



LAKE SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Gilmore Lake Association
Spring 2010

www.gilmorelakeassociation.com

Board Members:

Officers:

President:

Bill Doeden
wgdoeden@comcast.net

Vice President:

John Ney
jney@vt.edu

Secretary/Treasurer:

Russ Robinson
russrobinson@centurytel.net

Directors:

Tom Bergemann
bergemannt@gmail.com

Jim Holmes
jrhomes1931@charter.net

Bill Huelsman
Bill@bergmanagement.com

Dick Johnson
silverwing83@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

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

A SUMMER OF FUN, A SUMMER OF CHALLENGES

Winter's done and once again we begin to prepare for summer at the lake. This is a time filled with anticipation, the infectious excitement of kids and this year, significant challenges. For now, we focus on things like checking the motor, trying to remember where we put the cabin key or hoping the plow didn't completely remove our driveway. Over the next month, we'll address these and other items as we prepare for the start of the season. Soon, these preparations will be behind us and we'll lose ourselves in the quiet, the laughter and the good times on Gilmore Lake.

This year, preparations for time at the lake started a bit earlier for our Board and Committee members. As you'll learn in this newsletter and at the June 26th members' meeting, this winter was a busy and productive one. An application for tax exempt status, revision of our by-laws, fundraising, checking (*through the ice*) the status of last year's EWM treatment, trying to re-focus EWM prevention efforts on "containment" and updates to the kiosk are just some of the activities that were undertaken this winter. Thanks to our Board members and Committee members for devoting their time this winter to address the needs of our lake.

With the discovery of EWM last year, it's important that our preparations also include encouraging our families, our visitors and our renters to help keep EWM from spreading and to also prevent additional EWM from entering.

To that end, please:

Clean, inspect and drain your boats. This will help reduce the risk of re-infesting our lake.

Avoid the area marked with buoys. This will prevent any viable EWM from spreading throughout the lake.

Volunteer to do some boat inspections. This will increase the time devoted to preventing re-infestation.

Donate some items to the GLA garage sale. This will help fund long term efforts to control the EWM infestation.

Support our ad patrons. Their donations are an important supplement to our EWM prevention/control funding.

Lastly, please join me in thanking those who volunteered last year and a special thanks to those who, year after year, organize the kitchen and picnic portion of our annual meeting.

Have a great, safe and fun time at the lake. Be water wise and boat courteous. Volunteer a few hours. Wave as you go by.

Bill Doeden
President

***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.*

POLAR BEARS AND WISCONSIN TREES

By Kathy Bartilson, DNR

Did you know that planting trees in Wisconsin could help polar bears? The Wisconsin DNR has teamed up with Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization, for a 10-year project to encourage Wisconsinites to plant and care for trees on their land and in their communities. Though it might not seem obvious at first, planting trees in Wisconsin helps conserve polar bear habitat in the arctic. Trees act as "carbon sinks" and absorb carbon out of the air and convert it into plant material. Trees sequester this carbon in roots, trunks, stems and leaves while they grow, and in wood products after they are harvested. That means planting trees, whether in a rural or an urban setting, helps reduce carbon in the atmosphere. Less carbon in the atmosphere means better conditions to retain Arctic ice longer and to improve polar bear habitat and survival. For more information about this project visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/PolarBear/> . To learn more about Polar Bears International's conservation through research and education projects go to: <http://polarbearsinternational.org/> .



At the lakeshore, replanting shoreline buffers also benefits wildlife, habitat, aesthetics, and water quality. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources sells nursery stock for reforestation purposes including **Shoreland Restoration Packets**. Packets contain a mix of 100 conifers and hardwoods and 200 shrubs. A number of other packets which focus on windbreaks, savannah creation, or developing habitat for songbirds and turkey also are available. To learn more or to place an order visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/Nursery/> . Packet orders are accepted through lifting season (April or May in the north) or until sold out. To check on availability of packets after April 1, contact the Hayward Nursery at 715-634-2717.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

By Barb Robinson

This past year was very active legislatively, especially for environmental issues. The following is a very brief summary of those bills that affect Gilmore Lake Residents directly. For more information on these or any other legislation log on to: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us> or you can look on the Gilmore Lake Association website under Legislative Matters: www.gilmorelakeassociation.com.

