Most longtime anglers have a 'Leech Lake story'

The Minneapolis Star-Tribune recently featured an article on the recovery of Leech Lake's walleye fishery, after several years of seriously depressed fishing.

The story's verdict of very good fishing squared with what I've been hearing since the May opener. Friends and coworkers have come back from outings there with broad success-induced smiles on their faces.

- o - *Inside the Outdoors*

Mike Rahn

- o -

This is especially noteworthy given Leech Lake's recent hard times, with several years of poor fishing blamed by many on nesting colonies of fish-eating cormorants. Since 2005 some 10,000 cormorants have been killed by sharpshooters under a special federal permit. Cormorants not only eat small walleye, but also small perch, which are a critical link in the walleye food chain.

Cormorant control, a major stocking program and special regulations protecting walleye from 18-26 inches, have collectively led to a major reversal of fortunes for the walleye population and thus also for anglers and for tourism-dependent businesses around Leech Lake. Though it would be nice to know just how important each of these variables has been to the walleye recovery, no one is complaining about the result.

Sooner or later a serious angler will probably fish Leech Lake. I've not fished it for a long time, but it remains one of those places I consider a "cradle" of my fishing interest. Although such lakes as Mille Lacs are much closer to the Twin Cities where I grew up, my parents had old "school ties" to Leech Lake, through a classmate who married into a family that owned a resort and fishing launch service near the town of Federal Dam.

My dad was not even a casual angler; but vacation trips to Leech Lake, which seemed to a youngster like a great inland sea, made a lasting impression. Perhaps there's a "fishing gene" that predisposes some of us to become anglers. I treasured close-to-home trips with neighbors or relatives for "sunnies," and I remember many hours spent haunting the fishing sections of several local hardware stores, imagining the merits of each type of plug and dreaming of the day when I could afford to stock a tackle box of my own.

High school age meant not only a part-time job and some genuine cash flow, but also a driver's license and in my case a very much-used 1961 Plymouth station wagon, which made it possible for outdoor dreams to begin coming true. My friends unflatteringly dubbed it the "Highway Classic," but I preferred to think of it as a "hunting and fishing machine," a self-deception that made its totally uncool style seem more acceptable.

The Classic was the means by which I and several friends made our first trips to Leech Lake. We pooled our money and rented a cabin at the same resort I'd visited as a child. Like most 16-year-olds, we were boatless and clueless about how to fish such a huge lake anyway, in those days before the first "green box" depth finders and before highly accurate lake maps were stocked in most tackle stores.

Then, as now, chartered launch fishing was a social experience and who is more social than a party of 16-year-olds? In the capable hands of a seasoned Leech Lake captain, we had little to concern us but keeping our bait in the fish zone and our lines from getting tangled and in the process probably entertaining a guide who was used to far less animated customers.

Though we made several high school period trips there, one stands out. It was a slow time on Leech, the proverbial "dog days" of summer, when even a seasoned captain was having trouble putting clients on fish; or – perhaps the real problem – getting fish to take what the clients were offering.

Most anglers have a story about the magic lure that could not fail, that had its moment of glory, in some cases never to be repeated again. The lure that's the centerpiece of this tale was one that had been gathering dust and probably some rust, in my tackle box since I had acquired it years before in a hardware store bargain sale.

The Hy-Sport was mostly green, with traces of yellow and silver and a scale pattern on the sides. Rather than the simple hydrodynamics of a minnow-type lure, like a Rapala, it resembled a tiny green torpedo mounted atop a launching pad, which curved into a lip at the front so the lure would dive when retrieved.

After a long fishless period I tied it on in desperation and almost immediately was into a fish. This was repeated and soon I was being pressured to "share the wealth." All four of us took turns using the lure and all caught fish on it. We felt quite smug when word got around that our launch had outfished most of the others that afternoon.

That evening we drove to nearby Longville and scoured the bait shops for any lures that came even close to matching the coloration of our precious green "killer." Next day, you guessed it, the walleye would have nothing to do with either the green Hy-Sport, or the similarly colored imposters that we had invested our limited trip money in.

This incident became one of the minor mysteries of my early angling career and one of the more memorable of my Leech Lake "fish stories."

