

# Grindstone 'l'rumpeter

2013 A Gem of a Lake



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## President's Message

Dear Grindstone Lake Association Members and Friends,

After a record late ice-out we now have near record high water on our lake. A little easier on our boat props, but tough on some of our low lying docks. In any event, let the summer fun begin!

I want to extend a big thank you to all the board members and other volunteers who helped make this another great year for Grindstone.

Some of the accomplishments this past year include:

- \* A continuation of our Clean Boats/Clean Waters Inspection program at the Highway K boat landing.

- \* A third and final year of treatment for curly leaf pondweed that had infested Little Grindstone Lake connecting Grindstone with Lac Court Oreilles.

- \* Development and approval by the LCO Conservation Department and the GLA of a Grindstone Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan.

- \* Training of volunteers to conduct littoral zone monitoring, i.e. organized and regular checking of all portions of the lake for signs of aquatic invasive species.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP GRINDSTONE LAKE? VOLUNTEER!

In addition to becoming a board member, there are many opportunities to become more involved in the association. Please reach out to a board member, or complete the volunteer form at [www.grindstonelake.org](http://www.grindstonelake.org) and then click on VOLUNTEER. I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting and picnic on July 6<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,  
Dag Sohlberg

Publisher's Note:  
Congratulations to the  
Sohlberg's on the birth of their  
granddaughter Elliana Kathleen.

## GLA MEMBERS WANTED AND NEEDED

If you are reading this, you are likely already a Grindstone Lake Association Member. If you are not, please join! And encourage any neighbors who may not be members to join as well. Membership is not restricted to lakeshore owners. We encourage family members who enjoy our beautiful lake to join as well. Sign up on line or at our July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and picnic at the Bass Lake Township Hall.



## CABIN BURGLARY DETERRENCE

A deterrent doesn't stop crime; that's impossible, but it may prevent it from happening to you. A number of burglaries were reported this past winter of un-occupied Grindstone cabins.

It goes without saying that you should lock all locks, secure all access to your property through gates and windows, and install — and use — an alarm system.

Apart from those obvious precautions, a number of steps can burglarproof your property when you won't return for six or seven months.

For starters, consider hiring a caretaker to occupy your place while you are away, or join up with other owners in your area to pay someone to watch over all your houses. And be sure to give any year-round neighbors your home phone number and alert them if you are having work done on your place.

Take the time to make the property look lived in. Start by putting several of your interior lamps on timers. Use the kind that can be programmed to go on and off at various times, and equip lamps in two or three rooms so they are lit at different times. **And make arrangements to have your driveway snow plowed!** This not only makes your cabin look occupied, but gives access to emergency vehicles should there be a fire.

Outside, make sure that exterior lights are on motion sensors or even timers, and that they are mounted high enough so they can't be reached without a ladder. A thief usually won't put up a ladder because it is too conspicuous.

Turn down your phone so a long series of unanswered rings doesn't alert someone to the fact that you're not there. Or better yet, keep the answering machine on, with a message that says, "We can't get to the phone right now" rather than you are not home. And check the machine occasionally so it doesn't become full.

If some of your neighbors are year-round residents, ask them to check on your place occasionally so they can pick up door tags, phone books and whatever else that might be left at the door. And be sure that someone watching the place can contact you.

**FIRE SAFETY** A number of cabins and wonderful acreage were destroyed by wildfires in the Gordon area just north of Hayward before "green-up" this year. We can take steps to minimize the danger to our own lake properties:



Clear leaves and woody debris 30 feet away from your cabin. This also keeps wood ticks and mice away!

Clear leaves and pine needles your roof and gutters.

Trim adjacent trees.

## WISHING I WAS FISHING!

Bass fishing season opens on June 15<sup>th</sup>, but all other species are open to those of us with current Wisconsin fishing licenses.