The most important one which affects all of us the "Slow-

No Wake Bill" which restricts the operation of motorboats at slow-no wake speeds within 100 feet of the shoreline. Water skiers should take particular note because pickup and drop areas for water skiers must be 100 feet from shore unless a special permit for a buoyed area is obtained from the DNR. This also affects how we proceed through the narrow areas such as the channel between the first lake and the second lake, the area in the bay around the boat launch and the passage to Little Gilmore. PWC's are under stricter regulations which can be found in the "Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities".

Act 9 restricts the use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorous. This law took effect April 1, 2010. the only fertilizer you will be able to purchase in Wisconsin will have a middle number of 0 (zero).

NR115, an administrative rule went into effect February 1, 2010 and imposes minimum standards on lakeshore properties like setbacks, what you can do with non-conforming structures, impervious surfaces and mitigation. More to come on this one.

Also, the **Smoking Ban** in all public facilities from restaurants, to bars, to anywhere public indoors goes in to effect July 1, 2010. This should be interesting to see how this shakes out. There has been a lot of speculation up here as to how that will affect local business.

Regarding our town board it's been more of a struggle. Lake residents in the Town of Minong have been trying to get the board to understand that most of their road funding comes from the lake properties. In November the town lake residents did get in a line item for \$10,000 in the budget for lake issues, thanks in part to Tony Tubbs who just won re-election to the town board. That is about 1% of the town's budget when the lake residents contribute about 83% to the town's budget. The \$10,000 can be used with matching grant money for, example, improving the boat ramps owned by the town or to survey those lakes in the town which have not been monitored for AIS. The only stipulation was that the money had to be available to all lakes in the town. It's going to be a long, slow learning curve for them. For more information on the town budget go to the GLA website to see the two pie diagrams that Russ has posted on it www.gilmorelakeassociation.com

The Town of Minong hiring their own police officer. There was much discussion about the amount of money already paid into the County Sheriff's department for police protection which we aren't getting and that we should be pushing the Sheriff's Department for the service we're already paying for. If you are a resident of the Minong area you can express your concern about the adequacy of police protection by voting in the fall election.

EWM INVASION – YEAR 2

By John Ney, Chairman of Milfoil Committee

As reported in the Fall newsletter, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was discovered in Gilmore Lake last August. Events moved quickly after the discovery. The WDNR gave us an Early Detection, Rapid Response grant (\$20,000 over three years, matched by \$8,600 in cash and volunteer effort). We used some of that money to map the extent of EWM and then had it treated with the herbicide 2,4D in September. Matt Berg of Endangered Resource Services mapped the boundaries of the pioneer stand of EWM off the south shore (marked by buoys). Matt also did a whole-lake survey for additional EWM, finding none. Dale Dressel of Northern Aquatic Services then treated the ~2 acre stand. Total cost of these services was \$3,600.

Once established, it is almost impossible to completely eradicate EWM. However, the extent and impact of EWM can be controlled through a diligent program of survey, identification, and treatment. For 2010, Matt Berg will dive the pioneer site in May to determine if more treatment is warranted: hand pulling by trained divers or herbicide. Matt will also conduct a meandering survey in shallow areas to scout for other EWM, and teach our monitors this survey technique.

To be eligible for future DNR grants to control EWM, Gilmore Lake must have an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP). This requires, among other things, a point-intercept sampling of the entire lake (~500 sites). At each, specimens of vegetation are removed, preserved, and cataloged to provide a thorough description of our aquatic plants (more than 50 species!) and their distribution, Matt will do this in August, when weed growth is fully developed. Total cost of our 2010 contract with Endangered Resource Services is \$3,750. If chemical treatment is necessary, the total costs could easily double.

