



LAKE SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Gilmore Lake Association
Spring 2015

www.gilmorelakeassociation.com

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John Ney

Fund raising
Fran McCloskey

Membership/Newsletter
Barb Robinson

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Dr. John Ney

What a difference a year makes! The past winter was relatively mild, and Spring came early to the northwoods. The trees are leafed out, early flowers are blooming, and all our birds are back (including the snow birds). Even better, Gilmore Lake is **not** flooded, at least for now. Due to the low winter/spring precipitation, it would take a prolonged deluge to substantially raise the water level – or so we believe. Bill Huelsman and Daryl Iverson have been recording water level at the culvert gauge since August and will continue to do so. Eventually, we will be able to relate lake level to precipitation in the watershed, then predict the occurrence and magnitude of in-flooding from the Triple T.

At this time the news all seems to be good. The scour hole at the landing has not reappeared, thanks to the fill-in with glacial rock and boaters remembering to tilt their props up when loading trailers. Our EWM remain under control. And Gilmore Lake should begin producing more walleyes (see articles inside). Best of all, our Association is solvent and prepared to meet future challenges, thanks to DNR grants, paid memberships, and the contributions of our members.

So there are lots of reasons to anticipate another great summer at Gilmore Lake. Have fun and be safe.

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR. JULY 3, 5PM AT THE MINONG TOWN HALL, 2015 GLA ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC. SEE YOU THERE!

Disclaimer: The materials, information and references provided in this newsletter are provided "as is". While every effort is made to ensure their accuracy, no warranty, expressed or implied, is given with respect to them.

REPORT YOUR WALLEYE CATCH

By John Ney

As I noted in the Fall newsletter, Gilmore Lake is in the midst of a fisheries experiment. The WDNR stocked 2000 6-8" walleye (labeled extended growth") in October 2012. We caught some of these fish last summer; they should now be about 16". The GLA stocked 1750 more extended growth walleye in October 2014. These walleye were purchased from a private hatchery at a cost of \$2,500. Gilmore Lake once had an outstanding walleye fishery, but natural reproduction is no longer sufficient; loss of spawning habitat and predation on baby walleye by largemouth bass are likely responsible.

Stocked fish face many challenges, including starvation and disease. Also, they must stay put, not move to the river during high water events. But if these fish do thrive, anglers will again be able to target Gilmore Lake walleye.

The Association is committed to stocking these extended growth walleye every other year, but only if anglers are catching them. So we need your feedback. Please report any walleye you catch in Gilmore Lake to me: jney@vt.edu or 715-466-4198. Also include the estimated total length. I do not need to know where and what you caught them on. Keep your secrets, and I'll keep mine.

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (EWM) 2015

By Russ Robinson

You may remember in my article on EWM last fall, I mentioned that our Eurasian Water Milfoil had made a bit of a resurgence in late summer. We suspected that some of this new growth may have been related to flood waters from the river. By September our greatest concentration of EWM was in Little Gilmore, particularly along the east shoreline. We also had a noticeable colony in "Big" Gilmore on the offshore shoal area in the southwest portion of the lake.

Our plan for 2015 is to treat all known EWM areas in June with "Navigate", a 2,4,D herbicide that is fairly selective in treating EWM plants and is considered a relatively safe herbicide with a very short half-life in lakes.

To assist us in treatment this year is our new (actually year 2000) 14 foot Jon boat. Burt King deserves a lot of credit for locating a boat, motor and trailer that are perfect for our purpose at a great

price (\$2000). It is small enough to navigate the culvert into Little Gilmore in most weather conditions. It also has a much more stable platform to work from than my old 12 foot aluminum row boat we were using this past year. This boat's stability is increasingly important with the advancing age of its operators. Burt was also responsible for fitting the boat with our herbicide spreader, safety railing and all the necessary wiring and equipment.