Real Estate

CONT'D

607
Houses for Sale

$20k - 59,000 very low, low down for first time buyers 320-252-8751 27-29p

610
Land for Sale

LAND AUCTION: Park Rapids, MN 24.5 acres of commercial and residential zoned land offered in 3 parcels. Park-like setting is the former Deer Town property ideally located on Hwy 71, which is the gateway to Itasca State Park and to numerous lakes. Monday, August 3, 2009 11 a.m. Pifer's Auction & Realty - Steven Link 877-700-4099, www.pifers.com, MN#14-106. 26-29p

FOR SALE BY OWNER, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

40 Acre Hobby Farm

Well taken care of and built with quality 3-bedroom rambler home built in 1994: 2-1/2 bathrooms, finished basement with family room, pool table and wet bar. Large kitchen with oak cabinets, large dining room w/bay window, large living room w/ bay window, main floor laundry, 16 x 32 deck; attached overside 2-car garage insulated ans sheetrocked.

Has 30 x 52 shed cemeted with drain system; 36 x 72 shed, partially cemented with heated self-water system; 48 x 48 shed and lean (32 x 32 insulated and heated, with built-in cabinets, workbench, water heater, below grade work area and drain system); smokehouse lined w/stainless steel; 2 corn cribs; 1 grain bin. Open field and fenced pasture. Exceptional hunting and trails throughout the woods. cl27p

To make an appointment to check out this Quality Built Hobby Farm, please call: 320-594-6211 (home) or 218-820-6463 (cell)

Garage Sales

701
Garage Sales

JEN HOLST'S ANNUAL ONE DAY ONLY MULTI FAMILY SALE: Fri., July 17, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. **Grey shed 1-½ mi. east of Staples on the Warner Rd. Watch for signs.** A lot of families a lot of stuff. Something for everyone. ssw27p

GARAGE SALE: Thurs., July 16, Fri., July 17 and Sat. July 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **323 5th St. NE., Staples.** Clothing, children's - women's plus, NordicTrack resistance trainer, TVs, IPod, other electronics, toys, movies, books, much more. w27p

ONE DAY ONLY: Fri., July 17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. **Cty. Rd. #30, Staples, Sorenson.** Large desk, heavy duty ramps, Rubbermaid mailbox, pool, ladder, much misc. 27sswp

GARAGE SALE: Every Fri. and Sat. **5-1/2 mi. N of Motley on #64, Swecker's, 218-352-6293.** Cribs, car seats, kitchen, Christmas, male Sheltie, etc. w27p

HUGE, HUGE GARAGE SALE: Fri., July 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., July 18, 9 a.m.-noon. **From Staples: 2 mi. south on Hwy. 210, Cty. Rd. 7, 10 mi., right on Norris Rd,, 3 mi. 37903 Norris Rd. Watch for signs.** Western shirts (L/XL), bed comforters, knickknacks, crochet dolls, much misc., a lot of everything. 27sswp

LARGE GARAGE SALE: Fri., July 17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat., July 18, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. **From Staples - North on Airport Road to CLC, straight at stop sign, left on 130th St., left on 267 Ave. to 128th St., left. Farber, Trantina, Greig. Watch for signs.** Baby-adult clothing, lawn mower, Power Wheel, pop up tent camper, beds and lots more. w27p

Fri., July 24-Sun., July 26, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. **Japke's Storage #43, 8th St. NE, Staples.** Clothes, a lot of misc. items, 2 printers, fax machine, picture frames, pictures, exercise equipment, cross-country skis/ poles. If anyone is interested in knowing how to take care of plants, I've got the books for you. Magazines, (old wrestling mags, cooking, bridal), movies. Please help with donations for "Convoy of Hope." Proceeds go to help feed children around the world. 27sswp

THREE FAMILY SALE: Fri., July 17, noon-6 p.m. and Sat., July 18, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. **2 mi. W of Thomastown Church, Staples.** LOTS of clothes - baby-toddler, adult, some maternity; toys, movies, misc. Priced to sell - worth the drive. w27p

DNR, Deep Portage to host outdoor weekend

Families are invited to participate in a weekend of outdoor skills fun during the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Family Outdoor Weekend Aug. 8-9 at the Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center near Hackensack.

The event includes classes on climbing, shooting, archery, orienteering and fishing.

This event is a great way for families to learn beginning skills without having to purchase equipment.

Indoor lodging and meals are provided on site. There is a cost for this event. Registration includes lodging, meals, equipment and instruction. Scholarships, made possible by The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Pheasants Forever, are available.

