



# LAKE SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Gilmore Lake Association  
Fall 2011

[www.gilmorelakeassociation.com](http://www.gilmorelakeassociation.com)

## Board Members:

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[jney@vt.edu](mailto:jney@vt.edu)

#### Vice President:

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Dick Johnson  
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### Committee Chairs

AIS/Eurasian Milfoil  
John Ney  
Fundraising  
Amy Pfeifer  
Membership/Newsletter  
Barb Robinson

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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

### Life At The Lake

I am new at this; taking over from Bill Doeden is quite a challenge. But there seems to be plenty to write about – the full stories are in the following pages. First, I hope you had a great summer at the lake and got to enjoy what has been a wonderful autumn. I also hope you have learned to cope with the water-level fluctuations (both high and low) which, along with windstorms are beyond our control. I have come to miss our beavers, whose dam at the outlet helped control those fluctuations for at least the last decade. "Nature's engineers" have ruined some of my favorite trout streams, but I would take back all my expletives if only they would restore that dam.

On the up side, an extension of the boat ramp was recently completed. It should no longer be a daunting task to trailer boats out. The down side is that Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) has expanded, despite the best efforts of our boat inspectors and lake monitors. A new infestation has appeared in Little Gilmore. We will need to continue to raise funds to fight EWM. In addition to your contributions, which are vital, we must soon apply for a WDNR grant to control our existing beds of this nasty invader. A requirement for control grants is that the Gilmore Lake Association complete an Aquatic Plant Management Plan. We have contracted with a consultant to draft this plan which requires public input. In this case, Association members are the public. Please complete and return the questionnaire that was recently emailed to Gilmore Lake property owners. If you did not receive it contact Barb Robinson at 715-466-4152 or at [ribald@centurytel.net](mailto:ribald@centurytel.net) and she'll send one out to you.

Sad news: Howie Guttschow passed away a few days ago. He was a wonderful guy who always had a twinkle in his eyes.. Howie was prominent for many years in caring for Lake Gilmore. Perhaps most notably, Howie and Jerry Huse conducted the water quality sampling program for the past 20 years. The long record of their measurements shows that Gilmore Lake has been a stable, clear but productive water body, at least before the floods. Who will carry on that work? Now more than ever, the GLA needs your time and talents in many capacities (see Help Wanted, this issue). It is time for you to make a commitment to the lake all of us treasure. Whether you are a seasonal or full-time resident, our Association will be better for your active participation.

Gilmore Lake will soon be ice covered and mostly dormant. But open water, with all its promises and concerns, will only be a few months way. Best wishes for a good winter. We'll see you at the lake.

John Ney

## EWM UPDATE

*John Ney, Chairman of the Milfoil Committee*

A second infestation of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) was discovered at the north end of Little Gilmore in early September. It appears to consist of two adjacent beds, each ~30' x10' just lakeward of the lily pads. The original colony has also expanded ~100' to the north, despite manual removal of plants this past summer. Our EWM appears to be confined into narrow bands at 6-10' depths. We will contract for at least one chemical treatment (2,4D) at both sites next May, when EWM is most vulnerable. This herbicide is not harmful to fish or humans. Both sites will be marked by buoys in 2012. Please steer clear of these areas, as a single fragment of EWM clipped by a passing prop is capable of starting a new bed.

Our "new" monitoring vessel, the *Milfoil Marauder*, is an ancient pontoon boat reconditioned by Burt King and Russ Robinson with a 6 hp motor donated by Bill Doeden. It has performed very well. However murky water following the August flood sharply reduced water clarity and limited the effectiveness of visual surveys. The pontoon boat provides a much-needed stable platform for deploying and removing buoys.

We are required to complete an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) to be competitive for future WDNR aquatic invasive species control grants. We have contracted with Dave Blumer of SEH Engineering to write the Plan at a maximum cost of \$5,000. Most of those costs will be reimbursed by the WDNR out of our current Rapid Response grant. Mr. Blumer has much experience with APMPs. The resulting document, which will be quite detailed, is based on biological data as well as public input (see next paragraph) and will consider options for dealing with exotic invaders while preserving our native flora. A key component will be results of the whole-lake vegetation survey completed in 2010.

The public input of our APMP will be your response to the questionnaire sent out via email earlier this month. We need you to take a few minutes to fill it out and return it. It is critical that we get a good response; alternative approaches to gather public input are much more expensive and laborious.

