



LAKE SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Gilmore Lake Association

FALL 2009

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NEW CHALLENGE EMERGES!

By President, Bill Doeden

We hope your summer at the lake was filled with great memories of time spent with family and friends. During one of my family's early visits to Gilmore Lake, I was so struck by its beauty that I tried, somewhat ineptly, to capture my feelings in words. The last line of that poem read "cherished moments trapped in time live forever in our minds". Our lake and those special times are no less cherished today than they were those many years ago. Unfortunately, those cherished moments at the lake are at risk. This summer we received an unwelcome jolt of reality when the DNR confirmed the presence of EWM in our lake. In anticipation of such an occurrence we did have in place a rapid response plan which enabled us to immediately take action to try and mitigate this threat (see John Ney's summary). We should all extend a special thanks to the members of the EWM Committee for their above and beyond efforts during this time. We now face two significant challenges 1) keeping the EWM that's now present from spreading to other parts of our lake and to other lakes and 2) preventing more EWM from getting in.

You might ask yourself, with all of the effort that's been devoted to EWM, how could it have gotten into our lake? Perhaps this is best answered by the following example. Late this summer, a visitor to the lake launched a boat at a time when inspections weren't being done. (We can only afford to cover the landing about a third of the time.) The trailer for that boat was later observed to have EWM on it. Any fragments from this trailer that entered our lake could become the next outbreak. It only takes one contaminated trailer, one contaminated bilge, one person who doesn't share our interest in protecting our lake to negatively impact our lake and your investment.

We all need to play a role in attacking this problem. So what can you do in 2010?

- **Educate** your visitors or renters to inspect, drain, and clean their boats/trailers just as you do.
- **Join!** If you're not a member, please **join** the lake association. Your \$25 annual dues are needed.
- **Volunteer** to do boat inspections. We can only cover weekends and holidays with current funding.
- **Donate** money to the EWM fund or items to next year's fundraising garage sale.

It is important to thank our members, committee members and volunteers for their ongoing support without which we could never hope to slow the advance of EWM.

Have a healthy and safe winter season. We look forward to seeing you next year.

***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.*

EWM Invades Gilmore Lake!

John Ney, Chairman of Milfoil Committee

As reported to you in a special mailing, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) has invaded Gilmore Lake, despite our best efforts at boat inspection and education over the past three years. Russ Robinson discovered a suspect fragment near his dock on the west shore August 11. Fortunately, the Milfoil Committee (Russ, Burt King, Bill Doeden, Ron Tracy, and myself) had anticipated this dreaded event. We immediately implemented the Rapid Response plan prepared by Bill. Burt took the suspect plant to the WDNR in Spooner the next day. The DNR did indeed respond rapidly, beginning with a site visit on August 13. More samples were taken for expert identification. Further monitoring by Burt and Russ on August 18 confirmed that EWM was present in mixed stands of vegetation parallel to the west shore, in the southwestern portion of the lake, in an area approximately 200 ft long by 75 ft. wide at a depth of 4 to 12 ft.. Burt and Russ got township approval to mark the boundaries of the stand with EWM buoys to keep boaters away. The Milfoil Committee met with Pamela Toshner, WDNR lake management coordinator, on August 20 to develop an Early Detection, Rapid Response grant application. I filed that application August 29, and Russ filed an application for chemical treatment at the same time.

The WDNR approved the Rapid Response grant September 9, and the permit about the same time. This grant provides \$20,000 (to be matched with \$8,600 in cash and volunteer labor by the GLA) over three years for monitoring, treatment as needed, and boat inspections. Special thanks to Pamela for facilitating this grant in record time. The Gilmore Lake Association immediately contracted with an aquatic plant specialist and a chemical applicator, both of whom have had extensive experience with EWM in our region,

On September 19th Matt Berg of Endangered Resource Services conducted a systematic sampling of the whole lake explicitly to look for EWM. He took approximately 500 samples following WDNR point-intercept methodology and found **no** additional EWM. The next day, Matt conducted a dive to identify the boundaries of the EWM stand and provide GPS coordinates for the chemical applicator. He estimated the stand to be about 1.5 years of age

On September 26, Dale Dressel of Northern Aquatic Services applied granular 2,4- D, an approved herbicide for treating EWM, to an area somewhat larger than the defined limits of the stand. EWM is more sensitive to it than are most native aquatic plants. It is also commonly used by homeowners and has been determined to be harmless to fish, wildlife and humans when used as directed. As required, signs were posted noting the application. These services totaled about \$4,000.

On October 2, the WDNR notified the GLA that our application for a 2010 boat inspection, monitoring, and education grant had also been approved. This will add \$3,900 to be matched by \$2,140 in cash and labor by the GLA and will cover the costs of the 2010 boat inspection program.

