

I first came to Stormy Lake in 1946 when my father purchased a lot on Stormy Point Road for \$600 from realtor Wally Adams. He built a small cabin which served as our family vacation spot for many years. As kids, we had a great time on the sparsely populated lake. We did not have a pier or a boat for the first few years, but we experienced great fishing. We waded into the lake with a cane pole and caught all the pan fish we could eat—bluegills, sunfish and rock bass were plentiful. There was no shortage of fish, but we always ran out of bait.

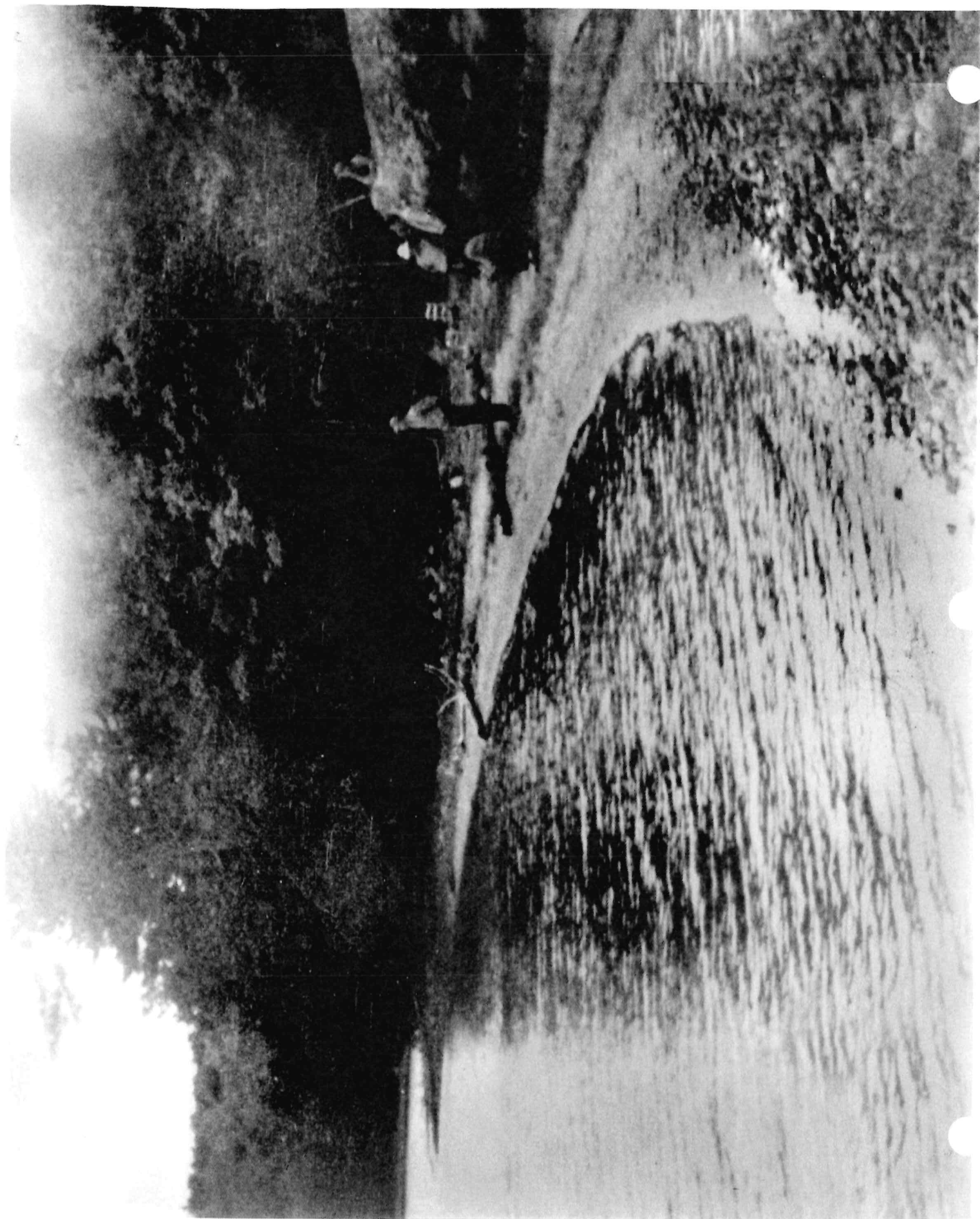
The property is currently owned by my sister-in-law, Beverly Miller. She and my late brother Ken, completely remodeled it a few years ago.

In 1975, Trudy and I purchased lot #5 in the Novotny subdivision on West Stormy Lake Road, and subsequently built our cottage in the winter of 1980. In September of 1980, we were fortunate to be able to purchase the adjoining lot #4. Together we have 225 feet of lake frontage and just under 6 acres of land.

In 1993, we added a two story addition consisting of a foyer and a sun room. At the same time we finished the lower walk out level and made it into a family room with a wood burning stove and a pool table. In 2011, we redid the upper level kitchen and great room by installing hardwood floors, new cabinets and appliances.

