.

I was deeply touched by this story because it represents how this animal survived so long against overwhelming odds against sustaining her life for this length of time.

## IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA, THE WORLD'S OLDEST BEAR GOES QUIETLY

Source: Bob Collins, MPR reporter, posted August 27, 2013, 11:51 AM

The World's oldest known wild bear has died without the benefit of ever having a name.

The Department of Natural Resources today announced that Bear No. 56 has passed on at age 39.5.

She was found in a secluded spot in the Chippewa National forest near Marcell in Itasca County and apparently died of natural causes.

From 1981-1995, Bear No. 56 produced eight litters of cubs and successfully reared a remarkable 21 of 22 cubs to 1 1/2 years of age. In 1997, at age 23, she uncharacteristically lost two of her three cubs before weaning. In 1999, at age 25, she bore and raised her last cub. In 2001, when she was next expected to give birth, researchers found her healthy in her den and producing milk but without cubs.

Bear No. 56 outlived by 19 years all of the 360 radio-collared black bears that DNR researchers have followed since

1981. She also outlived any radio-collared bear of any species in the world. Only a very few individual study bears have been reported to reach age 30. The second-oldest was a brown bear that lived to 34.

Researchers suspect Bear No. 56's longevity probably is best attributed to a combination of factors, including the location of her home range in a forested area with few people or major roads; a more reticent nature than that of many bears, in terms of her avoidance of people; and luck.

The death doesn't come as much of a surprise. Earlier this year, the Star Tribune reported, the DNR warned hunters that #56 was on her way out and need to be shown the respect she deserved.

"We've never seen a wild bear die of old age," Karen Noyce, Department of Natural Resources, research biologist in Grand Rapids, told the paper. "It's just extremely rare. We're not going to crack any secrets, but it's so rare to get an opportunity to watch a wild animal age normally."

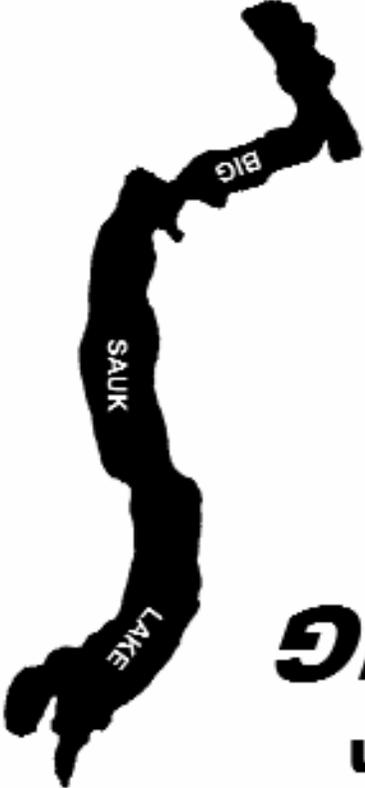
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**Big Sauk Lake Association**

# **FALL GATHERING**

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 21, 2013, 5 pm—7 pm  
**WHERE:** Sauk Centre Country Club

**MENU**  
Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Potato Salad, Baked Beans,  
Cole Slaw, Homemade Bars & Beverages

**Adults: \$8**  
**Children 16 and under: \$5**  
**Children 5 and under: Free**

A Great Opportunity To Visit With Your Neighbors  
From The Big Sauk Lake Community

## **Hope To See You There!**