We were also successful in receiving a second DNR grant for education and boat inspection for 2010 (\$3,900 matched by \$2,140 in cash and labor). The Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat inspection will continue as it has since 2007. Although we now have a stand of EWM, boat and trailer inspection can thwart further spread, particularly near the landing and culvert. Inspection of boats and trailers leaving the lake will also help prevent the spread of EWM to other waters. In this spirit, the Nancy Lake Association continues to conduct boat inspections despite having EWM for many years. So expect to see Jim Hoyt again at the landing, and check out the eye-catching new signage by Burt King.

We are in a war with EWM with no end in site. The

documented impacts of EWM are many, from impairment of fishing, boating, and swimming to reduction in property values of as much as 10%. The good news is that we got an early start to control the invasion. But long-term success will depend on the sustained contributions – in money and/or effort – of all of us. As Bill Doeden mentioned in his President's letter, please avoid boat travel in the bouy-marked area in the SW part of our lake.

MINONG TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE

By Russ Robinson, Chairman

The Minong Town Lakes Committee's (MTLC) first meeting in 2010 is scheduled for May 4th at the Town Hall at 2pm. These are open meetings to all town property owners.

During the winter (off-season) we managed to get the Town Board to budget up to \$10,000 in matching funds for Minong Town Lakes activities. We are currently planning on conducting a Pontoon Education Seminar on one of the area lakes this summer. We may also try to get some improvement to area boat ramps and do some lake survey work for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on lakes that have not been monitored in recent years.

For additional information contact Russ Robinson at russrobinson@centurytel.net or look for future updates on www.gilmorelakeassociation.com

Boater Safety

Yes or No: You're going out to fish by yourself in your little row boat. It's a beautiful day, the water is quiet and the fish are biting. Inland Water Rules state that you have to provide a "lookout" on your boat. Does that apply to you since you are not under mechanical power and you are the only person in the boat?

The answer is "YES". As the only person on board you function as captain, helmsman and lookout. Should a collision or some other type of accident occur that could have been prevented by having a lookout you could share in the responsibility of the accident.

True or False: Every person on board a personal watercraft (PWC) must WEAR a USCG-approved Type I, II, III OR V PFD.

The answer is "TRUE".

For more information on boating laws in the State of Wisconsin contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at 888-936-7463 or dnr.wi.gov

UP NORTH

By Barb Robinson

We have two new members on our lake. Please give a warm welcome to Joe and Elizabeth Julin who purchased the old Koester property on Little Gilmore. Also please give a warm welcome to Jerry and Stephanie Devaney who purchased the vacant parcel next to the Vanderveldes on the southern end of the big lake. Both families have become members of the Gilmore Lake Association.

Amy Pfeifer asked me to remind you that we're still not out of the clear as far as rogue bears. The DNR asks that you dispose of your garbage responsibly, use caution when feeding your pets outside and don't feed the birds and the hummers after April (I know. That's a tough one).

I've mentioned this a couple of times. Just because you've had rain at you home, we may not have had rain here. This part of Wisconsin – the northeast corner of Washburn County – is in a severe drought; it's drier here than any other part of Wisconsin. Nothing has leafed out yet so it's like a tinderbox. Burning permits have been cancelled and camp fires are discouraged. You'll remember that a couple of years ago it was also very dry and the county closed the Wild River trail and no charcoal cooking or outdoor smoking was allowed.

When things green up and burning is permitted you still need a burn permit which you can get at the local DNR station in Minong. The Minong Ranger Station telephone number is: 715-466-2022. The burning permits are free and for the entire year.