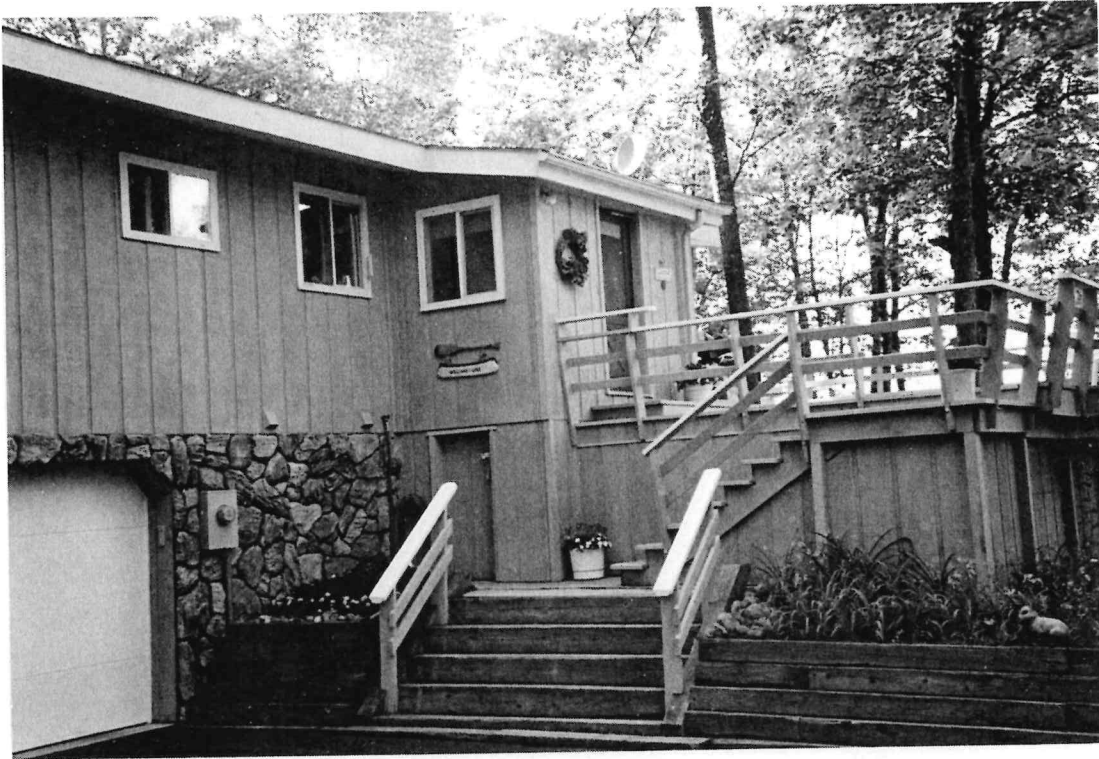
During the 65 years I have been fortunate enough to enjoy Storm Lake, I have seen the lake level rise and fall substantially, alternately exposing and covering the shoreline. The last several years, it was way down as it was in the late 40's. It went up in the 1950's and again in the 1980's. If you would like to witness the changes in the lake levels you will just have to hang around for about 65 years.

Gordon & Trudy Miller
4028 W Stormy Lake Road



4032 W, Stormy Lake Road
Conover, WI 54519
(written 2012)

The property was purchased and the original home was built by Robert DeMent in 1979. The house built by "Tri-State Homes". The DeMents used the home for vacations.



The home was purchased by Don and Joy Muchlinski in October 1996. They moved here from Southern California where they also owned a condominium in Palm Desert. They intended to live here five months of the year and in CA seven months but ended up selling their Southern CA property and lived here full time. In the fall of 1999 the Muchlinski's started a major remodeling project which added another 1,000 square feet to the home making a total of 3000+ square feet.



The Navratils on Stormy Lake

In 1978, a great event occurred in the history of land ownership on Stormy Lake. The Navratil family arrived! We purchased one of 7 newly platted lots on West Stormy Lake Road. Recently married and having a one year old child, we were undaunted. We had a "shell" erected and proceeded to build the home ourselves. What an adventure! In 1980, an unexpected addition to the family resulted in an addition to the cabin. Years passed, the children swam in the lake and we continued to slowly build the cabin ourselves. Somehow the children grew up before our eyes and next thing we knew, grandchildren arrived! The joy of our lives suddenly needed more rooms, so in 2008 VanCaster builders proceeded to add a second floor to the small cottage and it is now a lovely home – thank you Jeff. The grandchildren - now 5 and 7 – come up to boat, fish, snowmobile in the winter, ride our ATV, tube and overall raise havoc. Life is awesome on Stormy Lake.

Dr. Ronald L. Van Swol
Georgene A. Van Swol
4040 W. Stormy Lake Road
Conover, Wisconsin 54519

Ron and Georgene Van Swol became aware of the fact that Lot No. 9 on the shores of Stormy Lake was being offered for sale by Etienne and Marianne Clare in late August, 1999. The property was being offered for sale by the owners, who lived in Greendale, Wi.. After viewing the property, the Van Swol's determined that Lot 9 was not sufficient to build the type of home that they wanted. Therefore, the Clare's were contacted, and discussions began relative to purchasing Lots 8 and 9, since the Clare's also owned LOT 8. At first, the Clare's resisted, but in late September, 1999, a meeting was scheduled with the Clare's on the property to discuss the matter. The Clare's had developed a "fire pit" on the property overlooking Stormy Lake, and it was arranged for Ron and Georgene to meet Etienne and Marianne at 10 A.M. on a Sat. Morning in late September, 1999. The Van Swol's arrived to find the Clare's sitting next to the fire with a tripod holding a coffee pot full of hot coffee. After exchanging greetings, the negotiations began. After several cups of excellent coffee, an agreement was reached, and the Clare's agreed to sell Pcls. 8 & 9, GL3, Sec. 11 - 41 - 9, Conover Township to the Van Swols. The Clare's had owned the land for over 9 years, and it was vacant land at the time of the sale.

The offer to sell was signed by both parties on October 9, 1999. For personnel and financial reasons, the Clares asked to set the closing date on April 6, 2000, which was accepted by the Van Swol's.

Over the Months following the agreement to sell signing, the Van Swol's drew up plans for the house and searched for a Building Contractor. After an extensive search, a BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT was arranged between ZIMPELMANN BUILDERS, INC. P.O. BOX 132, EAGLE RIVER, WI.

Building plans and architectural drawings were finalized, and house construction began in May, 2000; with completion date set for June, 2001. The Van Swol's moved into their new home in June, 2001. The now famous 'fire pit' still exists, although in an enhanced condition.

Melby
152 Easton Place
Burr Ridge, IL 60521-6480

Charles B. Melby
~~970 Taft Road • Hinsdale, IL 60521~~
608 (708) 323-5075

Dear Nancy,

In the fall of 1980 our family began our search for a cottage in the North woods using an agent from the Mincayo office of Hunter Realty - over several weeks. We looked at many homes on many lakes - if the lake was great the home wasn't and vice versa!

Finally we were shown a vacant lot on Stormy our agent had sold to James and Janet Burlingame of Clinton, Iowa. They had found the trip too much and we fell in love with the view. Our agent had brought along a builder whose cottage on Camp 12 Lake had just been completed. Steve Ross of Steve Ross Construction showed us his cottage and from that he and Meta made the changes we wanted and he drew up the plans for and began building ours in November - we were in April 1981 and have been happy with our decision ever since.