Burt King and new boat

This year Matt Berg, our aquatic macrophyte consultant, will be doing both pre- and post-treatment surveys of our lake. Information he provides will assist us in being sure to treat everything and will provide confirmation of the effectiveness of our treatment. It would be wonderful if we did not experience any river flooding this summer, for many reasons. Water clarity is much better this May than last year and that helps with our ability to locate and treat the EWM. As long as the Beaver Dam remains in place and we have moderate river levels we can expect to be more effective than last year.

This summer we will also be conducting monthly meandering shoreline surveys with the Milfoil Maurader. Anyone interested in joining us on these EWM hunts is encouraged to contact me at r.rubarb@gmail.com with available dates. To reduce the chance of spreading EWM please avoid the buoyed areas in Little Gilmore and the shoal area in southwest Gilmore. Have a great summer.

MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

By Barb Robinson

Welcome back to the lake. This year we're planning on some fun and changes to the way we've done things in the past.

Mark your calendars! The Annual Meeting and Picnic is going to be on July 3rd at 5pm (a very short business meeting and then socializing with friends and neighbors). In the past we held the meeting on a Saturday morning which cut into your lake time. This year the meeting is being held on Friday night at the Minong Town Hall. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available as well as hot dogs and brats. Bring a dish to pass. We will also have a naming of the "new" Jon boat that will be used in the EWM program. See Russ' article on the EWM update for a picture of the boat. A prize will be given to the person who comes up with the chosen name. We're hoping you enjoy this change.

On Saturday July 4th the infamous Gilmore Lake Boat Parade will be preceded by the **First Annual canoe/kayak race**. The race will start at 1pm. All entries will start at the same time, head down to a buoy, round the buoy and race back to the finish line. The first canoe and the first kayak to cross the finish line will receive a prize. But this is the catch. Because this is new I need at least 5 entries to do the race. If I can't get five entries then we won't have the race. So give me a call at 715-781-7737 or email me at ribaldness@gmail.com to let me know you wish to enter. The course will be set up starting at the little red cabin across from the boat ramp, down the shoreline to the beach and back.

The **Infamous Gilmore Lake Boat Parade** will follow the canoe/kayak race. The start of the Boat Parade will be 2pm. Staging will be in the same area as the start of the canoe/kayak race. The judges have informed me that this year's theme will be Reggae with music. Prizes will be awarded.

As far as membership numbers we are where we were last year at this time. I expect the pace to pick up as more of you start using your cabins. If you can't remember if you have paid for 2015 please call me at 715-781-7737 or email me at ribaldness@gmail.com.

And last – in order to reduce the cost of mailing the newsletter I need your current mailing address. If you move during the year please let me know. Also

if you have changed your email address or you recently acquired one please let me know so I can include you in the Up North Updates. Thanks! Have a great summer. See you on the water.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Fran McCloskey

Welcome back to the lake! It has been a beautiful spring and we are looking forward to enjoying the summer months. A number of you have added a little extra donation in your membership renewal. Thank you for your generosity! Any donations you make to our association are tax deductible.

The fundraising committee is very grateful to our advertisers for 2015. Please patronize our advertisers. We are excited that this edition includes a coupon for half-off a round of golf at our local courses in Minong and Gordon. Our advertising program is a great way for our association to promote local businesses and to receive financial support.

We are looking for volunteers. It's easy to be on the fundraising committee because there are NO meetings! All we ask is for you to ask your favorite businesses and service providers to advertise. If they say yes, please pass on their contact information to either Fran McCloskey 612-581-7121 or Tom Bergemann 941-916-1783 and we can take it from there.

MINONG TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE

By Russ Robinson

The Minong Town Lakes Committee (MTLC) will continue its program of boat landing inspections for aquatic invasive species in 2015. This will be the third year of inspections on nine boat ramps (including Gilmore Lake) on the larger lakes within the town of Minong. These inspections are done by paid inspectors on Fridays through Sundays of each week and on holidays throughout the summer. Funding for these inspections is provided by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource grants, contributions by MTLC and support of the town of Minong. Our most frequent boat inspector on Gilmore Lake is named Samantha. Say "hi" and help her anyway you can.

when you can't wait a minute



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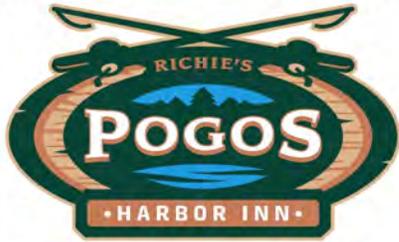
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Conservation Warden, Dave Swanson

715-645-0053

800-TIP-WDNR

david.swanson@wisconsin.gov

EMERGENCY 911

Thank you to all the local businesses that support our lake. In return, please mention that you saw their ad here to show your support!

AROUND THE TOWN

If you want to know what is happening in the Town of Minong you can read the minutes of the past Minong Town Board Meetings which can be found at www.townofminong.us.

1. Erik Gulbrandsen, the Constable for the Town, has brought up the issue of break-ins at several town board meetings this past winter. He said that larger ticket items have been taken such as TV's and guns. In years past he has recommended that you get to know your neighbors and their routine. If you see something suspicious call Erik at 715-466-2519 or the County Sheriff at 715-468-4720.
2. You need a Burn Permit from the Wisconsin DNR to burn leaves. You don't need a burn permit to have a fire pit to roast marshmallows unless there is a fire danger. The best thing to do is get a free general burn permit from the DNR (either online or at the DNR Station in Minong) and then call on the day you want to burn to make sure it's okay to burn that day.
3. If you have a dog, you need a license. If you are from out-of-state but you aren't required to have a license in your home state for your dog, please put a tag on your dog that shows how to reach you in case you become separated from your pet.
4. New person at the Recycling Center. His name is Troy Waggoner. In the past we've used the green cards to show that we can deposit our garbage there. The card is now blue and you can exchange your green card for a blue one when you do your first visit to the Center. Troy has been checking cards regularly. If you don't have a green card, you will have to show that you own property in the Town of Minong. This can be a utility bill or tax bill. You can also get a blue card from the Minong Town Hall during normal business hours.
5. The Fourth of July is approaching. In the Town of Minong you need a permit to use fireworks. In order to get a permit you must have insurance, be a licensed pyrotech and get the Chairman of the Town board to sign it. The permit is good for only one day. Call the town hall for more details – 715-466-5916.

The following information came from the town of Minong's website. Hopefully it clears up questions about what can be disposed of as garbage and what has a charge associated with the disposal.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

TRANSFER STATION: 715-466-2062

WINTER HOURS: Mon-Wed, Fri, Sat 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

SUMMER HOURS: Mon-Sat 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

GARBAGE DISPOSAL FEES AS FOLLOWS:

\$200 per ton for non-residents and/or for building materials

\$5.00 Furniture

\$15 TV / Computer Monitors

\$5.00 each : Other Electronics

\$20 & \$40 Copiers (small & big)

\$5, \$7, \$10 : Tires off the rim (car, pickup, semi)

\$2.00 & Up : for yard debris and brush

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bill Huelsman

A review of the lake level data reveals what we all know, nothing is happening relative to lake level fluctuations. This is a very good way to start out the year, entirely different than the last few years. One interesting note is that the level of the ice throughout the winter did not change at all. We didn't expect it to but are curious how heavy rainfalls or snow melt might affect the ice level. We will have to wait for another winter or two in order to answer that question.

Daryl Iverson continues to read the gauge every few days and particularly during heavy rainfall events. Whenever you see Daryl thank him for his efforts in this regard. We will present a graphical representation of the data to date at our annual meeting in July. So far this year the graph is an uninteresting flat line. With everyone's help we will continue to develop a statistical data base that we believe will be very useful in the future as we continue to try to address lake level fluctuations.

