



# LAKE SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Gilmore Lake Association  
Spring 2012

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

## Board Members:

### Officers:

#### President:

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

#### Vice President:

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

#### Secretary:

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### Committee Chairs

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our non-winter has been over for awhile, and, with warm long days, it is again time for open-water fun on Gilmore Lake. But the challenges imposed by Mother Nature (with some human help) continue. We now have two beds of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) to contend with; chemical treatment is planned soon (see inside article). Thanks to everybody who has contributed to EWM control with donations of money and/or labor.

As I write this, our lake is in the throes of its first flood event of the year, precipitated by only two inches of rain. This follows the low-water conditions that persisted from Fall to ice-out. My first nine years on Gilmore Lake were blessed with good water stability, at least after spring runoff. What has happened to change our hydrology? It appears that loss of the beaver dam at the outlet is involved, but perhaps the greater culprit is the Totagatic River itself, which is reported to be so jammed with fallen trees and other woody debris as to be unnavigable downstream to the Minong Flowage. That debris also slows downstream flow, which increases the frequency and duration of high-water events. The Triple T is now a Wild and Scenic River, which might prevent clearing of the channel, as has been done in the past. We need to explore our options.

A third potential threat comes from proposed repairs to the Minong Flowage dam, scheduled for 2013-14. The GLA will be involved in the planning stages to assure that the water level of Gilmore Lake is not impacted from downstream as a result of dam renovations.

On the plus side, our boat landing has been improved with GLA dollars. And, regardless of present and future challenges, we are all in this together, and we care, as witnessed by the results of our recent survey (see article). Gilmore Lake remains an exceptional resource. It will stay that way for ours and future generations if we continue to be proactive in its defense.

John Ney

## **RESULTS OF GLA SURVEY**

By John Ney and Russ Robinson

Our new Aquatic Plant Management Plan has many components, including one for public input. We met this requirement with a simple e-mail survey sent to GLA members in December. The survey consisted of five questions and a call for volunteers. The response rate was 45% (53 of 119). A summary of results follows.

About 90% of respondents spent 30 or more days/year at Gilmore Lake. When asked their knowledge of aquatic species, they rated Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) highest, followed by zebra mussels and purple loosestrife; knowledge of other potential invaders (e.g., rusty crayfish) was low. About 80 % of respondents thought they would recognize EWM if they saw it. Current methods we use to combat EWM (boat inspections, herbicides, manual removal, lake surveys and marking EWM beds) each got approval ratings in excess of 90%; no one selected "no management" as an option. The survey also asked folks to rate their top 3 Gilmore Lake concerns from a list of 12 choices. Aquatic invasive species rated highest, followed by water quality degradation and water level fluctuations. Quality of fishing and shoreline development followed, with some concern expressed for boating issues but little for noise pollution or algae blooms. Almost 80% of respondents volunteered to help with activities ranging from physical labor to grant writing and many may be contacted later this year for assistance.

Questionnaire results were quite encouraging in terms of knowledge, concerns, and commitment. But they represent only a sample of our membership, and, like any sample, may not be representative of the GLA as a whole. Does the above summary apply to your "take on the lake?"

## **MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Spring 2012

We're off to another good start. Last year at this time we had 68 paid members. To date we have about 60 paid members. What's really impressive is the number of donations that have been made including one of our members asking his employer to list GLA as a charitable group for matching funds. If the employer approves us

that would mean another \$100, matching the \$100 of the employee! If your employer has a program like this why not consider GLA as your charitable entity.

The committee of Tom Bergemann, Fran Bogner and I will continue in our efforts towards our goal of maintaining current members (last year we had 110 paid members). But we are not the only members of the Membership Committee. Every GLA member can help by letting us know of new neighbors on the lake or talking with others who are not members. If you need our help, contact one of us on the Membership Committee.

The "Milly" has been painted and her new name stickers have been applied to her sides. The GLA logo will have to be handpainted on the "front" door but that will have to wait as she is already active in survey work.

The Fund Raising Committee has put together another ad insert. Quite a few changes but Amy and her group were able to pick up new advertisers. Enough ad inserts have been printed for the year to help hold down cost of printing. Handouts will be available for each of the advertisers as well as added requests at the annual meeting.