In January 1981 Meta and I made an inspection trip and when we arrived at the site at noon (Steve having kept us occupied all morning with furniture, etc.) it was a magnificent, bright but cold day - a fire in a pit behind the framed-in house was happily grilling trout from our lake that morning plus potatoes

roasting in the coals! We had a great lunch and were amazed at the progress made in such a short time.

Hope you and Mary have a great winter in the South and will look forward to a few hands together next summer.

Do suggest to our President, the formation of a Stormy Lake Bridge club or group.

With loving regards and best,

Charles

The Zeddies family Beginning

In 1962 or so my parents came up to the Conover area looking at various lakes and cottages. One of the Real Estate agents they used was named Herb Oshman. He lived on Stormy Lake's North shore. My parents decided on Stormy because of the Lake's characteristics, namely not on the chain, very clear waters, deep and mostly weedless. This made the waters excellent for swimming and boating. The fishing of course was more problematic. The property, bought from a Mr. Greenwald, had 500' of shoreline, back lands split on both sides of Stormy Lake West Road and a small "hunter's" cabin with an outhouse. There was no electricity or running water in that cabin. The cabin was erected on stumps and had 4 rooms. The main room contained a "potbelly" wood-burning stove. There were 2 sleeping rooms that faced the back woods and a porch room that overlooked the lake. This room had been added on at some time as its common wall with the cabin was made of the same cedar siding as on the exterior walls. A first purchase was a used ice box, a real ice box. A block of ice was put into an upper compartment with a drip drain to a metal enamel container at the bottom. It was a daily chore to remember to empty the catch container or risk overflow. The ice was bought from a vendor on the south side of K west of the intersection with Hwy 45. It was a small ice house. I remember the ice was covered in saw dust. There was an outside pump for water, which produced the most wonderful water. It seemed over the years that we replaced the pump head often. As an aside, years latter in 1988 when my brother in law and I decided to change the cabin to a four season home, the well location was changed. The new well never produced the same quality of water. Instead the waters now contained a quantity of minerals that would stain all the fixtures and tasted poorly so that a charcoal filter system is now employed.

A man named Struck ran the hardware store, in the town of Conover. It changed hands numerous times until the Jenssen's. Denton's was operating and included a live bait counter. In its back was the Albino Deer mount. The grocery store, that became a childcare center, was "Ray's" Red Owl. Ray was a butcher, and the back of the store was his meat counter with a sign overhead proclaiming **the meating place**. There it was the practice to order your steaks or chops cut to order. And Ray would pull out a halved or quartered carcass and with his knife as the indicator; ask how thick you wanted your cut. The floors were wood as were the shelves and besides groceries one could purchase magazines, clothes, ammunition and hunting/fishing licenses.

There was also Alexander's lumber store in town. He built the home at the NW corner of Hwy 45 and County K. He came from a North Chicago area suburb, where according to my parents he was a police chief. Also, according to my parents he moved to the area as he became disenchanted with Illinois. It had become much to "liberal" for his tastes. He later moved to Wyoming and passed away a number of years ago. The Vilas County News ran his Obit. Their daughter was the Vilas County Beauty Queen one year. Even later their children opened the pizza restaurant in Eagle River. My father patronized his lumber store for years as he and I were constantly renovating the cabin. First we put in the pink insulation and then later the tongue & groove knotty pine paneling. One job we couldn't do ourselves was hired out to a local carpenter named Bill Fredrickson. He replaced the old stump supports with cinder blocks leveling the cabin, replaced the windows in the old porch room and built a garage since replaced. In 1969 my parents hired Bill to put on an addition, which included electrical wiring and indoor plumbing. His wife hauled out of Stormy the rocks that became our fireplace and chimney, for about \$150. That fireplace is one of our great joys here at Stormy.

Our Neighbor Mr. Novotny

Mr. Novotny lived in the cabin to the immediate west. He was a nice man. He would come by occasionally and entertain my siblings and me. He had a trick whereby he would treat the chipmunks to peanuts and then amazingly get them to climb up his pants and into his pockets to get them. However, he fell into disfavor with my father who had decided to bring in a power or phone line. The utility company charged so much per foot for the connection and my father asked Mr. Novotny, who also was without service, if he would care to share in this expense. He declined but nevertheless shortly thereafter had his house connected to the service.

DeBruin's Resort

Prior to the Four Seasons it was DeBruin's. In those early years my parents had good friends, the Pepoons, who would come with us to Stormy with their children but our cabin didn't have anywhere near enough room so they stayed at DeBruin's. One summer Mrs. DeBruin came to our cabin and stated that she thought our friends were absconding with her forks and knives and so wanted to look thru our cutlery to check, which my parents allowed. She did check and convinced we were on the up and up apologized and departed. That was very odd. Today Harry Pepoon, Jr. and his family have a home on Stormy Lake East.

Odds and Ends

An update to our west side story would take place on the weekends at the west side dump on County K. There the adults with children in tow would visit the dump and park on the upper ridge above the hollow. Then at dusk the black bears would appear and forage thru the garbage. If we were lucky a bear or two would climb up a tree. The adults would be cocktailing while the kids were oblivious. Close by was the wildlife floorshow at the Burnt Bridge tavern. In 1964, a man named Christy operated it and then Ed Everett took over for many years. We would play the nickel game with the levers endlessly. My father won it once; I think Ed bought him a draft beer. There were many dollars tacked to the ceiling. Once when I was brave enough I asked how they got up there. The answer of course was to cost me a dollar. Once given Ed took a tack, pushed it thru the bill, backed it up with a silver dollar folded the bill around the coin and with it flat in the palm of his hand tossed it up to the ceiling. The weight of the coin drove the tack into the ceiling board, the bill unfolded and the silver dollar dropped back down to Ed. If only I'd become an engineer...or bar tender.