The Clean Boats Clean Waters program inspected 1.59 boats/hr in 2011 compared with 1.68/hr in 2010. Thanks to our volunteers who filled gaps in paid inspections on long holiday weekends: Tom Bergemann, Andy Johnson, and Jim Holmes,

## BOAT RAMP EXTENDED

The Gilmore Lake public boat ramp has been problematic for several years, especially during low water conditions. The ramp initially consisted only of the 30 ft. concrete slab. This proved inadequate because a scour hole soon developed as boaters gunned their outboards to drive

their boats onto waiting trailers. The ramp was then extended with two 4 ft. precast concrete slabs (cattle slats). Eventually the scour hole reappeared beyond the second slab. Trailers that dropped their tires off the slab and into that hole were at risk of getting stuck and/or sustaining damage. The GLA has, we believe, found a long-term solution. With authorization from the Town of Minong, which owns the landing, we obtained a DNR permit (a complicated process) to extend the ramp further. A third 4 ft slab was added, and this was followed by ~4 ft of angular trap rock at its lakeward end to both hold the slab in place and permanently fill the scour hole. Work, by Balcik Excavation and Weser Concrete, was completed October 7 at a cost of \$1300 from our general fund. The Association will appreciate your feedback on the success of this project.

## CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER

Lisa Burns, Washburn County AIS Coordinator and Clean Boats/Clean Water Coordinator would like to have a Clean Boats/Clean Water workshop in the Minong area and possibly on our lake. The class is free. It takes about 3 hours teaching you about invasive species but also what to look for when inspecting boats and trailers. Even if you don't want to be a boat inspector this class gives you the tools to know what to look for when inspecting your boat and trailer when an inspector isn't around.

If you think you might be interested, call me at 715-466-4152 or email me at [ribald@centurytel.net](mailto:ribald@centurytel.net). The more hands and eyes we have on the lake the better to stop any more invasives coming in to our lake.

## GLA ANNUAL MEETING

During the Annual Membership Meeting/Picnic this past June, Bill Doeden announced his resignation as President and Board member of the Gilmore Lake Association citing the death of his wife, Fran, and the need to be with family. We thank Bill for his years of work on behalf of the association and wish him well.

At the October Board of Director's meeting John Ney was elected President, Bill Huelsman was elected Vice President, Russ Robinson was elected Secretary and Dick Johnson was elected Treasurer. All Chair positions remain the same.

## TICKLE YOUR MIND

What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?

*For the answer go to the Gilmore Lake Association web site at [www.gilmorelakeassociation.com](http://www.gilmorelakeassociation.com). While you're there make us a favorite.*

## MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

*By Barb Robinson*

First let me say that weather seemed to have played a role in our membership drive this year. Spring was not a time to have good thoughts about being at the cabin. It was cold and wet and didn't improve until mid-June when the temperatures jumped into the upper 80's. Mother Nature was certainly having fun!

Last year we had 103 paid members. Our goal this year was to retain those members and recruit new members either as new property owners or property owners who hadn't been members in the past 5 or more years. **The end result was 110 paid members for 2011!** When I presented this information to the Board of Directors this fall they asked if I could figure out how many potential members we could have. Based on the idea that no matter how many parcels someone owned on the lake that would still count as one, we have the potential of 146 members. That means we have slightly over 75% of potential members!

*Membership runs January 1 through December 31 so mark your calendars for January! - **PAY GLA DUES!***

As always, if you have any questions about your membership you can contact me at 715-466-4152 or [ribald@centurytel.net](mailto:ribald@centurytel.net).

The **Up North Updates** have been very successful based on the comments received from the membership. This year we're going to make it easier for you to look at the updates by posting them on the GLA website. You'll receive a brief notice that there is a new **Up North Update** and you can view it on the GLA web page. This way you won't have to use up precious data space on your cell phone and you will be able to see all the updates in case you missed one.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

*By Amy Pfeifer*

The Fundraising Committee had a meeting November 5, 2012 to discuss ideas for the 2012 year. Here are a few of the ideas: a bake sale, brat sale, Putt Putt at Stony's. If you have any ideas for a fundraiser your suggestions are always welcome.

Fundraising for 2011 was put on hold because of the success of the 2010 garage sale.

We have two new individuals who have stepped up to join our effort but we need more volunteers.

## We need the following helpers:

bakers  
sales people  
phone callers  
setup personnel  
event table personnel  
barbecue grill cooks.

If you can assist in any of these areas please contact Amy Pfeifer at 715-520-7150 or [Aimers169@gmail.com](mailto:Aimers169@gmail.com). The pay is poor but the friendship and fun is worth a million!

## OHWM, RIPARIAN, PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

What are they and how do they apply to me?

