



# LAKE SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Gilmore Lake Association  
Fall 2012

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

## Board Members:

### Officers:

#### **President:**

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

#### **Vice President:**

Bill Huelsman  
[Bill@bergmanagement.com](mailto:Bill@bergmanagement.com)

#### **Secretary:**

Dick Johnson  
[silverwing83@gmail.com](mailto:silverwing83@gmail.com)

#### **Treasurer:**

Russ Robinson  
[russrobinson@centurytel.net](mailto:russrobinson@centurytel.net)

### Directors:

Tom Bergemann  
[bergemant@gmail.com](mailto:bergemant@gmail.com)

Jim Holmes  
[jrhomes1931@charter.net](mailto:jrhomes1931@charter.net)

Fran McCloskey  
[fran@fa-llc.com](mailto:fran@fa-llc.com)

### Committee Chairs

ALS/Eurasian Milfoil  
John Ney

Fundraising  
Amy Pfeifer

Membership/Newsletter  
Barb Robinson

## President's Message

It is autumn here at Gilmore Lake, and the quiet is interrupted only occasionally by the whine of a leaf blower or dock being winched out of the water. It is a good time to reflect on the past year and plan for the next – it will again be a busy place come May. Last spring, we were worried about Eurasian watermilfoil (of course!), water level fluctuations, and the impacts of pending repairs to the Minong Flowage dam. These concerns will remain with us in 2013.

Our EWM continues to proliferate, but we have a new plan of attack and a fresh WDNR grant to support our control efforts (see inside article.) And the lake level has stabilized – the blessed beavers are back! Their dams should prevent the extreme low water level of last winter as well as moderate some of the flooding from the Totogatic. But beavers are an uncertain resource, and their dams will be topped in severe floods. In search of a more permanent solution, Vice President Bill Huelsman has gathered a committee with the expertise to explore long-term options. The recurring inflows from the Triple T wreak havoc with shoreline property, but the bigger impact is the influx of nutrients which could turn Gilmore Lake as green as the Flowage becomes each summer.

We have been assured that repairs on the Minong Flowage dam will not affect the water level of Gilmore Lake. But the five-foot drawdown of the Flowage will make it inaccessible to boaters next year. The county park will remain open, and all those boats will go somewhere – expect Gilmore Lake to be very busy next summer. The Gilmore Lake Association Board is concerned that vehicle+trailer parking along Narrows Trail near the landing could lead to congestion which would present a danger to pedestrians and vehicles alike. We have asked the Minong Town Board to limit parking to one side of Narrows trail near the landing. Stay tuned.

Despite these challenges, I remain very optimistic for the future of Gilmore Lake because of our vibrant, proactive lake association. Membership is at a record high, and more folks are contributing their time and talents to securing the preservation of the lake we all treasure. Best wishes for a great off season. Come back invigorated to enjoy and protect our wonderful resource.

John Ney

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## 2012 Annual Meeting/Picnic

This year's GLA Annual Meeting/Picnic was held on June 30 at the Minong Town Hall with a full house. President John Ney opened the meeting with an update on the Minong Flowage Dam project. The main concern for Gilmore Lake will be the increased pressure on our lake and the boat trailer parking issue on Narrows Trail. The GLA board plans to approach the town to set up parking control along the Narrows Trail corridor.

Secretary Russ Robinson read the minutes from last year's meeting and Treasurer Dick Johnson gave the Treasurer's report. Both were accepted as written by those members present.

Tony Tubbs from Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA) presented an update on the Totagatic River "wild" status and the involvement of WCLRA in trying to purchase a section of river shoreline. Tony asked GLA members for volunteer contributions to assist with the purchase. (*Editor's Note: Please see followup article in this newsletter.*)

Russ Robinson then discussed the water level issues and recent flooding of Gilmore Lake from the Totagatic River. He did a slide presentation showing the watershed of the Totagatic River, various impoundments along the stretch of river above where it passes the Gilmore Lake outflow and graphs of rainfall amounts. The complete report can be found on the GLA website at: [www.gilmorelakeassociation.com](http://www.gilmorelakeassociation.com). As a result of discussions by the members after the presentation, Bill Huelsman agreed to head up a committee to investigate possible solutions to water quality and lake-level fluctuations. Main emphasis is to reduce the inflow of water from the Totagatic River which causes lake nutrient-loading resulting in reduced water quality & accelerated plant growth.