Coho Madness

One summer, when I was about 13, standing on our pier a passing "john" boat poled by with men in chest waders. Stopping they asked why there were no "pan" fish in the lake. With great confidence I told them they were in the wrong part of the lake and to go to the southeast bay. There, my father and I would always go to net our own minnows. That is the part of the lake with a wonderful sandy bottom and the "fall off" into much deeper waters. We would snorkel all around the area including the small adjacent "seepage" pond that was loaded with big turtles. Later that day, the man who owned the local Amoco station came by to take our boat to the launch, as my father who was back in Chicago working, had hired him to do so. I rode with him, the boat was put into the lake and I drove it back to the cabin. Upon returning with the trailer, he told me some men from the state DNR had pulled up to take out their boat and recounted that their job was to survey the lake for a possible stocking experiment and with a recommendation from a local boy had put out a "purse" net in the southeast bay and pulled in a stunning amount and array of fishes including all manner of pan fish, Splake, Northern and Bass. I felt very proud. Unfortunately, at least from my perspective, the Coho era began and in its havoc, the lake's

small fry were devoured and have never recovered, and we never got the intended sport fish. I remember schools of the Coho, all very small, swimming just under the surface eating the hatch of insects, but never seeing any of great size.

Stormy Lake Assoc. & Mrs. Novotney

One summer I was at the cabin with my father when a woman, whose identity unfortunately escapes me, drove in with a petition to start the SLA and she explained its purpose. The purpose was to protect the lakeshore owners by preventing the "Lake Genevaization" of Stormy, i.e., allowing back lot land owners access to the lake thru common piers, etc. My father signed up because he knew all about Lake Geneva, which is much closer to Chicago, and he wanted what Stormy offered and so accepted the long drive. I attended that first meeting with my father at the Conover Town Hall, where the association met for years. At the end of the meeting there was from the podium the typical request to the attendees for questions, comments, etc. There were many side conversations going on amongst small groups so at first the smallish, white haired elderly woman who stood was not noticed. Not until she identified herself as Mrs. Novotney. Then all conversations stopped with attentions riveted upon the person who all knew owned the almost 1500 feet of the south shore from Thunderhead west to our property. She explained that living in the Phoenix area she hadn't been to the Lake in some years but wanted to attend due to the organization. She acknowledged the organization's goal to protect the land values and stated it was her intention not to diminish those values and that further she had intimate knowledge of real estate as her maiden name was Quinlan. For anyone who is from Chicago and the Northshore communities, the prominent firm Quinlan and Tyson was a very recognized name. I was within earshot of her when after the meeting ended several men approached her to inquire, with qualifications, about her property. She did not pay them attention. My father went up to her, identified himself and our property, and stated quite matter of factly that he wanted to buy some of her adjacent lands, with no qualifications. Without missing a beat she acknowledge our property and stated she would stop by at 10AM the next morning. There on our deck she told us it was her father that originally bought the lands, perhaps prior to the War, I don't remember. She remembered selling the property to Mr. Novotny, our neighbor to the west, whom she said was of no relation "...as Novotny is to Germans like Smith to the English", and our lands to Greenwald. She even remembered the price per foot at which they were sold. She was pretty remarkable. Anyway my father made a deal with her for a couple hundred of feet to the east. Later that day we received a phone call from Hunter Realty out of Minocqua who confirmed they had just bought all her lands on Stormy so our deal was null, that their intention was to survey these lands and break it up into lots to be sold. My father was not happy. Later that summer, after the lands were surveyed and the thirteen 100' lots were marked, my father and I met with Hunter. They came to our place with a plot map of the Novotny property and its lots. The lot lines were on an angle and it was explained, and the map showed, that the western lot line of number 13 ran thru the northeast corner of our home and thru our patio/deck. This portion of our house was an addition put up in 1969; remember Mr. Fredrickson and his wife's work on our chimney. At that time nobody thought or required we survey the area. We had always been under an impression, from our realtor Mr. Oshman, that our eastern lot line "...was that stump way down the path along the lake shore." Oops! It was a different time back then! They told us as squatters we couldn't be moved, but if the house burned down it couldn't be rebuilt in the same location. Given lot 13's diminished market value my father bought it and lot 12 as well. I remember my father making an offer and the agent going to his car, where he made a radio phone call to his office. I'd never seen that before. They accepted the offer.

A 2nd Addition and Update

In 1987 my Brother in Law, and sister Suzanne, brought to me the idea of converting our summer home into a four seasons home, with a bedroom for each sibling and two full baths. This entailed the demo of the original structure, that which had been up on stumps, and in its place a two story structure with the new bed and bath rooms. The first addition of 1969 with the great stone work fireplace remains mostly unchanged. Still later in 2005 we reconfigured the kitchen, added two more rooms, resided the house, and replaced the old garage with a larger model.

We've been very fortunate to have our place on Stormy. We hope to enjoy it for many more years to come.

The Zeddies & Nyren's.
Summer 2011

**AHMET O. AND JOAN N. GURSOY
4120 WEST STORMY LAKE ROAD
CONOVER, WISCONSIN**

March 1973 – During an office visit, Larry Zent, who was a patient of Ahmet GURSOY's, in Deerfield, Illinois, mentioned he was going to his home in Northern Wisconsin, for the weekend to snowmobile. Larry spoke highly of the area and of all the fun his family had in Wisconsin throughout the year enjoying many different sports. Ahmet said we had never snowmobiled. As the conversation progressed, Larry told Ahmet that our family was welcome to spend a weekend in their home on West Stormy Lake Road, in Conover, Wisconsin.

We did spend a weekend in the Zent's beautiful home and fell in love with the area. We decided to buy property. Larry gave us the name of Bill Frederick who managed the Four Season Resort that Zents owned on West Stormy Lake Road. Larry said Bill would look for something for us as there was not anything available at that time.

April 1973 – Bill Frederick called and said there was a lot for sale on West Stormy Lake Road. He described the property and said it was owned by a member of the Hishmeh family in Milwaukee. We called Mr. Hishmeh and agreed on a price. We met him at Howard Johnson's in Kenosha and finalized the sale on the property we had not seen.

Bill Frederick was a builder besides managing the Four Season Resort. He had built the Zent's magnificent home and we asked him to build our home.

August 1973 – Bill Frederick and his son Billy started to build our home and finished it in April 1974 - The lot being only 100 feet wide with some valleys, Bill told us what size home would fit because of the valleys.....28 feet by 48 feet.

