



VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 1

Summer 2017

LAKE SOUNDINGS

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Committee Chairs:

AIS/Eurasian Milfoil:
John Ney

Fundraising:
Tom Bergemann

Membership/Newsletter:
Fran McCloskey

Website:
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Lake Neighbors,

Happy Summer! It's great to see everyone out and enjoying the beauty of our lake. Once again, I'm happy to report that the lake is healthy and continues to be resilient, despite the challenges of water influx, etc. Since our last newsletter, the Lake Association has continued to monitor the lake closely, including frequent lake level, water clarity, and water quality measurements.

Our goal as an Association is to ensure that the recreational use of the lake can and will continue well into the future. We are very appreciative of the financial donations that members have given to support our efforts.

We are asking members to complete a survey to get public input for our aquatic invasive species management plan. See the Membership Committee update for more information.

It appears that the Town of Minong has decided to "wait and see" about doing anything regarding repair or replacement of the culvert outlet from Little Gilmore. There is a new patch of blacktop over it and the Town Board voted to defer any modifications to future years.

Local residents will soon be able to use and enjoy the new Jack Link's Aquatic & Activity Center which is scheduled to open sometime in August 2017. The Center will feature an aquatic center, fitness center, gym, community rooms, lounge, group fitness area, a teen room, and museum. You will be able to join with a membership or pay each time you go. This will be a great benefit to residents in the Minong area.

Finally, we are still in need of volunteers to fill positions in our association. We really appreciate any time you can give. We do have fun and we don't bite! See the Membership Update inside for more details.

Have a wonderful summer, and I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

BY JOHN NEY

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) remained under control in Gilmore Lake in 2016, at least until the Great Flood. Early summer lake monitoring showed that it consisted of a 2-acre bed on the sunken island in Big Gilmore (marked off with buoys) and a scattering of plants in Little Gilmore. Both of these areas were treated with 2,4-D in June by a commercial applicator. Also, a few plants were found just off the boat landing and manually removed by Russ Robinson. But what effect on EWM did the Flood have? The high, turbid water probably suppressed its growth. But the flood waters could also have spread EWM, as it can re-root from pieces of stem set afloat.

Our Milfoil Committee members (Daryl Iverson, Bill Schroeder, Larry Stokes, Ron Tracy, and myself) went looking on May 24, under the direction of Lisa Burns, AIS Coordinator for Washburn County. Visibility was low, and even manual sampling with a rake found few plants and no EWM. Then the weather turned hot, and EWM exploded. It was abundant in scattered clumps in Little Gilmore and the shoal area (sunken island) in the south bay of Big Gilmore. All of the observed EWM was treated by commercial application of the herbicide 2,4d on June 11. It is not toxic to most other aquatic plants and poses no hazard to humans and animals. It will certainly kill EWM via contact, but expect more to pop up. If you think you have spotted EWM, contact Daryl Iverson at 715-466-4198; iversondj@hotmail.com.

The EWM control program is funded by an ongoing WDNR grant, as is the Town-wide CBCW boat inspection program, which included 8 lakes, including Gilmore. The GLA matches part of the costs in time and money –thanks for your contributions!

This year, we are absent two stalwarts of the Weed Wars – Russ Robinson and Burt King have left the area. We need new recruits! To join the Milfoil Committee in the fight against EWM and other invasive species (zebra mussels could be next) please contact me, John Ney (jney@vt.edu; 715-466-4198).

WALLEYE STOCKING

BY JOHN NEY

Like many waters in northern Wisconsin, Gilmore Lake has experienced a sharp drop-off in walleye numbers as its largemouth bass population has exploded. Largemouth prey heavily on young walleye and may also compete with them for food.

To bypass this apparent bottleneck, the WDNR and lake associations have begun stocking walleyes at 6-8" in the Fall, when they are too large to be targets for bass. The program of stocking Extended Growth (EG) walleye has met with success in reviving the walleye fisheries in some area lakes, including the Chippewa Flowage and Nelson Lake. Extended Growth walleye have been stocked in Gilmore on an alternate year basis, beginning with the addition of 2,000 by the WDNR in 2012. The GLA paid for stocking from a private source in 2014 (1,800 fish) and 2016 (~1500).