The EWM Fund, the Fundraising Committee and the Membership/Communication Committee also presented reports (see their comments under their separate articles in this newsletter).

Elections of board members followed. John Ney and Ralph Holmes were re-elected to three-year terms.

Frances (Fran) McCloskey was elected to fill the one year slot vacated by Bill Doeden. Fran and her

husband, Mike, are new to the lake. They hail from Minneapolis MN. They have two children: Anna age 16 and Logan age 12. Fran is a forensic accountant and testifies in commercial lawsuits as an expert witness on accounting and financial issues. Mike teaches religious studies at Viterbo University. They are avid baseball fans, enjoy the outdoors and nature, and love to travel to interesting destinations. Fran says that they have really enjoyed their first year on Gilmore and are looking forward to many more. If you see them out on the lake give a wave and a shout

The contact information for the GLA Board of directors is found on the front page of this newsletter.

## EWM Update

John Ney, Chairman, Milfoil Committee

The Committee welcomed two new members, Bill Schroeder and Darryl Iverson. They offer an infusion of fresh ideas and energy to old hands Burt King, John Ney, Russ Robinson, and Ron Tracy. The two large beds of EWM (marked with buoys) were treated with granular 2,4-D (brand name Navigator) in June and have been suppressed – for now. They totaled 1.6 acres. However, EWM continues to spread. Two smaller stands were identified, one along the east side of the south bay of Big Gilmore and a second near the culvert in Little Gilmore. In addition, small clusters and individual plants now occur in several spots in both the south bay and Little Gilmore.

We will confront Eurasian watermilfoil wherever it is found. The Association was just awarded a Wisconsin DNR grant to control established populations of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The five-year grant was funded at \$45,500 from the WDNR matched by \$7,175 from the GLA and 1,050 hours of volunteer time (210 hours/year). It will allow us to pay a commercial applicator to chemically treat up to 5 acres of established EWM beds each year. Spot treatment of isolated clusters and plants will be done by a combination of manual removal and herbicide. Pulling plants via snorkeling must be done very carefully and is only effective in the spring, before EWM roots fully develop. Thereafter, chemical treatment will be required and would be prohibitively expensive if a commercial applicator was needed each time. Instead, we will use Association members with Wisconsin herbicide

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**EWM UPDATE** . . . . .continued from page 2

applicator licenses. Dick Johnson, Darryl Iverson, Russ Robinson, and John Ney have committed to pursue the training and take the licensing test. Wish us well; we have been out of school for a few years now. The new grant will also pay for a whole-lake aquatic plant survey in 2015 and a revision to our Aquatic Plant Management Plan in 2017; the WDNR requires that these be done every five years.

Given that EWM can sprout quickly in new locations, we need more trained observers to report it. The best way to identify EWM is to observe it in the water. To that end eight GLA members got up close to EWM on the *Milfoil Marauder* this year. More excursions are planned for next summer by Captains Burt and Russ; dates will be announced so that you can sign up to join the Weed Warriors.

The GLA will also continue the boat inspection program for a seventh straight year, hopefully with DNR funding. Although we now have EWM, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program remains critical to prevent the introduction of new AIS (e.g., zebra mussels, spiny water fleas), and the export of our EWM to infest new waters. A central component of the program is education. Inspector Amy Wandel reports that too many boaters are still clueless about EWM and other AIS. In 2012, our inspectors tallied 700 boats involving 1,682 people. Both numbers may jump in 2013 with the Minong Flowage out of action. Thanks to Jim Holmes, Mark Simonett, and Mick Kjelstad for their volunteer hours supplementing our paid inspectors over summer holidays.