1999 – We purchased additional footage from Darlene and Don Wenholtz so we could add an addition.

**Our son Dave purchased a home on West Stormy Lake Road in 1989.
Our other sons, who have continued to appreciate their many years on West Stormy Lake Road, are John and his family, and our son Kem.**

John and Kem enjoyed many years with the Chain Skimmers Water Ski Show

1977 – John and Kem became members of the Chain Skimmers Water Ski Show when the shows were held at the T-Docks in Eagle River.

1981 – The Chain Skimmers purchased Lake Pleasant in Conover.

1983, 1984, 1985 – John was elected President.

1983 – ½ of 1986 – Kem announced the shows.

1986 – Kem was elected Vice President

We will always be grateful to the Zents.

8-1-09

BOB AND BARBARA NOLAN
4200 W. STORMY LK. RD.

IN JULY 1978 WE CAME TO
THE WORTWOODS ON A FAMILY
VACATION FROM OUR HOME
IN SCHAUMBURG IL.

ON THE ADVICE OF A FRIEND,
WHO HAD PROPERTY ON SOUTH
TWIN, WE STAYED AT
FOUR SEASONS RESORT, ON
STORMY LAKE. ZENT, THE
RESORT OWNER, WAS SELLING
THE RESORT PROPERTY ONE
LOT PER YEAR.

WE BOUGHT ONE OF THE
MIDDLE LOTS IN JANUARY 1980.
OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE
MADE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE
PROPERTY.

WE LOVE OUR PROPERTY AND
STORMY AND HAVE ENJOYED
MANY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL
MOMENTS WITH FAMILY AND
FRIEND ON THIS BEAUTIFUL
LAKE.

BOB NOLAN

John + Shirley Priefer
4204 St. Stormy Lake Rd

John and I began vacationing with our children at Stormy Lake in 1974. We stayed at the Four Seasons Resort. We loved it dearly, the cottages were modern, the beach was great, fishing was good and we met lots of nice people. Soon after we began coming, Larry Zandt started to sell the cottages, the resort became smaller but we were still able to rent a place every year. Eventually they were all sold and we began to rent from Gordy Oberg so that we could keep coming back to Stormy Lake.

In 1994 we heard that Joe Bauer was going to sell the cottage he had bought from the original resort. We came up at Thanksgiving to meet with him. It was the first time we had seen Stormy Lake in winter and we thought it was beautiful. Terms were worked out and we bought the cottage.

In 2002 John and I retired and decided we would like to live here year round. We spend the summer of '02 planning our new house. Shortly

after Labor Day the cottage was demolished and construction began on our permanent home. We moved in the first weekend of May 2003.

We have many wonderful memories of the cottage and the resort and one very physical presence - the cement shuffleboard court. It retains a prominent place in our yard and still gets lots of use.

"Six Birches"

A beautiful, forested piece of land at 4234 West Stormy Lake Road was named "Six Birches" by Bob Nebel who was very impressed with a cluster of Birches just off a natural pathway from the cottage to the lake. Since that time many, many Birch trees were lost by a plant disease which killed many such trees in the area.

On December 12, 1944, William H. and Gertrude M. Ruth, my Aunt and Uncle, bought approximately 1150 feet of lake frontage on the West shore, from Vilas County. They sold, at various times, all of this land except 350 feet which they kept for themselves. On this they built a two bedroom house with a gas furnace and modern bathroom and kitchen fixtures and appliances. Then, on July 19, 1976, Gertrude Ruth's niece, Irma M. Nebel and husband J. Robert Nebel purchased the property from her. Almost ten years later, ^{they} sold the property to their daughter and her husband, Valerie and Dennis Laabs.

After Aunt Gertrude and Uncle Bill bought the property, they invited Irma, Bob, and Valerie to spend their summer vacations at the lake. While Uncle Bill and Bob fished Stormy Lake and other area lakes, Aunt Gertrude, ^{Val and Irma} took many drives on beautiful scenic roads in the county. We had picnic suppers nearly every evening at the lake.

My vacations in the Northwoods began in 1927, staying first at Warner's Resort, then later, Hanson's Cottages--both on Plum Lake, with my Dad and Mother, Dr. Charles and Irma Mitton. The cottages at Hansons were cozy, with a stove and/or a fireplace for heat and a kerosene cook stove in the kitchen area. We had a wonderful view of Plum Lake, good swimming beach, and excellent fishing. My Dad loved the north woods and found it a great place to relax and fish for Walleyes, Muskies, and pan fish.

When Bob and I retired from our school jobs in 1976 and '77, we spent more time at the lake; now I come up as often as I can. Val, her husband, Denny and their ^{GRETCHEN} Gretchen and Chris (now both young adults), all love "Six Birches" so much that they bought the place in 1986. ^{VAL AND DENNY,}

We all know the lure of Stormy Lake and the Northwoods, and consider our friendships there a most important part of our life.

Irma Nebel

January 6, 2000

* RESIDENTS OF EAGLE RIVER AND GREAT OUTDOOR
PEOPLE,

4234 West Stormy Lake Road, Valerie and Dennis Laabs

The History of SIX BIRCHES—three generations and going strong!

Soon after the Armistice of 1918, former soldier William Ruth, leaving the family farm near Freeport Illinois, and his wife Gertrude Martin Ruth of Chicago, started spending their summers in Vilas County. Initially they lived in a tent next to the Wisconsin River. Both Bill and Gertrude loved the Northwoods and put up with considerable hardships to live where they could fish and hunt and live close to nature. Bill got a job as a mechanic for Vilas County and they soon moved to an apartment above a store in Eagle River.

In 1932 the Ruths began to purchase various portions of depleted timberland at tax sales. They bought Lot 1, Section 2, Township 41 North and subdivided it to provide a shorefront lot for their home. Land preparation and construction of the house began in 1955 with the bulldozing by Chick Federer. Eddie Hendrickson laid the foundation and added concrete blocks. Timber cut from other property the Ruths owned was sawn, planed, and delivered to the property. Willard Johnson and Ragnar Anderson worked with Bill on building the house.