What happens next? Our goal is to prevent the further spread of EWM in Gilmore Lake while reducing our established stand to the extent possible. Complete eradication is unlikely. Over the next three years the GLA will conduct an intense program of monitoring for EWM and treatment as necessary.. We will also continue the boat inspection and education program. At first glance, it might seem useless to inspect boats when EWM is already present in our lake. However, infested boats and trailers have the potential to spread EWM as well as other invasives throughout the lake. The area near the landing and culvert is particularly vulnerable. Discovery of EWM here could curtail the use of both. Continuing boat inspections is also being a good neighbor by helping to slow the spread of EWM to other waters. And the threat is real. This summer Jim Hoyt, our boat inspector, intercepted two incoming boats carrying viable EWM. [Note: it is now against Wisconsin law to transport any aquatic vegetation on boats and trailers traveling public roads.]

We face many uncertainties in our Weed War, mostly contingent on how well we can contain EWM in place. This in turn will dictate total costs. What is certain is that our Association needs your support – in cash and/or volunteer effort over the next three years and beyond. The WDNR has generously funded the beginning of our campaign, but it will take all of us to make it a long-term success.

TOWN OF MINONG LAKES COMMITTEE

At the Gilmore Lakes Association Annual Meeting Russ Robinson and John Ney gave a brief report of what is the Town of Minong Lakes Committee (TMCL) and what is their purpose. It's purpose is to act as an advocate for the lakes that fall within the Town of Minong. The members regularly attend town board meetings and bring attention to issues concerning the lakes and the need of the board to help protect the natural resources of the area.

The first project was the Town of Minong Lakes Fair which was held on July 25, 2009 at the Minong Town Hall. It included presentations by various speakers from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the University of Wisconsin Extension and Loon Watch.

There were children's activities too. The TMCL also provided a free lunch. An educational grant from WDNR was the primary financial backing for the Fair. Many local businesses and churches also donated money or items for the Fair. There were also several local businesses that set up display spaces. The Committee were hoping for 400-500 people to attend. When all was counted it turned out that nearly 1000 people attended the Fair! Several people from Gilmore Lake Association donated their time from helping to set up, tear down, help serve the lunch, man the children's activities and sell raffle tickets. It appeared that everyone had a great time including our volunteers! A **BIG THANK** you to all who participated either as a volunteer or as an attendee.



Tom Bergemann and Fran Bogner Selling Raffle Tickets

MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

By Barb Robinson

On the date of the GLA Annual Meeting in June I reported that we had 72 paid members compared to 42 for the same period last year. By the end of last year we had 82 paid members for the year 2008. Tom Bergemann, Fran Bogner and I made it our goal last year to contact as many people as possible to increase our membership numbers. Last Fall the GLA board approved the lake logo which the membership committee used as part of their drive. It proved to be one of the best motivators that we've used! Including the logo we used a multi-faceted approach. We used emails ("we miss you" for example), other members giving us information on new owners on the lake, going door-to-door and Fran actually writing notes to people he knew. What this all translated to was that we now have **93 paid members for the year 2009!** In January the membership drive will start again. We have logos left over and will once again include a **free logo** with the Spring Newsletter **if** your membership is paid prior to the Spring Newsletter printing. If you would like extra logos they are \$2 each.

Something we had not considered were families who have grown children using a property. Three families on the lake have dual memberships – each property gets one vote but the other paid members are non-voting members. They receive many of the benefits of the voting members such as a copy of the newsletter sent directly to them, updates via emails on lake activities and lake decals. If anyone in your family wishes to receive a copy of the newsletter along with email updates on lake activities you might consider having them become non-voting members. Contact Barb Robinson for more information. ribald@centurytel.net or 715-466-4152. We hope everyone has a safe winter. We look forward to seeing you again this Spring/Summer.

THE RIVER IS WILD!

On July 10, 2009 Governor Jim Doyle signed into law a bill to protect, improve and preserve the Totogatic River by designating it as a Wisconsin Wild River. The signing ceremony took place at the Totogatic County Park sponsored by Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA) who was a primary force in working towards this designation. Besides Governor Doyle, Rep. Nick Milroy and Sen. Bob Jauch also attended the signing. Sen. Jauch presented the Senate Bill and Rep. Milroy presented the Assembly version of the bill. The river is very much a part of our town. It provides recreation to the area: fishing, swimming and boating. This bill will help preserve its natural state, superb water quality, limited development and diverse aquatic life for generations to come. Several people from Gilmore Lake Association also attended the ceremonies. Their presence was much appreciated, showing our elected officials that we take our natural resources very seriously.

Also signed into law that day was the Slow-No-Wake bill which establishes slow-no-wake restrictions on all motecraft, other than personal watercraft, when operating within 100 feet of a shoreline. More information on this bill will appear in the Spring 2010 GLA newsletter.