For more information, call Deep Portage at 888-280-9908 or download the event brochure at http://mndnr.gov/bow.

Legion loses 2 one-run games, now in playoffs

The Staples Motley American Legion baseball team, in the past week leading up to the Legion playoffs, won a 13-3 game against Wadena-Deer Creek but then lost two close games to Browerville and Sebeka.

The Legion team finished their regular summer season with a 11-4 record and the top seed in the District 6 North Sub-District tournament, which started Monday, July 13.

Gunner Johnson pitched his way to another win July 6 against W-DC, getting relief help in the seventh inning from Devin Becker.

Johnson got 12 strikeouts but also issued eight walks. The W-DC team got three hits and three runs while Johnson pitched.

At the plate, Johnson was also strong, getting three hits. It was Alex Jansson who got the big hits, a three run homer in the seventh and a double and three runs batted in.

On Tuesday, July 7, the Browerville Legion team won a 7-6 contest, with Tyler Jenniges taking the loss. It was an error-filled game, as the two teams each had six errors.

Dylan Shequen started the game, pitching 3-2/3 innings, giving up two hits and five runs.

Chad Beebe had two hits, including a double and two RBI's, while both Anthony Jenkins and Trevor Ness smacked doubles.

On Wednesday, July 8, the Sebeka Legion handed SM a 3-1 loss, with Alex Jansson pitching six innings and taking the loss. He struck out seven and gave up only two walks, while getting tagged for four hits and three runs.

Chad Beebe was the leading hitter, getting a double and a single, with Tyler Jenniges also getting on base with a hit. Beebe had two hits in each of the three games played last week.

The playoffs began this Monday for the No. 1 seed Staples Motley Legion. **(See related story)** The top two teams from this sub-district tournament advance to the next round.

Baseball results

Monday, July 6,

Staples Motley 13, Wadena-Deer Creek 3

SM 2-1-2-2-1-1-4 - 13 13 2

W-DC 0-0-0-0-2-1-0 - 3 3 1

Winning pitcher: Gunner Johnson 6 IP, 29 BF, 12 K, 8 BB, 3 hits, 3 runs, 2 earned

Relief: Devin Becker (7th) 1 IP, 5 BF, 0 K, 0 BB, 1 hit, 0 runs, 0 earned

Leading hitters: Gunner Johnson 3-4, run, RBI; Alex Jansson - 2-5, run, double, home run, 3 RBI's; Trevor Ness - 2-3, 4 runs, double, triple, RBI; Trevor Smith 2-3, 4 RBI's; Chad Beebe - 2-3, 2 runs, double

Tuesday, July 7

Browerville 7, SM 6

SM 0-0-0-3-0-1-2 - 6 6 6

B 3-0-0-2-0-0-2 - 7 3 6

Losing Pitcher: Tyler Jenniges - 3 IP, 13 BF, 0 K, 1 BB, 1 Hit, 2 runs, 0 earned

Dylan Shequen - 3 2/3 IP, 22 BF, 1 K, 5 BB, 1 HP, 2 hits, 5 runs, 2 earned

Leading hitter: Chad Beebe - 2-3, double, 2 RBI's

Wednesday, July 8

Sebeka 3, Staples Motley 1

SM 0-0-0-1-0-0-0 - 1 3 1

S 1-0-2-0-0-0-x - 3 4 1

Losing pitcher: Alex Jansson - 6 IP, 25 BF, 7 K, 2 BB, 4 hits, 3 runs, 3 earned

Leading hitter: Chad Beebe - 2-3, double

Also getting a hit: Tyler Jenniges - 1-3.

Bookin' it

American Legion player Trevor Smith is in a hurry to get to first base before the ball. (Staples World photo by Kelley Kossan)

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STAPLES MOTLEY SCHOOLS NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

202 Pleasant Ave. NE
Staples, MN 56479

The Staples Motley School District 2170 is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children **without charge**. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows:

Staples Elementary School:	Breakfast 8:00am – 8:45am Lunch 11:00am – 12:30pm
Staples Motley High School:	Breakfast 8:00am – 8:45am Lunch 11:00am – 12:30pm
Motley Elementary:	Breakfast 8:00am – 8:45am Lunch 11:00am – 12:30pm

Dates: July 20 through August 13, 2009. **Serving Monday through Thursday**

Sign up the day before at the site or call 894-2430 Ext. 220 before 9:30am the day of