We rely on your continued contributions in cash ( the GLA must pay grant expenses prior to partial reimbursement by the WDNR), volunteer hours, or both. We are all in the Weed War together.

**Gilmore Water Quality and Water Level Committee**  
Bill Huelsman – Chairman

At the direction of the Board of Directors of the lake association a committee has been formed to study the water quality and water level fluctuation issues that are having a significant impact on our lake. The individuals who have volunteered to be members of

the committee are Bill Huelsman, Bill O'Brien, Elizabeth Julin, John Breitinger, Larry Stokes, Mark Simonett, Russ Robinson and Steve Lawrence.

On August 28, 2012 the committee held its first meeting and explored a wide range of issues that included all of the information gathered by Russ Robinson, the historical information relative to water quality that the lake association has developed over the last 20 years\*, and some work by Bill Huelsman relative to the Totogatic River elevations between the Minong Flowage and Nelson Lake, some 28 miles to the east. It was very apparent from the data available that Gilmore Lake is unique in that it is very low lying relative to the Totogatic River at the point where the lake empties into the river. The lake is primarily spring-fed and depends on the spring water flowing through the lake and into the river to maintain its water quality. Over the years it appears that the incidents of backflow from the river have increased, degrading our water quality by increasing the nutrient levels resulting in greater plant growth and algae blooms, and creating large fluctuations in the lake level.

The situation poses a very complex problem relative to the hydraulics of the Totogatic River, affected by both natural rain and ice events, as well as three man-made impoundments on the river, the largest of which is Nelson Lake. Nelson Lake is six to ten times the size of Gilmore Lake and therefore greatly influences the Totogatic River. The Wild River designation on the Totogatic River offers additional regulatory complications that may turn out to be either beneficial or detrimental.

The committee has not progressed far enough to offer a timeline for a report to the Board of Directors. We will probably be gathering data well into 2013 at which point we may be able to begin to seek solutions.

*\*Gerry Huse and the late Howie Guttschow collected the water quality data over the past 20 years and can be viewed on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website.*

**NOTE: YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO GET YOUR SNOWPLOW REQUEST IN TO THE TOWN HALL. CALL JOANN AT 715-466-5916.**

## Fundraising Committee

Amy Wandel - Chairperson

To recap, the fundraising committee designed and copyrighted a T-shirt for our fundraiser this year. We sold the t-shirts at the annual meeting and made them available throughout the Summer season in the Up North/Update e-mails, at the boat ramp, Henson's IGA, and Sportsman's Headquarters. There are a few selected sizes still available for those of you who would still like one to support our cause. They make great gifts and the Holidays are right around the corner. You can contact Amy at [aimers169@gmail.com](mailto:aimers169@gmail.com) or 715-520-7150 to order. Our goal is to continue to sell t-shirts at different events going forward.

We also sold a full page of ads this year that were inserted into both issues of the newsletter, which generated \$800 for the Eurasian watermilfoil Fund (EWM). We will continue to sell ads for the 2013 year. Remember to show your support to these local businesses. Tell them thanks for supporting our lake association and mention that you saw their ad in our newsletter.

Once again the end of the year is approaching fast. It's not too early to think about making a tax-deductible donation to our EWM Fund. When you send in your donation, please designate that it is for the EWM Fund.

The committee's plan for 2013 is to have a bake sale and to sell more t-shirts. We will need volunteers for helping with the bake sale: bakers, set up, pricing, cashiers/bankers. Please let Amy know if you will be interested in helping out. The date is not set, but we are looking at sometime in June.

In closing, I would like to welcome Fran McCloskey to the committee. Anyone else who would like to assist the Fundraising Committee, join us! Let's fight the Milfoil together.