There are regulations specific to Grindstone:

**Walleye** – no minimum length but cannot keep fish between 14"-18" and only one over 18" with a daily limit of 2 fish.

**Bass** – minimum length of 14" with a daily limit of 5.

**Pan fish** - no minimum length with a 25 bag limit.

**Muskie** – minimum length of 50" with a one fish limit. But hey, take a picture and practice catch and release. Rumor has it muskies over 48" were caught and released on Center Bar this past October.



Remember in the charity of your prayers, Rick Kramer of the Waterfront Restaurant. The Kramer family's fireworks show over Grindstone helped us all celebrate the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday for many years. Rick passed away at his home May 26, 2013

### Join Us For Our Annual Grindstone Lake Association Meeting & Picnic Bass Lake Town Hall, Saturday, July 6, 2013

Kristy Maki, Saywer County AIS Coordinator, will speak at the meeting about invasive species and Grindstone Lake. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. Picnic to follow at 11 a.m. Kids & Guests are welcome! Prize Drawings.



## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

In 2012, boatlanding inspectors in Wisconsin inspected 109,542 boats and contacted 231,779 boaters. We can expect even more inspections and contacts this year despite the late ice-out that kept boaters off northern lakes this opener. As noted elsewhere in this issue, you will probably meet our inspector, Rich Patrick, who will be working the Highway K landing Friday afternoons and from 7 AM until noon on Saturdays and Sundays, and all the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week.

Despite efforts by other lake associations and the Wisconsin DNR, AIS have infested numerous Wisconsin lakes, including our local Whitefish, Chippewa Flowage, Lake Hayward, Clear Lake, Radisson Flowage, Round Lake, Little Round, as well as Lac Court Oreilles. So the danger of AIS getting into Grindstone is real. Once an AIS gets established they cannot be eradicated, but they can be controlled with EPA approved chemicals. Your GLA board obtained a grant that funded the applications that have kept curly leaf pondweed from getting into Grindstone from Little Grindstone.

What can you do to keep Grindstone free of AIS? Ensure all weeds from your boat and trailer are removed prior to launching, drain your live well, and power wash your boat and trailer if you have been boating in a body of water infested with zebra mussels.

The most common AIS infesting Wisconsin and Minnesota lakes are: Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosetrife, and Zebra Mussels. Many thanks to GLA member Ann Berg has been instrumental in organizing volunteers and Kristy Maki from DNR who has done a great job of educating us.

**Regarding the LCO dredging - there is nothing new to report as no action has been taken by any of the parties involved. The issue might resurface after the spring water levels are revealed with the late ice off and spring rains.**

## Impacts of Artificial Light on our Lake, Pollution, Security and Safety

If you're looking for a "Tree Hugger" type "turn off all the lights" light pollution article this isn't it. However, I do believe in utilizing using all resources effectively and efficiently. The bottom line is humans need artificial light to function outdoors at night, but there are some concerns.

We all have taken a walk on the dock at night, listened to the loons and been overwhelmed by the thousands of stars in the sky. The longer we watch, the more we see as our night vision improves. This is something never seen in populated areas due to light pollution. The problem isn't the need for artificial light but it is the **surplus** of artificial light. The key word here is **surplus**. Surplus light is what causes light pollution, which is mainly misdirected, excessive, inefficient or unnecessary lighting.

Excessive night lighting from our lake properties can have negative impacts on aquatic life in Grindstone. Two main areas of concern are:

1. The disruption of fish foraging and their reproductive behavior.
2. The negative effect on zooplankton which play a huge role huge in the overall health of Grindstone. Zooplankton migrate to shallow waters at night to feed on algae and retreat to deeper waters during the day. If our artificial nighttime lighting is too strong, zooplankton may stop feeding on algae. The result can be excessive algae growth that eventually decomposes and causes an increase in bacterial activity. In extreme cases this can lead to oxygen depletion in the lake causing many species of invertebrates and fish to die by asphyxiation.