CAN ALL THAT STUFF YOU NO LONGER USE HELP STOP EWM? YOU BET IT CAN!!

In an effort to supplement the funds we need for Eurasian Water Milfoil control and prevention, the GLA Board of Directors has established a fund raising committee. It's chairperson is Amy Pfeifer. The initial projects for next year include making advertising space available in our newsletter and a garage sale of donated items. The garage sale will be held at the Minong Town Hall next July 3rd. Please begin scouring your basement, garage and old sock drawers for those quality items (no large appliances, TV's or tires) you no longer need but would be willing to donate to help save our lake. More specifics on both activities will be available early next year. If you have time to volunteer, have any questions on donating items or need additional information, please contact Amy Pfeifer at: aimers169@gmail.com. Thanks.

GLA ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC

This year's Annual Meeting/Picnic was held on June 27, 2009 at the Minong Town Hall. There was a great turnout. It was estimated that about 60 people attended the event. President Bill Doeden welcomed everyone. Russ Robinson read the Minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting which were approved. The Treasurer's report was then read. It was also approved by the members.

The Members welcomed Bill Huelsman as a new Director on the board. He is filling the remaining time left of Burt King's term. The Committee Reports followed and were met with much discussion. For more information about each of the committees please look under each of their headings for update.

Russ Robinson and John Ney gave a brief explanation of the Minong Town Lakes Committee and its role both for Gilmore Lake and the Town of Minong. Members were encouraged to attend the Fair that the Lakes Committee was putting on in July

The Open Floor Discussion had great feedback about the use of emails to let people know what is happening on the lake when they aren't up here.

Two positions on the GLA Board of Directors were seeing re-election: Jim Holmes and John Ney. Both were unanimously re-elected to their positions.

Eurasian Watermilfoil Depresses Property Values

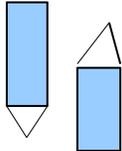
Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is an undesirable addition to any lake for its readily observable impacts: native vegetation is choked out, sport fisheries become impaired, swimming and boating are degraded. And no one can deny that a lake surface dominated by mats of EWM is unappealing. But does EWM also have an economic impact on lake shore property owners?

Recent research by UW-Madison economists addressed that question. As David Lewis and Kathryn Anderson reported in the Spring 2009 issue of *The Lake Connection* (newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes), they focused on sales of lake shore property in Vilas County between 1997 and 2006. In their analysis of 1,800 sales, they compared prices on: 1) lakes with vs. without EWM; and 2) EWM lakes before vs. after EWM was discovered. The researchers found that presence of EWM reduced lake shore property values an average of **8 percent** (\$30,000 in this study).

The article did not distinguish between lakes dominated by EWM from those in which it was only a minor nuisance (as hopefully will be the case on Gilmore Lake). However, it is clear that Eurasian watermilfoil can depress lake shore property values. And that money spent on its prevention and control is a sound financial investment.

BOATER SAFETY

This is a new section to the newsletter. Fun and safety on the water go hand-in-hand. It's easy to forget some of the basics which help make the lake experience safe and fun for everyone. As a reminder there are materials published through the DNR and other boating publications that provide easy to read safety information.



What to do when two motorboats approach each other?

When 2 motorboats are approaching each other head-on or nearly so as to involve risk of collision, each boat shall **bear to the right**. (This is the same as two cars on a highway in the U.S.)

Personal Flotation Devices:

It is unlawful to operate a PWC unless each person is **wearing** a type I, II, III or type V personal flotation device.

PWC'S

1. No person may operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise. **2.** There is no towing of persons engaged in water skiing aquaplaning or similar activities unless the PWC is designed to safely seat **at least 3 people**. Remember that one seat is for the operator, one is for the spotter and the third seat is in case it's necessary to transport the person being towed.

*Taken from Wisconsin Boating Regulations
PUBL-LE-301 2007*

When you are approaching another boat on Gilmore Lake keep safety in mind. Travel at a speed that should you need to act quickly you can safely do so without injuring yourself or others. Starting this Spring with the Fish Opener weekend, all boats being launched on Gilmore Lake when our inspector is present will be offered a copy of the Wisconsin Boating Regulation handbook. Hopefully this handbook will be kept with the boat for **all operators to periodically review**.

TAX STATUS FOR GLA

Dick Johnson has been working on the project to make Gilmore Lake Association a tax-exempt organization. This would provide a tax "right off" on donations to the organization. According to Dick, GLA will be filing their application along with the \$300 application fee prior to the end of the year. If you have any questions you can contact Dick at: silverwing83@gmail.com .

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 2010 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 \$ _____



P.O. Box 188
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TO: