



Lake Soundings

The Gilmore Lake Association Newsletter - Spring 2022



Jody Huelsman with ice tongs her father used to harvest and deliver Gilmore Lake ice to residents in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Iceman of Gilmore Lake

Nearly a century ago, the late Paul Berg cut and delivered lake ice that kept local iceboxes cool

Jody Huelsman still has a pair of tongs her father used to deliver the ice blocks that kept Gilmore Lake iceboxes chilled in the 1920s and '30s.

In the days before electricity on the lake, Paul Berg and his brother cut big blocks of ice from the southwest corner of the lake in the dead of winter. The work took place just in front of the long sandy crescent beach that Jody and her husband Bill own today.

Using a large gas-powered circular saw mounted on a heavy sled, the Berg brothers pulled the machine by hand to make long cuts in the ice. Crosscuts were made and ice blocks measuring roughly 2' by 2' by 3' were harvested and loaded onto a wagon with a two-horse team.

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President's Message

Dear Lake Neighbors,
While it feels like this past winter never ended, I think it is finally spring! With spring comes lots of activity to get our cabins, yards, and lake fronts in tip-top shape. I'm ready!

Speaking of activity, Gilmore Lake Association's board of directors is working on your behalf coordinating a number of initiatives to maintain a
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GLA Annual Meeting & Boat Parade

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, June 25 at the Jack Link Aquatic & Activity Center in Minong. Membership picnic to follow. See agenda details on page 7.

The 2022 Annual Boat Parade will be at 1:00pm on Saturday, July 2 (rain date is the following day).
Theme: We Love Sports.

Lake Association to Weigh Milfoil Treatment and Funding Options

The Gilmore Lake Association's 13-year battle against Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) enters a pivotal phase in 2022 as leaders evaluate new management and funding options to contain the invasive weed.

The GLA will conduct its annual independent lake survey in late May or early June to determine how successful a promising new treatment applied last summer was in controlling patches of EWM that spread from a total of two to seven acres over the previous year.

New funding for EWM treatment is needed as the
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Gilmore Lake Association Board

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Paul Berg and one of his brothers cutting ice on Gilmore Lake, circa 1930.

The Bergs hauled the ice to their family's 320-acre dairy farm that encompassed what is now the Minong town hall and airstrip. There the blocks were neatly packed in layers of sawdust in an icehouse to preserve it for deliveries throughout the year. "We'd get in big trouble if we were caught playing in the icehouse," recalled Jody.

The ice was later broken into 8- by 10-inch cubes to fit the standard icebox. Typically, the ice was placed in one compartment with the most perishable items – milk, eggs, meat or fish – placed just beneath it. Fruits, vegetables and other items were placed in the adjacent compartment.

Paul began delivering ice and milk to Gilmore residents when he was about 12 years old. The Berg's horse-drawn wagon would make multiple deliveries every week following a dirt road that was just behind the houses on the west side of the lake. The road is long gone but traces of it are still visible in some places.

"It was certainly a different time," said Jody. "It was hard work but they probably did a lot of other work that they considered to be harder."

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Berg Family Farm

Jody's grandfather, A. O. Berg, came from Norway to Drummond, Wisconsin in 1891. In 1915, he and his wife Gunda purchased 160 acres between the present Nancy Lake Road and Co. Highway I, east of Smith Bridge Road (where the current landing strip is). They later bought an additional 160 acres.

The Bergs developed a dairy farm. The couple had three boys and four girls. Paul was second oldest son and the deliveries and ice cutting continued until he married at age 26 in 1936. "The joke was that my mother, Frances, who was a summer girl from Chicago, married the milkman," said Jody.

That same year, Paul bought land on the southwest corner of Gilmore Lake and built a house where he and Frances would raise three children, Jody, Ginger and Dick.

Jody thinks the ice cutting stopped in the 1940s when Dahlberg Light & Power Company extended power lines around the lake. "We could then have electric lights instead of kerosene lamps," she said. "And we could have an indoor toilet and running water in the sink instead of using a hand pump."

Strong Ties a Century Later

Paul was jack of all trades and became a successful local carpenter and electrician. As for Jody, she had a long career in public service. After college she became a teacher in South Milwaukee. Jody and Bill



The Bergs harvest ice blocks from Gilmore Lake, circa 1930.

married and settled in Waukesha. She later served on the Waukesha County Board, the local school board and served 20 years in the Wisconsin State Legislature (eight years in the House, 12 in the Senate). She also found time to earn a law degree and run her own business.

The lake house Paul built is still owned by the family. It is much improved – the outhouse is gone and the home has been greatly expanded. Ginger and Dick and their children and grandchildren still use it as a vacation home. About 25 years ago, Jody and Bill purchased the adjacent property and built another home where they live part-time.