Have these stocking efforts been successful in growing more harvestable walleye in Gilmore? I am convinced that they have. The only measure we currently have is reports from anglers (contact me at [715-466-4198](tel:715-466-4198); jney@vt.edu). In 2015, I received reports of 25 walleye caught. In 2016, the number was 30, all before the Flood. For sure, these are small fractions of the total catch. As of this writing, 9 walleye have been reported, 8 of them (all released) by one fisherman on opening weekend. Walleyes caught ranged from 10-27". Many were in the 18-22" range.

WDNR personnel are scheduled to perform a thorough assessment of our walleye. Numbers and size distribution in 2018. I am optimistic that they will find a healthy population, including some natural reproduction. Stay tuned.

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.

MEMBERSHIP, BY FRAN MCCLOSKEY

Summer Calendar

June

22 Ladies Night, Stone Lake

25 Birchwood Garden Tour

July

1 Shell Lake Fine Arts Festival

6-8 Heart of the North Rodeo,
Spoooner

14-16 Bluegill Festival, Birchwood

21-23 Minong Summer Days

22 Household Hazardous Waste
Collection

22 Shell Lake Triathlon

27-30 Washburn County Fair,
Spoooner

August

4-6 Jack Pine Savage Days,
Spoooner

5 Band on the Barge, Long Lake

11-12 Northwoods Music Festival,
Minong

12 Woodcrafters in Birchwood

15 Twilight Garden Tour,
Spoooner

Opening of the Link Aquatic and
Activity Center

September

1-3 Town & Country Days, Shell
Lake

We have several new lake neighbors on Gilmore this year. If you happen to live near any of them, please welcome them and encourage them to join our Association. There are many benefits to joining, including receiving our Up North Updates by email. Forms for joining are found in this Newsletter. We will also be signing up new or renewing members at the Gilmore Lake Association Annual meeting and picnic on July 8th from 4pm-8pm.

We have several positions to fill in our association. I know that I keep asking, but we really need help with these things.

We are looking for people with the following skills or interests:

- Computer skills to help with laying out the newsletter and sending it out. (8 hours, two times per year)
- Social skills to invite new members, maintain the membership list, and organize the 4th of July Activities. (1-2 hours per month for membership; 1 day of effort for the July 4th activities)
- Nature skills to help monitor EWM, lake levels, oxygen levels, etc. (2-4 hours per month during open water)

Even if you only are interested in one small part of what is described above, please volunteer and do your part.

This summer we are asking everyone to complete a survey about the lake. This survey is required as part of our DNR grant for controlling Eurasian Water Milfoil. It will be sent out via email to all those that have provided an email address to us. We will also have paper copies at the Annual Meeting on July 8th. Please complete a survey and submit it. The results will be used to gather public input on our Milfoil management.

Finally, don't forget about our July Celebrations:

Saturday July 2nd Annual Boat Parade 1pm

This year's theme will be "Noah's Ark"

Meet near the landing before 1pm

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place

Saturday July 8th Annual Meeting and Picnic 4pm-7pm

Held at the Minong Town Hall (on Nancy Lake Rd.)

Meeting begins at 4pm and Dinner is at 5:30pm

Food and Drink will be provided by the Association

If you would like to bring something to share, desserts are welcomed.

Hazardous Waste Collection

On July 22 at the Minong Transfer Station. Acceptable items include oil-based paints, solvents, pesticides, hazardous cleaners, rechargeable ni-cad, metal halide and button batteries, corrosives, flammables, mercury, old gas, and antifreeze, among others. The collection goes from 9:00 am until noon.

WENDY'S PLACE

Minong, WI. 466-4334

Check out our new
BREAKFAST ITEMS
And, try our new
**FISH FRY...Hand
Breaded Haddock**



Mon-Th: 6am-7pm
Fri: 6am-7pm
Sat: 6am-3pm
Sun: 7am-3pm

NOW
Open Weekdays til 7pm

HENSON'S COUNTRY FOODS

403 US 53 Bus Highway, Minong
(715) 466-2262

Monday - Saturday 8:00am - 8:00pm
Sunday 8:00am - 6:00pm

THE LOOKOUT

"Home Of The Bloody Mary Meal"

Check out our menu while enjoying the most spectacular view in Douglas County, overlooking the St. Croix Flowage

Wed, Thurs., Fri. & Sun. Open at 11
Open Sat. at 10 (Closed Mon. & Tues.)

WED: AYCE Chicken & Spaghetti...from 5pm
FRI: Fish Fry...All day
Try our great **BROASTED CHICKEN**

5-1/2 mi. West of "53" on Cty. "Y", Gordon, WI 715-376-2369
ACCEPTING MASTERCARD & VISA



715-376-4653



715-466-2314



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Vacationland Team

Hwys. 53 & 77 Minong, Wisconsin 54859

Kathy King 715-520-2681 kathy@northescape.com
Terry Turek 715-520-3778 terry@northescape.com



Longbranch Smokehouse & Grille
301 5th Ave E, Minong, WI

715-466-2311

"An up north country casual place"

Daily Specials, homemade soup, fresh salad bar
And so much more!



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Brooke Fairbanks
BRANCH MANAGER

MINONG OFFICE: 401 W 5th Ave. PO Box 373
Minong, Wisconsin 54859

NMLS # 697668

brookef@shelllakesatebank.com

715-466-1061

715-466-1064 FAX

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Constable, Erik Gulbrandsen 715-781-8566

County Sheriff - non-emergency 715-468-4720

DNR Conservation Warden, Dave Swanson 715-645-0053
800-TIP-WDNR

Dahlberg Light and Power Emergency Service: (800)-736-5167

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE SPONSORS OF OUR LAKE ASSOCIATION

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY UPDATE

BY FRAN MCCLOSKEY

I can say with confidence that we are all hoping for less precipitation this summer, as we were all challenged by last summer's flooding (some more than others!). We continue to review the situation with our monitoring program, although there is little that we can do to stop Mother Nature from sending torrential rains.

We have been recording the lake levels and charting the data for several years. The charts are available on our website at www.gilmorelakeassociation.com. This year we have experienced a normal level of lake water rise and fall based on comparisons to prior years.

I'm happy to report that the beaver lodge at the creek leading to the Totagatic River appears to be healthy and occupied. Should the beavers start rebuilding their dam, we may benefit from slightly-better water level management. Please remember to respect wildlife on our lake and refrain from disturbing their habitat.

After the significant water event of 2016, the lake water clarity was abnormal for several months. Current readings indicate that things are back to normal. We will be sharing more information on our lake quality monitoring at the Annual Meeting on July 8th, so stay tuned.

Reminders

BURNING

Watch weather conditions before burning! Call 1-888-WIS-BURN to get the latest burning restrictions in your area. As always, in order to burn debris such as leaves and brush, you need a burn permit. Go to the Wisconsin DNR site at www.dnr.wi.gov. Click on "burn permits." Here you can apply online and print your permit.

WEBSITE

The Gilmore Lake Association website (gilmorelakeassociation.com) is a great way to keep in touch! Please check it out for lost and found, news updates, and much more. All content from the newsletter will be available online.

ANNUAL FESTIVITIES

We hope to see all of you at the annual festivities. The boat parade will take place on July 2 at 1 pm. This year's theme is "Noah's Ark." The association meeting and picnic will be July 8 at 4:00 pm. The meeting will be followed by a picnic. Feel free to bring desserts if you would like.

VOLUNTEER

As mentioned in the membership update, the association is seeking the help of several volunteers to assist with the annual meeting and picnic, EWM and lake monitoring, and communication. If you are interested, please contact Fran McCloskey.

WE WISH YOU A WONDERFUL SUMMER!



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:

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

PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR 2017 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 \$ _____