## **FUND RAISING COMMITTEE**

Amy Wandel, Chairperson

The committee is off to a great start with raising money for our Milfoil account. We sold 16 ads for the enclosed pull out sheet, generating \$800.00. We have many new ads. This sheet is designed for reference and can be posted on the refrigerator for convenience. Please when visiting these businesses, let them know you saw their ad and thank for their support. Feedback is important to these businesses.

Our project for 2012 is exciting. We have designed a T-shirt and will be for sale at the annual meeting June 30th and through the committee thereafter. The company that will be making these T-shirts provides skills and jobs to recovering alcohol/drug individuals. This is a "win,win" for all of us. A picture of the T-shirt is included in this newsletter for viewing. We expect great response to this idea, so quantity is limited for the annual meeting, do not miss out. If we sell all the shirts, this could generate an additional

## **Fund Raising Committee....continued**

\$500/600 for our Milfoil account. We will also have available to order, cozies, mugs, mousepads and tote bags with customized printing on them with the Gilmore Lake logo or picture of the lake. You can add your name etc. if you wish. This will be on display at the annual meeting and orders placed then. \$2.00 of every item sold is donated to our Milfoil fund.

There is some chat about having a garage sale for 2013. It was a huge success for us 2 years ago, however, it was a enormous amount of work. So if you want to help the committee with this, now is the time to join us and have some fun! Contact Amy @ [aimers169@gmail.com](mailto:aimers169@gmail.com) or 715-520-7150.

### **EWM UPDATE**

John Ney, Chair Milfoil Committee

As reported in the Fall 2011 Newsletter, we now have at least two infestations of EWM, the original bed on the west side of the main part of the lake and the detection of a new bed at the north end of Little Gilmore. The original bed has been held in check the past two years by manual removal of plants, but it experienced a growth surge late last summer. These beds will be treated with approved herbicide by a licensed application this Spring, followed by diver surveys to determine success. Chemical treatment is worth the cost, but complete eradication of EWM from Gilmore Lake is unlikely. Both beds have been clearly demarcated by bouys. Please stay out of these areas, as EWM can be spread by a single fragment clipped by a propeller or caught on a fishing line.

The GLA contracted with SEH, Inc. last October to prepare an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) for the native and invasive plants of Gilmore Lake. The plan will be completed and submitted to the WDNR by June 1. Completion of an APMP is a requirement to be eligible for future aquatic invasive species (AIS) control grants. We will report on the details of the Plan in the Fall newsletter.

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) boat inspection program has begun its seventh year under the supervision of Russ Robinson. It is important for us to continue the CBCW program

for several reasons: prevention of additional EWM import into Gilmore as well as export of our EWM to uninfested waters and education of boaters concerning EWM in particular and AIS in general. Our lake monitoring program will also continue, with Burt King and Russ manning the *Milfoil Marauder*.

All of the above costs money. Our Association has sufficient funds in WDNR grants and our own Milfoil Fund to cover all anticipated expenses for 2012. However, the GLA must apply for new WDNR grants to pay for EWM control, boat inspections, education, and lake monitoring in 2013 and beyond. In these uncertain economic and political times, a successful application is far from assured. We continue to need the financial and volunteer support of our members. In particular, the Milfoil Committee is down to only four folks (Burt King, Russ Robinson, Ron Tracy and me), and must expand to be able to meet all demands. Please consider joining the Committee. You do not have to be a lake resident to make a significant contribution. If you are interested, contact me or one of the other Milfoilers.

### **TRIVIA**

There is a new Trivia game out. It's called Wisconsin Lakes Trivia and was created by John Haack from the University of Wisconsin Extension. (Remember him from Learn About Your Lakes? He was the frog man.)

1. Can a musky eat a duck?
2. Can a loon dive 200 feet deep?

These are just a couple of questions found in the game. You can buy this game by visiting The Learning Store at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>. Or you can contact me. They cost \$15. A fun and learning experience.

### **SUMMER IS HERE**

We have to get back into our water-safety mode. Remember that the best place for a life jacket is being worn. Remember to follow the rules of the water and when in doubt give way. Watch your wake to help protect our shoreline and keep swimmers safe. If you need a copy of the latest Wisconsin boating regulations contact me at [ribald@centurytel.net](mailto:ribald@centurytel.net)

## WHAT THE GLA DOES FOR ME

By Barb Robinson

I've listed the benefits of membership in the Gilmore Lake Association (GLA) before but this article deals with the **role** of GLA. Under Article 1 of the Gilmore Lake Association (GLA) By-Laws the purpose of the GLA is *"to support the protection and improvement of Gilmore Lake's waters, shoreline, watershed, fishery, flora and fauna for the benefit of its property owners, local residents and the general public"*.