In the winter of 1956 the crew starting framing and electric power was brought in. A well was dug and a Montgomery Ward water system was purchased and installed in the basement. A chimney was raised and a fireplace unit was purchased for \$61.55 and installed. The facing and hearth were built on site with stones from the lakefront. Bill worked on the house as his time and finances permitted. Continuing through 1957 and into 1958 the interior walls were finished with beautiful tongue and groove cedar boards. The furnace was installed in 1961 and the house was finally completed in 1964. The total cost of the completed 24' X 43' hip roof single story house was \$8,127.37. Bill recorded every penny spent in his notebook.

Bill also started recording the real estate taxes in 1941 when he paid \$39.91. By 1964 the taxes had escalated to \$198.37 for the land and finished house. Taxes have since risen.

Bill and Gertrude continued to live in Eagle River, never actually living in the cottage on Stormy but frequently picnicking and entertaining there. In 1935 Gertrude's niece, Irma Mitton Nebel and her husband Bob honeymooned in the Northwoods. They continued to vacation yearly up north, first staying with the Ruth's in Eagle River, then at DeBruyne's Resort (now Four Seasons). In 1956 their family began to stay at the not-yet completed cottage on Stormy and continued through their retirement years. After Bill died Gertrude sold the house to Irma and Bob in 1979. They named it "Six Birches" after the clump of mature trees beside the house. Bob and Irma thoroughly enjoyed the five months spent at the lake each summer before returning to LaCrosse Wisconsin, and did so until their deaths.

Valerie Nebel Laabs, Irma and Bob's daughter, first came to Stormy as an infant and vacationed here with her parents every summer. After college and marriage, she moved to Boston Massachusetts but returned to the lake every summer with her family. Valerie and husband Dennis Laabs bought the house in 1986. In 2003 they remodeled and expanded the original cottage to create a comfortable lake home well suited to host their children and grandchildren. They retired to Stormy Lake in 2009 and winter in Fort Collins, Colorado.

September 2012

Warren E. Anderson
1240 Grove Ct.
Lake Forest, IL 60045-3638
(847) 295-2149

Ms. Nancy Wurmle
2171 Pine Ridge
Clearwater, FL 33763

Nov. 29, 1999

Dear Nancy,

Here is the small bit of information about our Stormy Lake property that seems significant historically.

The house at 4248 West Stormy Lake Road was built in 1968. Carlo and Mary Alonzi (two of the original owners) sold it to Warren and Greta Anderson in 1981. There have essentially been no modifications to the property except for rock work on the shoreline in the late 1980's. We presently live north of Chicago and visit our Stormy Lake home monthly. We especially enjoy the winters when the snowmobile conditions are good.


Warren E. Anderson

STORMY LAKE HISTORY

**Halloin ... 4310 W. Stormy Lake Road
Conover, WI 54519**

Dr. Joseph Emil Halloin, M.D. & Dorothy McDonell Halloin, M.D. 1964-1969

Dr. John (Ph.D.) & Jeanne Halloin 1969-

David Halloin & Joseph Halloin

Dr. Joseph E. Halloin and his wife, Dorothy, of Green Bay, Wisconsin came to Stormy Lake in the Spring of 1964 to attend to their sister-in-law, Florence McDonell, whose leg had been amputated the previous week in Green Bay. Florence and George (Mick) McDonell lived at 5720 Stormy Point Road, having built their house for their retirement years. While staying with them, Joe & Dorothy Halloin were taken with the beauty of the area and met with Heb Oshman to inquire about purchasing a lot on Stormy Lake.

Soon thereafter, they purchased the lot at 4310 W. Stormy Lake Road and began planning the house they would build. Having worked as a draftsman and mechanical engineer before putting himself through medical school, Dr. Joe (as he was known) drafted plans while Dorothy came up with design ideas and made changes to the developing plan that would become their home.

Bill Fredricks, a Conover resident, was hired in the summer of 1964 to begin construction of the house, which was completed in the spring of 1965. The Halloins sold their home in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and their cottage on the bay and moved to Stormy Lake. The following year they purchased a condominium in Plantation, Florida where they spent successive winter months.

Dr. Halloin died in March of 1969 and the house became the property of his son, John McDonell Halloin. John and his wife, Jeanne, loved Stormy Lake and the surrounding woods, and the same year purchased the adjacent lot to the west of 4310. In 1995 they also purchased a 16+ acre section of woods across the road (north) from their property that reaches to near the radar tower and the old Tower Road. This property and the adjacent lot now belong to their sons, David and Joseph Halloin.

I have been coming to this area for many years and have always enjoyed the "North Woods"

In prior years we stayed in facilities owned by Herb Oschmann who settled on the lake in 1947. He formed his own Realty Company- Pineland Realty and was fortunate in 1960 to represent several lots located on West Stormy Lake Road.

At that time I purchased the lot of my choice in 1960 but due to other commitments, did not build a home until 1984.

Previous to this, both my sons Clark and Gregg were delighted to spend many happy days on Stormy Lake as well as they do now.

I have in my possession an abstract dating back to the early 1800's that chronicle all the owners of this particular parcel until I acquired it. Unfortunately the abstract is back in Illinois as I write this history, so I am unable to refer to it.

In 1998 I added an addition due to the fact my grandchildren Colin and Garrett had outgrown staying in the same room as their parents Clark and Holly.

As I look back through the years there have been numerous changes. Many more houses have been built on the lake but the most significant change is the conversion of the Stormy Lake and De Brunes two resorts, which have eventually been divided up into private residences. Also many homes have been dramatically altered, enlarged and of course changed hands.

Conover too, has undergone its modifications. The loss of the railroad that came to town was one of the biggest. Aman's which now houses the "Fox Den" was always a fun place to go to see Fred's beautiful bronzes. And our only grocery store "Rays Red Owl" was a great place for good meat or picking up something at the last minute. This has now become the Child Care facility.

The lake itself, however, still retains its placid beauty which makes me feel very privileged that I can share in this beauty and I and my family can be a part of what we all call "Gods Country."

Joanne Cook

Stormy Lake History
Schaus Aicher
4320 West Stormy Lake Road

The property was purchased in the fall of 1960 from Herb Oschmann, a lake resident and local Realtor. I recall hearing from abstract information that at one time in the distant past the property had changed hands for one dollar an acre.