Calendar of Events for 2010

Spring Cleanup	May 15, 9am @Town Hall
GLA Board of Director's Meeting	April 30
GLA Annual Meeting/Picnic	June 26 @ Town Hall
GLA Garage Sale	July 3 @ Town Hall
GLA Boat Parade	July 4 – staging at boat launch

WASHBURN COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION

By Barb Robinson, Director

In 2009 Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA) along with Long Lake Preservation Association (LLPA) and Hunt Hill Audubon Center helped to fund and carry out a project that provides field experiences for area elementary school students. This Spring additional field trips are planned including Northwoods School. This project is funded by a pair of grants from the Department of Natural Resources Lake Education program and brings children to Hunt Hill for day-long explorations of our water resources and the importance of protecting those resources. Title Y.E.S. For Youth Environmental Stewardship, the project includes work with water chemistry, invasive species, pond ecology and similar topics. The grants cover the purchase of equipment, compensate instructors and pay for transportation costs to Hunt Hill.

Because of the initial success of the project, the three collaborating groups have submitted a new proposal to the DNR to extend the program for another year. For more information, contact Fred Blake at 715-469-3228 or blakelake@centurytel.net.

GLA FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE

JULY 3, 2010

9:00am – 3:00pm (no pre-sales)

Minong Town Hall

The Gilmore Lake Association's Fundraising Committee is planning a garage sale, rain or shine, on Saturday July 3rd at the town hall. This event is to help raise funds to support our long-term Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) control and prevention efforts. Please consider donating any quality items that you no longer want or need to this cause. No large appliances, tires or other large items can be accepted without the committee's approval. Donated items can be dropped off between June 26th and July 1st. Drop-off times and locations will be identified on our website (www.gilmorelakeassociation.com). Arrangements can also be made for earlier drop-offs. We are also in need of many volunteers (18-24) to help with setup, pricing, signs, sales, tear down etc. So join the fun and your neighbors in protecting our lake by volunteering a few hours of your time. Please contact Amy Pfeifer at 715-466-4515 or aimers169@gmail.com to volunteer or to arrange to drop off your donated items.

(Answer to Mystery Fish: Carp caught off Fran Bogner's pier).

PREVENT, DETECT, RESPOND. NOW WHAT?

By Bill Doeden

When we formed the EWM Committee in 2006, we established a plan to try to prevent EWM from entering the lake, to detect and rapidly respond to control it if it did get in. Obviously with last year's discovery we've had to execute all stages of the plan. While we still need to control the existing infestation and at the same time prevent any new introduction of EWM into the lake, we can't help but wonder if there's more we can do.

It's become clear that with 12 EWM contaminated lakes within 25 miles and 3 within 5 miles of our lake, we can't rely on part time boat inspections and education alone to reduce our risk of re-infestation. Any AIS contaminated lake that boats use before coming to our lake is a potential source of re-contamination. So how do we address this? One way to think about it is by way of an analogy. Any lake infested with an aquatic invasive specie (AIS) such as EWM is much like an individual with a serious communicable disease. If you're going to prevent the spread of the disease you need to quarantine the individual. Similarly, if a lake is contaminated with EWM, the only way to keep it from spreading to other lakes is by ensuring that the EWM can't leave the contaminated lake. In other words, contain it. Scientists have concluded that "containment" of AIS in contaminated lakes is the only way to effectively reduce the spread of AIS.

For the last several months discussions and meetings have taken place with regional lake leaders and the WDNR to try to re-focus AIS prevention to include an emphasis on containment. While there is strong support on the part of regional lake leaders and the WDNR for development of a regional "containment" plan, progress is slow. Work is, however, continuing in an effort to bring about this essential change in the way AIS prevention is done. Stay tuned.

GILMORE LAKE ASSOCIATION TAX STATUS

By Dick Johnson

The Gilmore Lake Association has applied for and received Tax Exempt Status from the Internal Revenue Service. GLA qualified under section 501 (C) (3) of the revenue code which is for organizations that are "organized and operated for purposes that are beneficial to the public interest". We presented evidence that supported our claim that our organization is organized and operated for the purpose of preserving the natural resources of Gilmore Lake.