The Berg farm was sold in 1959 but 50 years later Jody and Bill bought 160 acres that is now home to the Minong landing strip. "We now own half of my grandfather's original farm."



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Milfoil Treatment from page 1...

association's "Established Population Control" grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources expires at the end of this year. Over the past six years, the grant has covered about two-thirds of the annual treatment costs. However, last year the cost jumped from \$4,000 to \$14,000 because the size of the treatment area tripled and the new herbicide was more expensive. The GLA will apply for a new DNR grant later this year, and hopes to receive adequate funding to continue EWM treatments.

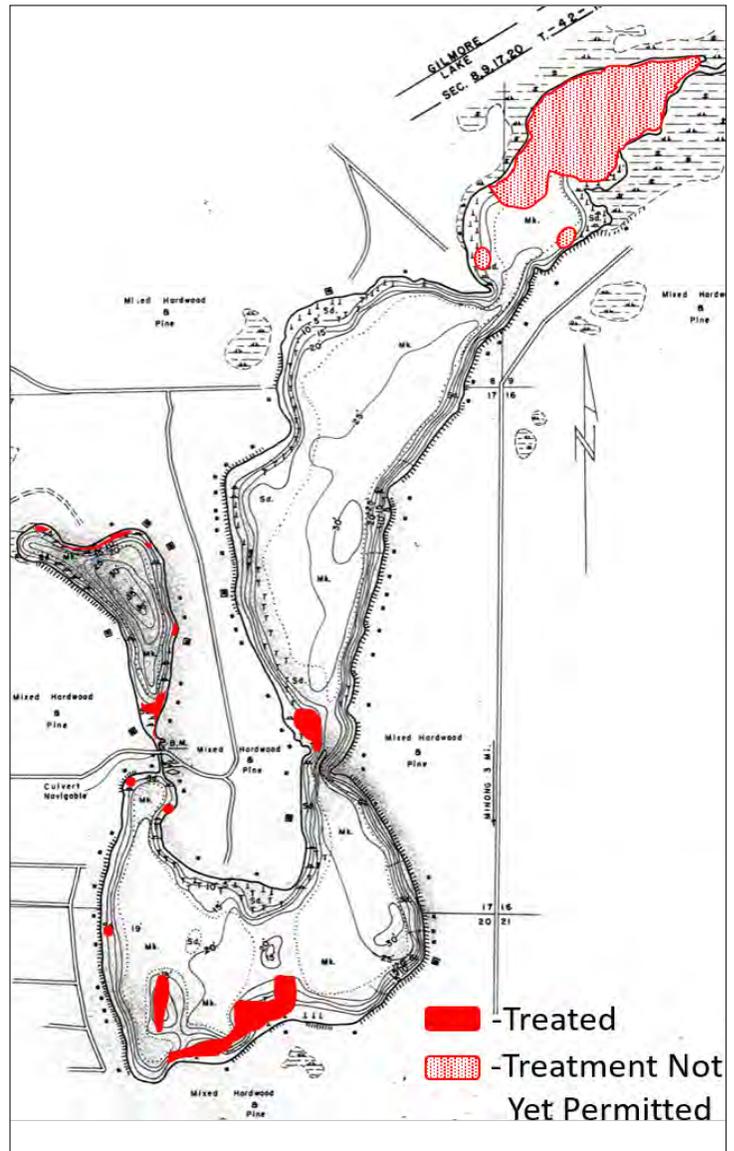
"There are a lot of variables in play this year," said John Ney, a Little Gilmore resident and fisheries expert who has led the GLA's treatment of EWM since it was discovered on the lake in 2009. "We've done well for a number of years but we may be at a turning point in terms of treatment and financial resources."

A Promising New Treatment

After the 2021 survey found a significant increase in the spread of EWM around the lake, the association turned to a promising new treatment called ProcellaCOR™. It has several advantages over 2,4-D, the aquatic herbicide used to keep EWM in check on Gilmore Lake for more than a decade.

ProcellaCOR is a liquid herbicide that is applied near the roots of plants at the lake bottom through a weighted tube. In contrast, 2,4-D is granular, applied from the water surface and is less targeted. Both treatments are EPA-approved, but ProcellaCOR is classified as "reduced risk," meaning it is safer for humans, non-targeted plants, animals and the environment compared with conventional herbicides. ProcellaCOR is more rapidly absorbed by targeted plants and dissipates quickly to minimize the drift of chemicals to nearby areas.

