



City of East Gull Lake  
 10790 Squaw Point Rd  
 East Gull Lake MN 56401

MAYOR  
 Dave Kavanaugh

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
 Carol Demgen  
 Dennis Lang  
 Rob Mason  
 James Ruttger

**Fall 2013**

**Beware of Northerly Migrating Species** *By Linda Engel, EGL Resident & History Editor*

People and birds may not be the only ones migrating north to the lakes area anymore. Whether hitchhiking on produce, in suitcases/golf bags or lumber, reports of **brown recluse spider** sightings and bites are surfacing throughout the state.

A mid-June Facebook post by a male victim reported severe complications following inaccurate treatment from what he believed was a brown recluse encounter. At a metropolitan clinic he was told these spiders aren't located this far north. Historically, that has been true but some reports now indicate their habitat is expanding.



Late on the evening of June 30<sup>th</sup> I noticed a bite above my left ear. There was no pain, just significant swelling. Within 36 hours of discovery, the wound began to “weep” with a sticky, milky looking substance. Never having experienced a symptom like that before, I promptly sought urgent care at Baxter Essentia Clinic where an injection of antibiotics was administered along with orders to return for a follow up in the morning.

Upon waking the next day, I couldn't hear out of my left ear and noticed the swelling had approached my eye. En route to the clinic, I recalled the recent Facebook testimonial and intended to mention details to the doctor. That wasn't necessary.

Within minutes of entering the office, two physicians concurred that the bite “looked like ... a brown recluse” and sent me to St. Joseph's Hospital where immediate intravenous antibiotic administration began for 48 hours ... right over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

While hooked up to the I V drip, I began Google searches on my iPad and learned “loxosceles reclusa” venom is second in severity only to that of the black widow. Information varies from stating most people have little or no serious side effects, to reporting occasional deaths. A 63 year old woman in St. Louis and rock star Jeff Hanneman, age 49, were two victims suffering internal organ shut down following reported bites.

The venom contains a toxin that can cause skin to die. In my case, small blackened flecks began to shed, indicating possible necrosis (premature death of cells) further complicated by diagnosed cellulitis, (spreading bacterial skin infection). My bite, like others reported, was painless so exact time and location of confrontation remains unknown. Bites often occur on legs, arms and backs. For those not seeking prompt medical attention, lesions can occur which require skin grafts. Amputations are rare, extreme measures.

Brown recluse spiders range in size from a quarter inch to an inch or slightly larger and can appear creme color, various shades of brown or even black to gray. They have 6 eyes, as compared to most spiders which have eight. They are nicknamed “fiddle backs” due to a violin pattern on one part of their body. Their webs are not as artistic as those of most spiders, but appear more disorderly created.

Two websites to explore for pictures and more details are:

[http://www.medicinenet.com/black\\_widow\\_brown\\_recluse\\_pictures\\_slideshow/article.htm](http://www.medicinenet.com/black_widow_brown_recluse_pictures_slideshow/article.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown\\_recluse\\_spider](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_recluse_spider)

**Because people react so variably to such traumas, additional links providing more information about brown recluse spiders can be found on our website, [www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com](http://www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com).** In my case, powerful oral antibiotics were prescribed following hospitalization. The effects of that treatment course caused essential loss of an entire summer. Not to complain, considering other alternatives, I feel very fortunate that professional treatment provided here was so prompt and accurate. Learning that recluses thrive in warm, moist conditions, I am ready for cooler, drier seasons ahead.

IN THIS ISSUE	
Brown Recluse Spider	1
History Article	2
Cass County Update	3
Staff Corner	2-3
Mayor's Article	4
Gull River Bridge Photo	4

## The Lindner's Settle in East Gull Lake (History article)

It's the mid 1960's . . . My brother Al Lindner had just returned from Vietnam and I, Ron Lindner with my family of six kids along with Al were living in Mahtomedi, MN (near White Bear Lake). We just got hit with the disappointment of our lives, having made a bid on a resort-type property in Northern Wisconsin (the Hayward region) where we were going to start a guide business along with a tackle company with the resort as a base of operations; but we were outbid. In a panic mode we struck out for Minnesota, thinking we might find our DREAM locale there.