*By Barb Robinson*

Before writing this article I checked with Dan Harrington of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to make sure I had the information right. OHWM stands for Ordinary High Water Mark and it defines your private domain as a property owner along a river or lake. But what about the use of the water and areas below the OHWM? The purpose of this article is to explain who has rights to that part of the lake and shore.

### Riparian versus the Public Trust:

There are two "rights" when playing in and/or near the water. Shoreline property owners are considered "riparians" meaning they have certain exclusive rights in the use of the land above the water line, ie the beach area. The second right is found under the Public Trust Doctrine of the state of Wisconsin which basically says that all Wisconsin residents have the right to use the water to swim, boat, or walk as long as they **keep their feet wet**. How do these two "rights" apply to Gilmore Lake?

EXAMPLE #1: Most of us can identify with the narrows between the first and second lobes of the lake. It has a spit of beautiful beach area that's perfect for sunbathing or having the kids play in the sand. The problem is that unless you **own** that property you don't have the right to **use** that sand beach unless you get permission from the landowner. It goes back to riparian rights. The property owner has **exclusive** use of that piece of land.

In fact any shoreline around the lake falls under the Riparian Rule and unless you own that property you can't use it without permission. If you don't get permission you could find yourself talking with a Sheriff's Deputy because it's considered trespassing.

EXAMPLE #2: Some of us have enjoyed the shallows between the second and third lake lobes. It's a great place to anchor and swim to cool off. It is perfectly legal to do this because all Wisconsin residents have the right to use the water to swim, boat or walk **as long as they keep their feet wet**.

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**EXAMPLE #3:** Let's say the water level drops dramatically, exposing beach area that wasn't there before. Even though this is below the Ordinary High Water Mark, the Riparian has **exclusive** right to use of that exposed land. The Riparian can't seed it or plant it or build on it but he/she can put out a beach chair or build sandcastles in the sand. And once again, unless you have permission of the owner **keep your feet wet.**

For more information or clarification on this subject go to [www.wisconsin.gov](http://www.wisconsin.gov) and look for the DNR Water Management Specialist.

## **NEW ZONING ENFORCEMENT FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES**

In 2010 at the Annual Meeting of the Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA), the hot topic was how to deal with single unit rental properties. The biggest concern was the lack of oversight at any level. Fred Blake who is a WCLRA director and serves on the Government committee researched the issue and found that several counties around us do address the issue of single unit rental properties by requiring conditional-use permits. Washburn County does have an ordinance on the books that handles resorts but the question was, "What is a resort? Can a single unit be considered a resort?". The County Board decided that in fact a single unit rental **being offered to the public** is considered a resort. As such these single unit resorts must obtain a conditional use permit (CUP) and meet various conditions under that permit. Rental property owners will be given until 2012 to comply with the new status. Here is the direct link for the complete Rental Packet: [www.co.washburn.wi.us/departments/zoning/applications/rental-packet.pdf](http://www.co.washburn.wi.us/departments/zoning/applications/rental-packet.pdf) Some of the most important conditions that must be met in order to obtain and retain a permit are:

1. Property Owner who wishes to rent his/her property to the public must obtain a **conditional use permit** (CUP) from Washburn County.
2. The property owner must have a valid license from the Wisconsin Department of Health (DHS), renewed annually.
3. Accessory buildings must not contain sleeping quarters unless they are properly authorized by the Zoning office for that use.
4. All renter vehicles must be stored on the property...no parking on streets.
5. Renters must be given the regulations for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the renters must comply with all the regulations of the WDNR.
6. There will be occupancy limits assigned to each property.
7. Septic system must be sized to occupancy of the property.

8. Garbage and recycling materials must be disposed of properly.
9. Property owner must provide a copy of the conditional use permit to the renters.
10. The applicant must provide the Zoning Office with a local contact who can be reached 24/7.

If you are a property owner offering your place as a rental you can contact the Zoning Board for more information. If you feel that there is a violation you can contact the Zoning Board at: 715-468-4690 or [zoning@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:zoning@co.washburn.wi.us). Be specific in your complaint: date, time and if necessary a picture.