The GLA received a DNR permit to apply ProcellaCOR on trouble spots in the southern half of Gilmore Lake last summer and by fall an informal inspection found no EWM in the treated areas. "So far so good," said Ney. "But given the way it spread from 2020 to 2021, we really won't know how successful it has been until we see what weeds bloom this spring."



The 2021 survey of Gilmore Lake shows areas (red) with Eurasian Watermilfoil.

The association works with Matthew Berg, research biologist with Endangered Resources LLC, to conduct EWM surveys of the lake. "Matt is great," said Ney. "He looks at all the vegetation in a systematic way and not just the problem areas."

The results of the 2022 survey will help inform decisions about future treatment strategies and costs, which will be key to applying for a new DNR grant.

EWM Problem Areas

Even if ProcellaCOR is a game-changing treatment, other milfoil containment challenges remain. One is

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access to Little Gilmore for the boat and equipment to apply ProcellaCOR. The culvert is too small and an attempt to access the lake via private land failed so the plan for this year is to continue treating Little Gilmore with 2,4-D, which can be applied by hand.

Another challenge is the northern most bay of the lake, which has several areas with milfoil. The north end also has wild rice stands protected by gathering rights in treaties between the U.S. government and 11 Objibwe tribes in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission has expressed concern about the potential effects of herbicide on the wild rice and has not consented to chemical treatments of EWM in the north end. The GLA plans to initiate further discussion with the Commission regarding EWM containment strategies.



At the height of summer, fast-growing eurasian watermilfoil can form thick mat of vegetation on the lake surface. This photo is NOT Gilmore Lake although some areas of our lake look like this by late summer.

How can Residents Help?

Gilmore Lake residents can help minimize the spread of EWM and support efforts to eradicate the weed in several ways. First, join the Gilmore Lake Association by completing the membership form at the end of this newsletter. Member fees (only \$25) and donations will help fund EWM treatment and prevention programs.

Second, the GLA plans to place water buoys in the north end to mark problem areas and warn boaters to stay clear of milfoil patches to help prevent spreading. Please use caution and stay out of areas marked by the buoys.

Third, boaters should maintain low wakes in shallow areas because props can damage vegetation and the lake bottom. "If you hit EWM, there's a good chance that you'll chop it up and the severed plants can float and recolonize other areas," said Ney.

Powerful wakeboard boats or wake boats, which create waves big enough for people to surf without the need of a tow rope, can be especially damaging. Their motors can tear up the lake bottom in eight feet of water or less.

Fourth, support our boat inspectors at the landing and clean your motors, boats and trailers carefully.

Let's stop the spread.



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President's Message from page 1...

healthy lake. Here is a quick list of what we do on a regular basis:

- Test & report water clarity and quality to the DNR
- Inspect to detect EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) and other invasives
- Treat EWM using professional firms funded by the DNR and GLA resources
- Sponsor boat inspections at the launch funded through DNR grants and lake associations
- Place buoys marking locations of EWM
- Obtain grants to protect and improve the quality of Gilmore Lake
- Monitor lake levels and communicate water events
- Stock walleye
- Research & act on issues relevant to lake homeowners
- Represent Gilmore Lake on the Minong Town Lakes Committee
- Attend local meetings and represent Gilmore

- Lake to town and county governments
- Host annual members meeting, picnic, and boat parade
- Send newsletters to inform and update on activity and events of interest to home owners
- Host our website to provide information of interest to residents and visitors
- Update members through the UpNorth Update emails

All of these activities are supported by your annual dues and donations. Thank You! If you are not already a member, please join (or renew) using the form at the end of this newsletter or download from the homepage of our website (www.gilmorelakeassociation.com).

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and Picnic. Stay safe and enjoy the lake!

Fran McCloskey, President

GLA Membership to Vote on Bylaw Changes, Directors at Annual Meeting

This year's GLA Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, June 25 at the Jack Link Aquatic & Activity Center. Immediately following the meeting, the GLA will host a picnic lunch catered by Mama Jo's Diner.

Two agenda items will require a Membership vote:

1. Proposed revisions to the Bylaws include clarifying who has voting rights as a member, allowing for remote meetings, updating the officer positions and

responsibilities, and simplifying the election process. A copy of the bylaws with revisions noted will be posted at <https://gilmorelakeassociation.com/about/the-association/>.

2. Election of two Board members. The terms of Fran McCloskey and Larry Stokes are expiring but both are offering to serve another three years. Any others wishing to serve on the board are encouraged to attend and may address the members at the Annual Meeting prior to a vote.





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 proactive management of Eurasian Water Milfoil and monitoring water quality in our lake. By joining the Association, your dues help support this work. Fill out the form below and mail it, along with your \$25 check or money order to:

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