Benefits of non-profit status to GLA include the ability to utilize the lower postage rates available to non-profit organizations, an ability to avoid paying sales tax on some purchases, and improved standing when we apply for various grant-funding opportunities.

The primary benefit to the members and other contributors to GLA is the ability to deduct their membership dues and contributions as a charitable deduction on their federal income tax return. This status is retroactive to the actually filing which was October 2009.

As a 501 (C) (3) corporation, GLA will be required to file an "electronic post card" with the IRS each year. This is a quick and easy process that takes about 10 minutes to complete.

GLA BY-LAWS REVISION

By Bill Doeden

Every five years the Board of Directors is required to review and if needed revise our Association's by-laws. At our fall Board meeting we identified six areas in need of revision. We are currently in the process of making those changes. The GLA Board's recommended revisions will be on our website in mid May for your review. If you don't have internet capabilities, call Barb Robinson at 715-466-4152 for a copy of the revisions. Please look these over in advance of the June 26th members' meeting at which time you will be asked to vote on their adoption by our Association.

????Mystery Fish????

Last summer I received this picture from one of our residents on Gilmore Lake. What is the fish and where was it found? For the answer look on the fourth page at the bottom.



MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

By Barb Robinson

The membership drive last year brought in 93 members – the highest in the history of GLA. This year our goal is 100 paid members. We still have lake logos and will be including a logo with each membership paid by the date of the Annual Meeting and offering extras for sale. Logos can be picked up at the Annual Meeting on June 26th. Fran Bogner, Tom Bergemann, and I plan to use the multi-faceted approach we used last year which includes email contact, face-to-face contact, and word-of-mouth. Two new owners this past year were contacted, thanks to Kathy King at Masterjohn and they are now members. If you meet someone on the lake who is a property owner but not a member encourage them to get involved by becoming a member in the association, The membership committee also offered the non-voting membership to multiple families who use one property or who do not own property within one mile of the lake. These non-voting members receive all the other benefits of voting members including the email updates, the newsletters, and attendance at the annual meeting knowing that their contribution helps in the fight against AIS. If anyone in your family wishes to receive the newsletter or email updates they might consider becoming a non-voting member. For more information contact Barb Robinson at ribald@centurytel.net or 715-466-4152, Fran Bogner at happyrock@centurytel.net or 715-466-4477, or Tom Bergemann at bergemannt@gmail.com or 715-466-4757. Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing everyone this summer.

This past year the Membership/Newsletter Committee took on the task to keep you informed about what happens in the Town of Minong, whether at the board meetings or any other events that may be of interest to you through emails. Based on the positive response, the committee will continue with this service. If you have a new email address or yours has changed please let us know. Contact Barb at ribald@centurytel.net

WINTER PROJECTS

Last year Burt King went before the Town of Minong board with a proposal to add signage in the area of the Gilmore Lake boat ramp. The board approved it. Working with his wife, Kathy and Russ and Barb Robinson he came up with a design that sends a clear message, is attractive with a theme that reflects a northwoods feel and can be modified easily by the season. Burt and Barb will be changing up the kiosk information on a monthly basis which includes a

calendar of events and our website. Russ is donating a rough oak bench to the site so people can come and sit awhile. If you haven't seen it here is a picture.



This winter saw a lot of activity on the lake from the usual ice fishermen to cross country skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers. The lake is beautiful even in winter.



SUPPORT OUR AD PATRONS

By Bill Doeden

Last year the GLA Board established a Fundraising Committee to help raise funds to support our fight against Eurasian watermilfoil. The Committee drew up a list of potential opportunities and then selected a garage sale and ads in this newsletter as its initial undertakings. Over the winter the Committee, largely through the efforts of Amy Pfeifer (Chairperson) and Fran Bogner, delivered on the first of these by obtaining donations from local businesses for a page of ads in this newsletter. This added \$400 to our EWM fund. Great job Amy and Fran and a special thanks to these businesses for their support. Please provide them with your support.

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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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