If, however, your complaint is about loud and unruly renters, that would be handled through the **Sheriff's Department (715) 468-4720.**

If it is bad water behavior, contact **Dave Swanson (715-466-5428 or 1-800-TIP-WDNR).**

## **MINONG TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE**

*By Russ Robinson*

The Minong Town Lakes Committee (MTLC) received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and additional funding from the Town of Minong to conduct aquatic plant surveys on five of our town lakes. The lakes included: Sand, Big Bass, Pokegama, Kimball and North Twin Lakes. These lakes were chosen because little was known about their current aquatic plant ecology and to what extent they were being influenced by Aquatic Invasive Species. Some of the larger lakes in the town, such as the Minong Flowage Nancy and Gilmore Lakes were not included as the aquatic plant ecosystem of these lakes have been studied recently. Horseshoe Lake has also had a lot of evaluation recently as the unfortunate discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil last Spring led to an extensive aquatic plant survey of the lake.

Results of these survey studies will be published later this year and we will try to post the results on the lake website and/or make digital copy available to those who are interested. The consultant who conducted the "field" studies on these five lakes did comment that these lakes represent five very diverse habitats when compared to other lakes in Northern Wisconsin.

How does Gilmore Lake compare? This same consultant did the surveys on our lake last year under the Rapid Response Grant. He recently commented that of all the lakes he has ever surveyed in Wisconsin, Gilmore Lake has the greatest number of plant species. In other words, Gilmore Lake had the greatest diversity. High diversity is usually indicative of a healthy, stable ecosystem, something definitely worth protecting.

## HELP WANTED

**Board of Directors Vacancy** - Bill Doeden has retired from the GLA Board of Directors. The BOD needs to appoint a replacement Director, who will serve the remaining 1.5 years of Bill's term. (Full terms are 3 years). The BOD meets twice each year (Spring and Fall) and also hosts the annual members meeting/picnic in June. Matters that require attention at other times are handled by e-mail and/or phone. The work does not demand a lot of time, but it does require a commitment to make thoughtful, responsible decisions regarding the preservation and protection of Gilmore Lake and its watershed. If you are interested in joining the Board (and you should be!) please contact any of its current members (see the front page of this newsletter). The next meeting will be May 7, 2012.

**Volunteers!** – Help is also needed on a continuing basis for a variety of activities. Our standing committees (Communications, Fund Raising, Membership, Milfoil) all need an infusion of enthusiastic folks as do water quality, and EWM monitoring. None of these positions requires full-time residency (< 10% of property owners are full-time residents). In fact, some can be done from elsewhere, away from the lake. If you use and enjoy Gilmore Lake on a frequent basis, we need your time and talents. The following is a partial list of where help is needed.

<b><u>ACTIVITY</u></b>	<b><u>FREQUENCY</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>WHERE</u></b>	<b><u>CONTACT</u></b>
EWM Monitoring <i>*sampling the lake for EWM using the Milfoil Marauder</i>	May-Sept	4hrs/mo	Lake	Russ Robinson/Burt King (715-466-4152/4559)
Water Quality Monitoring <i>*equipment is provided, sampling for water quality, training provided</i>	May-Sept.	2hrs/mo	Lake	Gerry Huse (715-699-5892)
Buoy Placement	Spring & Fall	6 hrs ea	Lake	Russ Robinson/Burt King
Boat Inspection Data Entry	Once a Season	8-12 hrs	Home	Bill Doeden (630-907-9414)
Inspection Administration	Ongoing	Variable	Lake	Russ Robinson
Website	As Needed	Variable	Home	Russ /Barb Robinson
Grant Administration	Fall	10-20hrs per grant	Home	John Ney (715-466-4198)
Newsletter <i>*picking up printed newsletter at White Birch Printers in Spooner, folding, addressing and stamping newsletters for mailing.</i>	Spring & Fall	3hrs/yr	Lake	Barb Robinson (715-466-4152)
Update Kiosk <i>*change information in kiosk. I have material for that.</i>	Monthly	30 minutes	Lake	Barb Robinson
Launch ramp area <i>*check trash can and empty if it's full, trim grass around area with weed trimmer</i>	Weekly	10 minutes	Lake	Barb Robinson
Fund Raising <i>*see Amy's plea for help under Fundraising Article</i>	Variable	Varies	Home Or Lake	Amy Pfeiffer (715-466-4515)

**GILMORE LAKE ASSOCIATION**

The Gilmore Lake Association is committed to protecting our lake and your investments through the efforts to prevent EWM from entering the lake and detecting it in its early states when it can best be treated if it does get in. These efforts are both costly and time consuming. By joining the Association, your dues help support this work. Fill out the form below and mail it along with your check or money order for \$25 to:

Gilmore Lake Association  
P.O. Box 188  
Minong WI 54859

**PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR 2012 MEMBERSHIP IN THE GILMORE LAKE ASSOCIATION!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: ( ) \$25 Membership ( ) Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Extra Logos \$2ea \_\_\_\_\_



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