I remember the first time I saw the land. It was deer hunting season. It had snowed, and we walked from the Oschmann property, located on the northern shore, along the lake shore until we reached our new property.

During the summer of 1961, we stayed at what was then Debrune's Resort on the west side of the lake. My dad would drive over to the property early each morning and clear the land. West Stormy Lake Road didn't connect with Highway K at that time. It ended just west of our driveway. I would row over mid morning to check on progress and lend a hand.

Finally in October of 1961, my parents Ray and Myrtle Schaus built a shell. My dad and I would drive up for a day to check on progress and then return to Milwaukee. Year round residents monitored progress. Our relatives were happy for us. They shared the joy by coming to visit. In 1969 the size of the house was doubled and a garage was built. Essentially the property has remained unchanged since then.

My father organized neighbors, and together they started the Stormy Lake Home Owners Association. He was the first president and Bernice was the secretary. People organized to provide protection from further development which would result in having to recognize lake rights.

In 1977 ownership changed from my father to my family. My dad and Bernice currently live just north of Eagle River on Deerskin Road.

My youngest children are now older than I was when my dad excitedly walked my mom and I through the woods one fall day to our new Northern Wisconsin property. The property is still as cherished as it was then. Cherished by Tom and Kerry Nackers and Erin and Tracy Aicher.

Submitted by
Karen Aicher
11/25/99

4346 West Stormy Lake Rd.

This property was purchased by Jim and Elsie Weeks, Bloomington, Ill. in October, 1991. We are not sure when it was built, but it appears to be about the same time as the house at 4360, give or take a few years. We purchased it from John Landsell, who was the second owner. We do not know who the first owner was, nor how long the Landsell's owned it.

There is evidence that a structure 20 feet by 25 feet was built to be lived in prior to the building of the main house. There is still an outhouse near by. There was evidence of a hand pump in the yard. In one corner of the building, there is still a tiny kitchen sink. There is a large "picture window" facing the lake, and a garage door on the driveway side, which appears to have been placed there at the time it was built. That structure is now used as a wood shop.

The home was well built, tight and snug and built for year round use. It has 2 bedrooms, a bath and a half, and an entry/laundry room. The living/dining room runs across the front of the house, the kitchen has a sit down counter with space for two people to eat.

There is a full basement, with walk out on the lake side. Just a few years before we bought it, a large closed in year around porch with a deck going all around the porch and in front of the house. (Handy for washing the windows, which rarely gets done).

We have made a foot path between the 2 houses (4346 and 4360). When the children and grand-children (and now great-grand-children) come, they stay in the "big brown house". Grandma and Grandpa live in the "small gray house". It is a wonderful arrangement.

This property has also been put in the family trust and will be passed on to the next generation.

Purchasing these two places is the best thing we have ever done for our family. For many years they have coordinated vacations and brought their families. The cousins all know each other. Even the great-grand-children come from Oregon, (but not every year) and enjoy the place tremendously. Sept 2009

4360 West Stormy Lake RD.

This property was purchased in April, 1987 by Jim and Elsie Weeks, Bloomington, IL. We purchased it from the Gottsacker family, who were the original owners. The plans we found in the basement were from April 14, 1962. The house was probably built that same year.

We have a large family: six married children. In the fall of 1986, we learned that two of our children would be moving away, one to the East Coast (N.Va. or Wash. D.C.), and one to the West Coast (Medford, Or.) We quickly decided that we needed a centrally located place where we could all be together. A lake house in Wisconsin seemed a logical choice, and as we had friends who owned a place on Stormy Lake, we came up to visit them and look around. The property at 4360 was for sale. We knew it was the perfect place for our family.

The Gottsacker family was also large. We have heard, but we can't verify, that they had eleven children. That family was from Sheboygan, Wis. When we saw the place, it is our understanding that the parents had died, and the children could no longer maintain it. That would be about 25 years after it was built.

The house has 5 bedrooms that accommodate sleeping for 18 people, (in addition to a baby bed that was there.) There is seating in the dining room for 20 people, and additional eating space on a lower level. There is a huge stone fireplace which separates the living room from the dining room. The house has 4 levels. Up from the living/dining kitchen level are 4 bedrooms, and 2 baths. Down from the kitchen, (the entry level) is a huge family room, 1 bedroom, and small bathroom. There is also a one car garage attached at that level. Down from there is the basement. The basement has ping-pong table and a bumper pool table. The house accommodates all kinds of activities.

We knew it was right for our family.

On the Labor Day weekend of 2009, a woman came to call, identifying herself as Lorraine Gottsacker. She was delighted to hear that the same family who bought the place from her family still owned it. We purchased it fully furnished and that furniture is still there. She was delighted. She told us that all the stones in that huge fireplace had been gathered right there on the property. The stones have been split, and many are matched in the construction of the fireplace. It is truly a work of art.

We have now owned 4360 for 22 years. We have made provisions for the property to be passed down to the next generation of the Weeks family. Sept, 2009

The Denis Family at Stormy Lake

Richard J. Denis and Jeanne H. Denis bought their lakefront property on Stormy Lake in August, 1966. Located on the north shore of the lake, this parcel was purchased from Kemp D. Meyer and Alfreda Meyer. Two years later in July, 1968, Dick and Jeanne Denis acquired another ten acres situated north of Stormy Lake Road.

During the winter of 1968-1969 Dick and Jeanne built an “up-north, get-away” cottage for their family of ten children. Over the years this lovely house has been a place for family gatherings and returning to roots. Three generations of family members enjoy all that this treasured location offers including fishing, boating, water-skiing, jet-skiing, snow-mobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking, July 4th celebrations, and family reunions. While families are gathered together, the house abounds with much creative energy. Moms are relaxing with stitchery projects, knitting and crocheting; children are engaged in arts and crafts, games, and building forts; dads are chopping and splitting wood, and making repairs; and those who love to cook are preparing delicious, memorable meals for everyone! Good books are read and passed around. For the Denis family members, Stormy Lake House is a place for all seasons.