From our base in Mahtomedi we scoured Northern Minnesota but could not find exactly what we were looking for (at the price we could afford). We spent the entire winter driving to and looking at just about every resort area in the state. We found a tempting one in the Alexandria area and another near Grand Rapids. Yet nothing looked right.

In April we were looking again in the Brainerd area, which we liked because of its proximity to the Twin Cities, located in the center of the State and, of course, it's fishing waters suited us to a tee. Research showed us that in a 60-mile radius there were some 400 lakes, two major rivers and just about every kind of freshwater fish species one could wish for.



*Ron & Al in these early lure-making days.*

By this time we were fast running out of cash and we were digging into the money we had as a down payment for our dream. It was then (almost serendipity) that the realtor told us of a home that had just been listed on Gull Lake. It was big, with multi bedrooms and baths, and could house our whole clan; Al, me, wife Dolores and our six kids with one on the way.

It seemed that the Freemans, who were schoolteachers, had just retired and wanted to move south and move quickly. The house with six bedrooms and 3 baths, needed a lot of work, but it had 165' of lake frontage and was selling for \$19,500 (a bargain we were told). Our family had been on the move seemingly constantly for the past two years so we decided to put down stakes, stay for a year or so, get jobs and then restart our search. By this time we had already invented the Lindy Rig, it just wasn't called this yet, and were making and selling a few of them (as

well as some other lures). So we bought the house and moved in.

Dutch Cragun remembers the first time he met the Lindner brothers. *"I was working around my resort and I happened to look over at the house that was owned by the Freemans (so I still thought) and saw these two shadowy forms through the window. So I went over there with a gun thinking they had intruders. Here were these two guys bent over a gas stove, melting lead and pouring it into molds to make sinkers. They invited me in, introduced themselves and when they heard who I was offered to be guides for the resort. They explained they were in the process of making and selling lures. I told them, 'This will never work; you guys are wasting a lot of time and money.' And Ron keeps reminding me of that, Al too. Anyway, we go back a long ways."*

We would print a bunch of posters and hang them up all over for our guide service and continue to make lures in the basement for the next year or so. The lure would become the Lindy Rig and sell in the multi-millions.

*Ron Lindner, East Gull Lake resident*

*Ron and Dolores Lindner still live in this same house on Gull Lake almost 50 years later – and Dutch and Irma Cragun still own and operate Craguns Resort a few doors down.*

### Staff Corner

**Direct debit is available to pay your East Gull Lake Utility bill.** Direct debit allows you the convenience of paying your bill electronically through the Automated Clearing House (ACH). If you are interested in this option please call City Hall.

**Please don't dump your leaves or lawn debris on your neighbors or City property.** The City of East Gull Lake invites city residents to use the leaf drop off site for fall clean-up of seasonal debris. The site is located at the Pine Beach Peninsula Wastewater Plant. Follow south on Cass County Road 18, look for the sign on the left and follow the arrows to the drop site.

## Commissioner's Corner



Last weekend (September 6-9) five of my six grandsons were at Kathy's and my house. Only one of the Moms came along, so we had quite the busy and fun time. Between rain showers, we spent some time in the lake, some time on the trails, and some time listening to the sounds of fall in the woods. I was reminded of how blessed we are to live in this part of the state.

A little known fact about Cass County is that over 50% of the land area of the county is publicly owned. An additional fact I was surprised to learn is that the State of Minnesota is the third largest landowner in the United States, behind only the Federal government and the State of Alaska. Much of that State owned land is right here in our county. Many of us take free and unfettered access to public land as a birthright. Others question if any land should be publicly owned.