NEW HEALTHY LAKES GRANT

By Pamela Toshner,
Water Resources Management Specialist, Bureau of
Water Quality

The DNR launched a new grant program in November 2014 to encourage simple lakeshore projects to boost healthy lakes. The "Healthy Lakes" initiative is an effort of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership supported by the DNR, the UW-Extension Lakes Program, Wisconsin Lakes, counties and the many lake groups and citizens who work to protect, improve and restore Wisconsin lakes. Washburn County's Minong Flowage and Nancy Lake organization presidents are leading by example and participating in the first round of funded projects this year!

The grant program funds local projects around the state that focus on simple ways to improve fish habitat, integrate native plantings, divert and clean runoff water and promote natural beauty. The Healthy Lakes project provides up to \$1,000 in state grant dollars for each "best practice" identified in a proposal. Grant awards to eligible sponsors such as lake groups, waterfront organizations and communities will be capped at \$25,000. Individual property owners who are interested should partner with an eligible grant sponsor for funding to implement do-it-yourself projects. Goals include increasing single-property participation in Healthy Lakes best practices by 100 percent from 2015 to 2017. For more information, please check out the Healthy Lakes website:
<http://tinyurl.com/healthylakes> .

FISH STOCKING

By Larry Damman

In my years as a fish biologist, people constantly requested stocking records to find the good places to fish walleyes. What they really need is a list of walleye lakes that never get stocked. Walleye lakes maintained by stocking are the ones with habitat limitations resulting in marginal populations.

Given the right habitats for spawning, fry and fingerling development of a species will produce more fingerlings than the lake can support into adulthood. Nature has to mercilessly thin them down through predation and disease. This mortality is necessary to create a balance between the number of potential young recruits and the number of adults the lake can sustain. When we harvest a fish from a self-sustaining population, we are not decreasing the population so much as creating the

opportunity for a fingerling to survive to adulthood. Stocking where fingerling habitat is essentially saturated increases the fingerling mortality rate instead of increasing the adult population.

There are 3 basic reasons for fish stocking:

1. To introduce new species into suitable habitat
2. To maintain a species where habitat conditions will support adult fish but not natural reproduction.
3. To supplement existing populations that exhibit low rates of natural reproduction.

For stocking to be effective you need an empty habitat niche to target.

When the white man came to Washburn County, most land locked lakes including ones as big as Shell Lake had no fish. With no stream connections, fish couldn't colonize them after the glaciers receded. Early settlers and logging camps caught fish from nearby creeks for **type 1** Stocking. In those days suckers and bullheads were the most popular. They were oily fish suited to canning and smoking in the days before refrigeration. Over time, most every fish native to the great lakes region was introduced creating self-sustaining fish communities similar to those in the naturally colonized drainage lakes.

Type 2 Stocking occurs to provide the anglers something extra or special to catch. The trick is to find an open niche and match it with an appropriate species. Some lakes have a lot of deep, cold water. Warm water fish like bass or walleye can't utilize this habitat but rainbow trout may thrive in it. Rainbows only reproduce in streams so recruitment will depend on stocking. Stocking walleye into a shallow, weedy bass lake doesn't work because there is no niche for the open water loving walleye.

Type 3 Stocking to boost populations with low natural recruitment is widely practiced and most problematic. Physical habitat still controls the maximum number of fingerlings produced, not the number stocked. However factors such as weather or interactions with other species can further reduce potential. Unstable weather in the spring can wipe out the walleye hatch or a successful hatch in a year that coincides with the peak of the crappie population cycle will suffer higher than normal predation losses. Stocking fingerlings helps to assure that all available fingerling habitat is utilized even if you had some excessive mortality before that. The later in the year you stock the more of these mortality events you can avoid. The basic problem is that you are working on the margins. There may not be that much difference between a weak population maximized by stocking or the un-stocked version.



P.O. Box 188
Minong, Wisconsin 54859

GILMORE LAKE ASSOCIATION

The Gilmore Lake Association is committed to protecting our lake and your investments through the efforts to control and to treat EWM in our lake. 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:

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P.O. Box 188
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