



LAKE SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Gilmore Lake Association
Fall 2013

www.gilmorelakeassociation.com

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John Ney
Fund raising
Amy Wandel
Membership/Newsletter
Barb Robinson

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President's Message

The leaves are falling fast as another open-water season draws to a close here on Gilmore Lake. It is time to reflect on the ups and downs of the past season.

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) has responded well to our control program (see update inside). Total eradication is unlikely; we must continue to rely on your support in time and money to battle this wretched weed.

Our lake was flooded for most of May and June. For a while, the boat landing was inaccessible, and the culvert was full, marooning those of us on Little Gilmore. Once again, high, dirty water from the Totagatic raised havoc with docks, boats and other shoreline property.

The river water also poured in nutrients with the potential to cause algae blooms as evident in the Minong Flowage. Bill Huelsman and his committee have worked hard to explore options to control water inflows, but the solution will be neither simple nor cheap (see inside article).

On the plus side, the anticipated traffic jams at the landing did not occur, despite the Minong Flowage being largely off limits to boaters. Low traffic was due in part to the late ice cover and subsequent flooding. But another contributing factor was the deteriorating condition of the landing itself. In late 2011, the GLA spent \$1,100 to upgrade boat access. That included installation of a third concrete pad and placement of large trap rock to provide a solid base beyond the cement for gradual transition to deeper water. The glacial rock that had done the job for year had mostly disappeared into deeper water. This time, we chose trap rock for its stability; it is widely used at boat landings. To our amazement, the trap rock also disappeared, this time in less than two years. Apparently, it was blown out by lazy people with mega-motors who power-loaded their boats onto waiting trailers. The result was a scour hole and a sharp drop-off from the cement that caused trailers to get stuck. Power-loading is illegal and subject to fine. If you must use your motor for trailering, tilt it up so that the thrust is not directed at the lake bed. We will try one more time to fix the landing. But it is up to you to not only load properly but also advise others to do so. Or we will all live with the consequences.

Best wishes for a good winter. Come back refreshed and ready to enjoy the lake while contributing your time and talents to the preservation of our great resource.

John Ney

EWM Update

John Ney, Chairman, Milfoil Committee

The coming of autumn signals the annual truce in our battles with Eurasian watermilfoil. How goes the Weed War? In most respects, 2013 was a good year for our side. Diver surveys to determine the distribution of EWM revealed that the original pioneer bed near the western shore of the southern basin of Big Gilmore (BG) is gone – all 200 feet of it. It appears that commercial herbicide treatment of this bed in past years was ultimately successful.

However, two small beds totaling 0.2 acres were discovered in lower BG, one on the shallow offshore bar in the southwest segment and the second near the south shoreline. Both were treated with 2,4 D by a commercial applicator in July. And EWM continues to flourish in Little Gilmore (LG), although not in concentrated beds. Rather, it is interspersed with native vegetation along the eastern and northern sides of LG, with the biggest concentration near the culvert. The scattered distribution of EWM in LG makes it more amenable to spot treatment than large-scale commercial application. Fortunately for us, Russ Robinson earned his pesticide applicator license (no small feat) and put it to work targeting EWM plants, particularly in LG. As some plants wilted, others cropped up, but the Weed War in Little Gilmore is at least a stalemate.

Thanks to the DNR and our own dedicated EWM funds from your contributions, we have sufficient money for the Weed Wars through at least 2017, even if we paid for treatment of 5 acres/year. In 2013, we budgeted \$4,200 for EWM but spent only \$1,600. Obviously, commercial herbicide treatment is the biggest expense and its cost is a function of EWM acreage, which still could expand rapidly as has happened in other lakes.

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) boat inspection program at our landing completed its seventh year. In 2013, it was funded by a DNR grant to the Town of Minong Lake Committee to inspect a total of ten lakes in the township. No EWM was found on any boat in the 2700 hours of inspection, which included 360 hours at our landing. However, the CBCW project did not include the Minong Flowage because of the drawdown. The Flowage has had expansive beds of EWM and is thus a potential source of export to other local waters. The Minong Town Lakes Committee intends to apply for another town-wide grant next year that will include the refilled Minong Flowage.

As for other aquatic invasive species, for sure we now have Chinese mystery snails. The negative impacts of these large snails are unknown, but they are reportedly quite tasty. (Look for the recipe for escargot in the GLA Spring newsletter.) Could escargot feeds someday replace the traditional Friday fish fries? Stay tuned.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

By Amy Wandel and Fran McCloskey

The GLA fund raising committee has some exciting and ambitious plans for the coming year. This committee will try to raise an additional \$2,000 to support the GLA Board's plan for a walleye stocking program for our lake. There are three ways we plan to reach our goal. First, we will be selling more advertising spots for the GLA Spring Newsletter insert. Second, we are planning a GLA rummage sale that will occur on a weekend in July 2014. Third, we ask that anyone interested in contributing to this worthy cause send a donation to the GLA. (Please indicate your donation is for the "stocking program".) If you know of a business that we should contact for placing an advertisement or would like to participate in the rummage sale by donating goods or volunteering your time, please contact Fran McCloskey fran@fa-LLC.com or Amy Wandel at aimers169@gmail.com. We are grateful for your support of our beautiful lake and we'll see you in the Spring!

WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY COMMITTEE

By Bill Huelsman

The Water Quality and Quantity Committee reported to the Gilmore Lake Association Board of Directors at their meeting on October 5th relative to the committees attempt to address periodic high water events on the lake during the summer season. The committee considered several possible solutions, talked with various experts and engineers, and met with officials of the Wisconsin DNR. Through all of these discussions it became apparent that there may be no feasible solution to the problem. Much of the discussion centered on construction of a backflow structure that would prevent Totogatic River from flowing into the lake during minor flooding events on the river. Although such a structure is feasible from a construction standpoint, it appears that the permitting, land access and funding problems are insurmountable.

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Water Quality & Quantity Committee

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The lake association board has recommended that we keep the committee intact, review any new proposals that surface and take the matter up again at the October 2014 lake association board meeting.

I would like to thank everyone for what has been a significant effort. It is unfortunate that a feasible solution is not available to us at this time.

BREAKING POINT

By Barb Robinson

This Pollyanna has reached her breaking point! On October 8, Russ and I went over to empty weeks of accumulated garbage at the boat ramp. It filled a construction garbage bag! Sitting alongside the garbage can was a large, lidded bucket marked fish guts that apparently we were also to remove! (Did you know that the DNR prefers that you discard the fish guts in the lake?).

The garbage can was placed at the boat ramp as a courtesy. When Amy was our boat inspector she voluntarily removed the garbage as I have. In one of my Upnorth Updates I asked members to check the garbage can on their way to the dump and take any accumulated garbage to the dump along with their trash. Apparently no one did. Since no one else seems to want to step up to take on garbage detail **the garbage can will no longer be available**. If the boat ramp looks like a dump site next year, so be it. The ramp belongs to the Town of Minong. Come to a town board meeting and demand they provide garbage detail. I have asked and gotten nowhere with them. Maybe if enough of you sign a petition the town board will act.

MINONG TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE

By Laurie Johnson, Chairperson

The MTLC is closing the 2013 summer season with two major project accomplishments, while commencing plans for 2014. One project was providing paid monitors for almost 3000 total hours at landings on 10 area lakes. The monitors were trained in the DNR CBCW program, and scheduled by the program coordinator, Amy Wandel. Goals were to increase public awareness and education about the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and the importance of keeping lakes healthy. All data collected at the landings was entered into the DNR database, and no invasive plants were identified entering or leaving the lakes. A combination of a DNR grant, donations, volunteer time, and coordination through the Minong Town Board made the project

possible, and plans are for to repeat the project in 2014.

The other major accomplishment was the creation of a web site to provide information about the MTLC, the Minong area lakes, projects, and resources for improving shorelines and lake quality. Russ Robinson developed this colorful site: www.MinongLakes.org

For 2014, the Town Lakes Fair returns! It will be Sat., July 26, 2014, at the Town Hall. The focus will be preservation and restoration of the assets provided by Minong Lakes. There will be presentations, displays, and kids activities all day, along with a 50-50 raffle and free lunch. This Fair has proven to be very successful after being held in 2009 and 2011.

GLA BOARD APPROVES DONATION

At the May 2013 GLA Board meeting Barb Robinson addressed board on behalf of Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA). One of the projects of her organization is the Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) program which funds elementary school students to attend a day-long environmental experience at Hunt Hill in southern Washburn County. Originally funded by a DNR grant, the program now is funded by donations from area organizations such as GLA. The GLA board unanimously approved a donation of \$100 which covers the cost of roughly 10 Northwoods students for 2014..

MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATIONS

By Barb Robinson

As many of have said over the summer, "this was a strange year". We finished our membership total with 104 paid members. Once again we had very good contributions that matched what we took in from paid memberships.

In mid-summer, after the Annual meeting, I sent out letters to people who had, in previously years, paid their dues but hadn't as of the Annual Meeting. I had a good response with most saying that they thought they had paid them at the start of summer. There are still a handful of previously faithful members who did not pay this year. I think because they didn't use the lake that much this year, if at all, it was a matter of "out of sight, out of mind". I have a small handful of people who paid for two years, through 2014.

Other than the early tantrum from Mother Nature there was very little need for Up North Up Dates and that may have played a role as well. I still get very positive feedback from people on those updates. In the beginning of summer I do like to send out an Up Date to remind people about permits etc.



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 2014 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 \$ _____