For more information call 894-2430 Ext. 220 or 227

w27c

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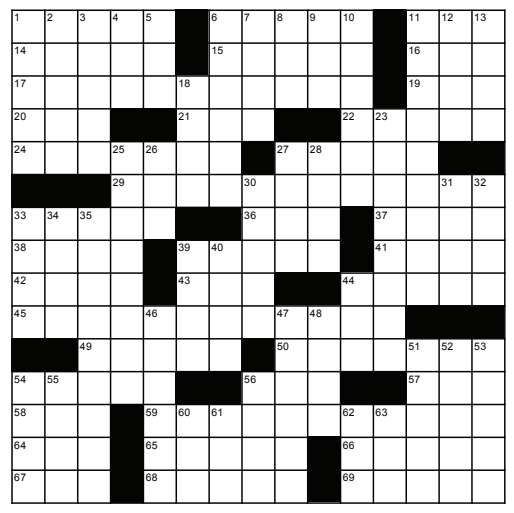
Crossword Puzzle

Provided by American Profile

Double Headers



ACROSS

1. Rope fibers
6. Rising star
11. Scrooge portrayer Alastair
14. Get slippery
15. Come to terms
16. Mined matter
17. Picture of fruit in a patch?
19. Long. crosser
20. Law or med lead-in
21. Soccer fan's cry
22. Half-witted
24. "It's very likely ..."
27. Less loco
29. Drumming Mark Twain character?
33. Baseball great Lefty
36. Bring home
37. Teamster's rig
38. Blue material
39. More adorable
41. Manx cat's lack
42. Part of QED
43. "Gotcha!"
44. Roaring Camp chronicler Bret
45. Season premiere at Folies Bergere?
49. Country's Brooks
50. Dropped in the mail
54. Sky shade
56. JFK guesstimate
57. __ mater (brain cover)
58. Trifecta, for one
59. No-goodniks under Genghis Khan?
64. Hagen of stage and screen
65. Big name in hotels
66. Plumed wader
67. Sunbather's acquisition
68. Plead one's case
69. Flies like an eagle

DOWN

1. Zoo behemoth
2. Online greeting
3. Sounded kittenish
4. Litter member
5. Place for a mud bath
6. Dosage unit
7. Shrek, e.g.
8. Hosp. picture
9. Bard's nightfall
10. Rods and cones site
11. Duration of the Earth's orbit
12. Modern-day theocracy
13. __ out (apportion)
18. Wriggly bait
23. Second chance, of sorts
25. Remote-control toy auto
26. Buddy list co.
27. Hook's henchman
28. Sagan's sci.
30. Like draft beer
31. Give off
32. Stir up
33. Crude org.
34. "Dumb __" (old comic)
35. Simian of Indonesia
39. "Out of the question"
40. "We've got trouble!"
44. Brooder on a farm
46. First name in soul
47. What you will
48. Within earshot
51. Met production
52. Clerk, at times
53. Some prison protests
54. Touch on
55. Hellenic Z
56. Rebuke from Caesar
60. Port of Scotland
61. Dipstick wiper
62. "__ So Fine" (Chiffons hit)
63. Swelled head

Last Week's Answers

"Out With It!"

B	E	H	A	R	■	M	I	A	T	A	■	A	D	D
A	L	O	N	E	■	O	W	N	E	R	■	R	O	O
S	A	I	D	A	P	R	A	Y	E	R	■	M	I	Z
E	T	S	■	L	E	O	S	■	D	I	L	A	T	E
D	E	T	A	I	N	S	■	■	■	V	I	D	■	■
■	■	■	U	T	T	E	R	E	D	A	S	I	G	H
L	U	C	K	Y	■	■	E	V	I	L	■	L	O	U
E	T	A	■	■	L	I	V	E	S	■	■	L	A	G
T	E	N	■	R	I	D	E	■	■	S	L	O	T	S
S	P	O	K	E	V	O	L	U	M	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	P	E	A	■	■	■	L	E	A	D	O	R	E
S	T	E	N	C	H	■	S	C	A	T	■	P	O	T
P	A	N	■	T	A	L	K	E	D	T	R	A	S	H
A	X	E	■	O	N	A	I	R	■	L	U	R	I	E
S	I	R	■	R	A	W	L	S	■	E	N	T	E	R

Week 27