Cass County has a "no net gain, no net loss" policy regarding county owned or managed land. We believe county owned land should pay its own way and return value to the taxpayer on par with what the land would provide if held privately. In pursuit of these goals, the county, in partnership with conservation organizations, strategically acquires land from willing sellers that enhances our management plan, improves access to existing public land and consolidates our land holdings for more efficient and effective forest and timber management. At the same time, we actively divest ourselves of land that is better suited to private ownership.

Much of the public land in Cass County came into public ownership through tax forfeiture or homestead failures. Other large tracts of land have been gifted to the county or state, and other parcels are under Federal ownership. Examples of gifted public land in our area are the Pillsbury State Forest and the 200 acre parcel just south of Ski Gull donated by the Cote family in 1983.

Cass County's public land is managed for timber, wildlife, recreation and hunting. Management of the land is the responsibility of our land commissioner who works under the direction of the County Board of Commissioners. The land department is completely self-supporting through timber sales, easement fees, state payments in lieu of taxes, and the strategic sale of un-needed or unwanted property. No county levy dollars are used to fund operations of the department or to underwrite the cost of our public land holdings. In 2011, the land department distributed \$1,201,930 to local governments through the tax forfeiture fund using money earned on our public land. In 2012, the figure was \$1,021,682.

Another item of local interest is the proposed reconstruction of County State Aid Highway 77 as it passes through the City of Lakeshore. The county has recently engaged an engineering firm to begin the design work on this locally famous section of highway. Working with the City of Lakeshore, our goal will be to retain as much of the unique character of the road as possible while at the same time improving numerous design flaws and improving safety for drivers and pedestrians alike. Construction is scheduled for 2017. The interim will be used to gather public input, propose and revise design plans and secure funding.

Thank you so much for the faith and confidence you have placed in me. Serving in this capacity for the past three years has truly been an edifying, humbling and pleasant experience. In a little over a year, I will be asking you for your support once again. In the meantime, if there is anything I can do for you, or if you have a concern you believe I should be aware of, please contact me at 218-829-7208; 218-839-1841, or by email at [neal.gaalswyk@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:neal.gaalswyk@co.cass.mn.us).

*Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County Commissioner, District One*

### Staff Corner

#### **It is that time of year to protect your grinder station.**

Please try and put leaves or grass over your system to help protect it in case we don't get much snow this winter. Also make sure you keep the power on at your lift station, even if you leave for the winter.

To contact a Wastewater staff person during regular business hours call City Hall at 218-828-9279. The on-call phone number is 218 330-7519. You can call this number 24/7 and a staff person will typically be at your home within the hour.

*Brenda Thomes, City Administrator*



City of East Gull Lake  
10790 Squaw Point Rd  
East Gull Lake MN 56401

---

Phone: (218) 828-9279  
Fax: 218-825-8422  
Email: [ctyegull@scicable.com](mailto:ctyegull@scicable.com)

---

We're on the Web!  
[www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com](http://www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com)

---

## Greetings from Mayor Kavanaugh



Welcome to Fall! With winter hanging on through most of April we ended up with a short but beautiful spring and summer. Hope you were able to get out and enjoy all the area has to offer.

As always we have road work to plan and complete in the city. This summer the major work was actually bridge reconstruction on Gull River Road. After a late start due to heavy spring rains, Gull River Road was closed to thru traffic so the river bridge could be totally rebuilt. (To the left is the progress of the work as of late September). By the time you receive this newsletter the bridge should be completed!

Our next major road work involves Green Gables and Green Hill Roads. Plans for this work were finalized in September and preliminary work will be done this fall, with the culverts and air release

valves put in. The overlay on Green Gables and the reconstruction of the Green Hill Road will begin in the spring. There will be no road closures, but expect short delays.

Have a wonderful fall and winter and safe travels to those traveling south this winter.

*Dave Kavanaugh, East Gull Lake Mayor*

---