As busy as Dick and Jeanne were with their growing family, they always found time to be involved with their community. The Stormy Lake community was no exception. Dick Denis, Ray Schaus, Margret Habener, Ed Hamming, and Dorothy Karstadt rallied Stormy Lake property owners to attend a Conover Town Hall zoning meeting on July 1, 1976 to object to a rezoning petition establishing a trailer park and campground. Property owners were concerned that rezoning would impact lake access. The petition was denied. After this successful meeting, the lake residents discussed forming a property owners association, and on May 29, 1977 forty Stormy Lake property owners agreed to form an association and adopted a constitution and by-laws. Dick and Jeanne became Charter Members of the Association in 1977, and Dick Denis served as the Stormy Lake Association’s second president from 1978-1979. Dick died in 1985, but his spirit is very much alive in the hearts of his wife Jeanne, his 10 children and their spouses, his 29 grandchildren, and in the beauty of the family’s Stormy Lake surroundings.

Sometime during the mid-70’s, Dick had an unusual encounter with a fish not usually seen in Stormy Lake. Dick saw a muskie near the end of his dock, and he excitedly told his family and friends what he saw. Many dismissed it as unbelievable because Stormy Lake wasn’t supposed to have muskies in it. His teen-age son Steve, however, didn’t forget about that muskie his dad saw. Twenty years later, Steve Denis made Stormy Lake history as well as the Hayward Hall of Fame history. While fishing on Stormy Lake, Steve caught the largest tiger muskie ever on record using a 10 pound line. What a proud moment! Heaven (and Dad) are a little closer in a house beside the water!

**Written by Patty Denis Fore
October 22, 2001**

See other side →

Trout trip produces big tiger

De Pere angler's Stormy Lake surprise could be a record

By Dave Otto

Press-Gazette

Steve Denis had no business catching the big muskie.

After all, he was fishing for trout.

In a lake that didn't have muskies.

With all the wrong equipment.

But the De Pere resident not only landed a 47-inch, 32-pound, 4-ounce tiger muskie last weekend from Stormy Lake in Vilas County, he may even end up with a world line class record.

Denis and his wife, Kathy, were fishing about 10 p.m. on Stormy Lake where the family owns a cottage. The lake is stocked with trout, and Denis had caught a 7-pound brown a month before.

"My wife's slip bobber went down, but the fish dropped the minnow," he recalled. "I threw out my bobber and minnow and, when I looked again, it was gone."

With line peeling rapidly from the spinning reel, Denis set the hook. He gained some line, but the fish went under the boat and it was a standoff.

"I thought I was snagged in the anchor, but then I saw this huge back appear on the surface. The water just exploded," Denis said.

When Kathy tried to net the fish, it broke the net off at the handle.

He worked it back once more and saw the basket of the net was tangled on the fish's head. That's when he saw he had a big tiger muskie on his hands.

"And Stormy Lake doesn't have muskies in it," he emphasized.

The second time he got the fish to the boat, Denis tried grabbing it by the gill covers.

"All I got was three fingers sliced up," he said.

Back came the fish a third time. The line got wrapped in the floating minnow bucket. Denis grabbed

the rim of the broken net and pulled the muskie into the boat.

The No. 6 hook was stuck in the corner of the fish's mouth.

"That's the only reason we landed it," Denis said. "If it would have been hooked deeper in the mouth, it would have cut the line."

"My wife and I were screaming at each other to keep it from flopping out," Denis said. Finally, Kathy held the fish with her feet and they motored to the cottage.

Denis tried calling a taxidermist, but got no answer at that time of night. They put the fish in the bath tub and covered it with ice.

It wasn't until almost noon the next day, Sunday, that he brought the fish to Eagle River taxidermist Mark Cislo.

"I didn't know a tiger muskie was as special as it is," Denis said. "But when Cislo saw the fish, he said we had to get it weighed right

away."

The certified scale at Eagle Sport Center showed the 47-inch tiger weighed 32 pounds, 4 ounces.

But the fish almost certainly lost several pounds in the hours after the catch.

It was then that Denis learned he might have a record fish.

He is in the process of gathering statements from witnesses to the weighing. Those, along with the hook and a piece of line, will be submitted to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward.

The hall will test the breaking point of the line, and Denis' record hopes hang on the results.

"It was older line — I think 10 pound — but the label on the spool in my tackle box had come off," he said.

The 12-pound line record is held by a 35½-pound tiger muskie. If Denis' line tests anything less than that, he's in the record book.



Special to the Press-Gazette

Surprise tiger: This 47-inch tiger muskie, caught by Steve Denis while trout fishing, could be a world line class record.

The 10-pound line record is held by a 25 pound, 6 ounce fish and the 8-pound line record is 30 pounds, 8 ounces.

In fact, only six tiger muskies of any line class record were bigger than Denis' prize. A 51 pound, 3 ounce monster caught in Lac

Vieux Desert way back in 1919 is the overall record.

Steve's father, the late Dick Denis, was an avid muskie fisherman. But this was the first muskie Steve had ever caught.

It was all a matter of being in the wrong place at the right time.

Lot 12 - 1

To Nancy Wurmle <nkwurm@comcast.net> • Sharon Douthit <brchfld@comcast.net>

LOT 12 - 1 Wally Adams Stormy Lake Subdivision
Now known as 4418 West Stormy Lake Road
Sixth residence west of public boat landing

We visited Stormy Lake several summers in the early 80's spending time with our Wurmle friends.

In August of 1987 we contacted Stormy Lake resident and realtor Ms Edwards
We looked at 3 cabins and 2 homes on the lake, none of which seemed to fit our needs. There were no lots available at that time!

Ms Edwards called later that month about a lot that had just recently been placed on the market. We drove back up and purchased the lot that day.

It is a lake level cul da sac shaped lot on a small bay with 125 foot lake frontage.
Earlier we think it was used for lake access by various owners of lot 11 since both lot 11 and 12-2 are at a higher elevation and many steps above lake level. The access road for lot 12-1 was originally off of the driveway for lot 11.

We spent two years designing our new lake home. Viking Builders started construction in the fall of 1989. We moved in on Memorial Day weekend in the spring of 1990.
We later added a "Off Water" boat house garage.
We have spent every summer on Stormy since then!

Susan Strong
Sharon Douthit
December 3, 2017

Sent from Xfinity Connect Mobile App