### Washburn County Lakes And Rivers Assoc.

By Barb Robinson, Vice President

As mentioned under the Annual Meeting article in this newsletter, the Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA) was trying to raise money to purchase a 260 acre parcel along the Totagatic River that would then be gifted to the

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). As of two weeks ago WCLRA met it's goal to purchase the land! Closing will be in December, with a handoff to the WDNR after the Natural Resources Board approval. Thank you to all who donated to this project.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### WDNR Agent

Dave Swanson 715-466-5428  
715-645-0053  
800-TIP-WDNR

### Minong Constable

Erik Gulbrandsen 715-781-8566

### Washburn County Sheriff's Department

EMERGENCY 911  
Dispatch 715-468-4720

### Washburn County Zoning Department

email address :  
[zoning@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:zoning@co.washburn.wi.us)  
Office Phone 715-468-4690

### Minong Town Hall

715-466-5916  
Town Board meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

**GLA Board of Directors** Front page of this newsletter

If you have a question about if you can or cannot do something, call the appropriate number above for assistance.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

## Membership/Communication Committee

By Barb Robinson

First let me say that we've had a GREAT year! At the Annual Meeting I reported that we had 89 paid members to-date, a little behind the previous period. Something happened after the Annual Meeting because memberships along with larger donations started coming in. Our total paid membership increased to 115, representing about 80% of possible members. There is still room for growth in our numbers and we will continue in our efforts.

I think several factors helped this year. Providing useful information to members as far as the UpNorth Updates, the kiosk staying current, the newsletters, the Milfoil Marauder seen on the lake and this year the annual meeting. I had more comments about how impressed members were about the highly informative annual meeting. One member actually chastised her neighbors for not attending the meeting and missing out on the important information that was given. It's a standard that the board will have to meet each year

Last Fall I had mentioned about possibly putting the UpNorth Updates on the webpage rather than sending them out directly to your email addresses. Many people requested that I continue using email rather than blogging on the webpage so next year look for the UpNorth Updates coming to you.

I would like to thank all of you who have been very supportive of the newsletter, the UpNorth Updates, and the kiosk. **MEMBERSHIP DUES RUN FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31.** A membership form for 2013 is on the last page of this newsletter. Mail your membership form along with your payment to: Gilmore Lake Association, P.O. Box 188, Minong Wisconsin 54859. Remember that your paid membership and any donations may be tax deductible. If you aren't sure if your dues are paid, contact me at 715-466-4152 or [ribald@centurytel.net](mailto:ribald@centurytel.net). Thank you.

### GLA Window Decals

By Barb Robinson

My supply is getting very low. If you would like one please contact me at: 715-466-4152 or [ribald@centurytel.net](mailto:ribald@centurytel.net) The cost is \$2.00 per decal.

## Minong Town Lakes Committee

By Russ Robinson

The Minong Town Lakes Committee (MTLC) is chaired by Laurie Johnson of Horseshoe Lake. Under Laurie's direction the committee has been making progress in designing a proposal to establish a town wide Clean Boats/Clean Water (CBCW) inspection program. The proposal would nearly triple the number of inspections on area lakes and coordinate inspections on lakes that currently have no inspection activities. The cost of the proposed program is approximately \$44,000 per year with 75% of the money coming from a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) grant. The remaining costs would need to be covered by area lake associations and volunteer hours.

The proposal has been presented to the Town of Minong board and so far they have been favorable in their support of the project. The Town is needed as legal sponsor of the project and will also need to loan money to the project until the MTLC receives reimbursement. This support from the town is indicative of improving cooperative efforts to achieve common objectives between the town's board and area lake residents.

The grant application to the WDNR will be made by February 1, 2013 and we should know by the Spring newsletter whether we have been successful. With the planned draw down of the Minong Flowage, other town lakes are expected to see an increase in boat traffic, underscoring the need for an expanded boat inspection program in 2013.

Also in 2012, the MTLC held a seminar at the Town Hall. This seminar focused on the results of aquatic plant studies conducted in 2011 by Matt Berg. In summary, the area lakes studied exhibited significant diversity and quality when compared to other lakes in northern Wisconsin. The seminar also focused on the cost advantage of quick and decisive actions when dealing with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

### Board Update

In a logistical change on the board, Russ Robinson will now assume the role of Treasurer and Dick Johnson will take on the role of Secretary.

## 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 2013 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 \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 188  
Minong, Wisconsin 54859