The definition of Article 1 was re-addressed at the May 5, 2012 GLA Board of Director's meeting. At issue was the question of what role the Board of Directors should play in the activities on or for the lake. The consensus was that the GLA Board of Directors should act to protect the best interests of all lake property owners when confronted with outside influences but not act as a "regulator" with respect to individual property owners. The GLA will continue to be involved with issues coming from outside influences that affect all GLA members. Examples of these involvements include representation of our interests at the Minong Town Board meetings, participation with the Minong Town Lake Committee issues of special concern such as the repair of the Minong Flowage dam which may influence Gilmore Lake levels and control of AIS.

It is not the responsibility of the GLA to become directly involved in issues or disputes among individual GLA members. The GLA will provide a focus and information to members to help resolve issues. Individual members are encouraged to contact the proper governmental agencies when trying to resolve problems (a list of commonly contacted agencies follows this article).

Recently, it came to the attention of the GLA Board that someone representing themselves as from the association was contacting property owners and telling them what they could or could not do with their property. As stated above, this is not a function of the GLA board and should you be contacted by such an individual, please contact one of the board members listed on the front page of the newsletter.

## 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ELECTION

The GLA Board will be having elections as usual at the Annual Meeting June 30, 2012 at the Minong Town Hall. We currently have one vacancy on the board and strongly encourage any GLA member who has an interest to run for this position or other term positions that are scheduled to be voted on at this meeting.

Time commitments for these positions are two Board of Director Meetings per year. You do not have to live on the lake to be eligible. You just have to be a member of GLA in good standing (that means that your membership dues are paid). Nominations will be taken from the floor.

## IS THE LAKE FILLED WITH PLANTS OR WEEDS?

By Russ Robinson

One definition of a plant is: Living organisms belonging to the kingdom **Plantae** that obtain energy from sunlight via photosynthesis using chlorophyll. A simple definition for a weed is: A plant in an undesirable place.

When we think of plants, we usually have a positive impression. We might think of beautiful trees providing shade, fire wood or building materials. We also might think of flowers or perhaps fresh vegetables from our gardens. When we think of weeds, we might think of dandelions in our lawns or weeds choking out the plants we are cultivating.

So what about the living organisms that are obtaining energy from sunlight in our lakes? Plants or weeds? Many of us refer to them collectively as weeds, not plants. Why? Because often we think of them as being undesirable. They get caught on our fishing line, or anchor or they interfere with swimming and other human water activities. In other words, they are plants in an undesirable place.

Some of us however, might think of most of these organisms as plants. Why? Because they provide oxygen and cover for other types of organisms that live in our lakes, primarily fish. Plant abundance and diversity is also indicative of the lake's characteristic and water quality which means these plants are in the right place. An example of a good plant is northern milfoil because it is a native species that provides cover and oxygen for other organisms.

So when is a plant in our lake a weed? My definition would be when it doesn't belong there. An example in Washburn County lakes are invasive species like Eurasian Water Milfoil. This organism can grow earlier and faster than the native species it competes with and, unfortunately if left unchecked, it can become dense and widespread choking out other native species. It truly represents the definition of a weed and is why so many of us are working so hard to control its spread before it becomes a significant nuisance affecting the way we perceive and use our lake.

*Editor's note: This article has been reprinted with permission from Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association.*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 4, 2012	<b>Minong Town Lakes Committee</b> Minong Town Hall	9am – 11am
June 9, 2012	<b>AIS Workshop</b> Lisa Burns Washburn County AIS Coordinator 715-468-4654	9am - Noon Spoooner Ag Center
June 22, 2012	<b>NW Lakes Conference</b> Call Russ Robinson for more information. 715-466-4152	Spoooner H.S. Public Welcome
June 30, 2012	<b>GLA Annual Meeting</b> Minong Town Hall bring a dish to pass	9:30 am registration 10:00 am meeting 12:00 Picnic
July 1, 2012	<b>GLA Boat Parade</b> Staging at boat landing. This year's theme will be the "Pirates of Gilmore". Prizes will be awarded.	1:00 pm

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 188  
Minong, Wisconsin 54859