### Understanding Night Vision and an experiment you can try

The importance of human night vision is essential to better understand light pollution and artificial lighting needs. Overall, humans have night vision that is quite good but can easily be rendered ineffective by too much light. Every day we experience things that help and hinder our night vision. For example, why are your dash lights dimmable? They are designed to dim to match the intensity of the ambient light outside your car. At night keeping your dash lights as low as possible while still being able to read the gauges provides you with the best night vision possible. On the other hand, our night vision can be easily degraded when an oncoming car fails to dim its bright lights making it difficult to see anything but the approaching bright lights.

Here is a simple night vision experiment you can try that shows just how good, yet vulnerable our night vision is. Get a partner, one good flashlight and go outside under the moonlight to a dark area on your property. Turn off the flashlight to get your night vision working, which takes at least 20 minutes. You should be able to easily walk around without the aid of a flashlight and be able to see things on the ground with some detail and a lot of stars. Next, stand about ten feet apart and face each other. Have one person point the flashlight at the other's eyes and turn it on for 10 seconds. Then turn it off and ask them what they can see and if they can safely walk around (be nice and don't let them get hurt by walking into a tree). With their night vision temporarily disabled, they won't be able to see much let alone walk around comfortably. So what took 20 minutes to acquire can disappear in seconds.

Many professions use the understanding of night vision to their benefit. At night, pilots turn the cockpit lights as low as possible to improve their night vision. However, when flying around thunderstorms they purposely turn off their night vision by turning on all the cockpit lights to prevent temporary blindness from an unexpected lighting flash. Law enforcement also uses similar tricks.

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Address Label

## Summer Boat Inspections on Grindstone

With the growing concern over the spread of aquatic species to Wisconsin's inland lakes, many lake associations including our Grindstone Lake Association are looking for ways to get involved. Accordingly, we have hired a person who will perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species at the boat landing in the southwest corner of the lake near the cranberry bog. That person will also educate boaters on how and where these invasive species are most likely to 'hitch a ride' into lakes like Grindstone. We applied for and have received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources through the Clean Boats Waters program to fund this project. The grant received was \$3000. The G.L.A. will add \$1000 to this fund. The inspections will be conducted Memorial Day to Labor Day on Friday afternoons and Saturday and Sunday mornings, plus the weekends of the fishing opener and Musky Festival. Kristin Maki, the Sawyer County Aquatic and Invasive Species Coordinator, has been very helpful in the process and will arrange for the training of our inspector. Grindstone Lake is known by the DNR as being one of the finest, cleanest lakes in the state of Wisconsin, with exceptional clarity and quality of water. We certainly want to do all we can to keep it that way. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Boger at [drsteve@minnetonkadental.com](mailto:drsteve@minnetonkadental.com).



Inspector Rich Patrick.

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We have all seen a car pulled over at night with the officer's intense spotlight lighting up the vehicle from behind. This is not to help the driver find their license and registration. His spotlight serves two purposes. In case there is a "bad guy" in the vehicle, the officer can keep a good eye on their movements and it also ruins the "bad guy's" night vision so he can't see the officer. Oddly enough, night vision also plays a big role while living on Grindstone.

### How can proper lighting improve your property's security?

Many lakeshore owners like the added security that artificial light provides to their property. In the old days, people put up the biggest, brightest light to accomplish this task. They lit up not only their property, but also all their neighbors and the light could be seen from across the lake. Today, through better understanding night vision, this is actually a poor choice to protect your property.

When you're away, the only people that can monitor your property are your neighbors and maybe passing law enforcement. If you have an excessively bright light or one shining in all directions when they look at your property, their night vision is degraded and they can't see your property nearly as well as you would like. The solution is fairly simple and known as "CUTOFF FIXTURES." Whether the light is purchased, homemade or modified, the purpose is the same. It is a light fixture designed to direct light only where desired by "cutting off" unwanted light in directions where light is not needed. It is also important not to use too bright of a light as reflected light can also ruin night vision.

### What can we do to maximize lighting choices?

We can all help by evaluating our existing lighting and future lighting projects by using some easy to follow simple guidelines.

- First off, which lights do we now have that aren't lake and neighbor friendly?
- Light what only needs to be lit.
- Use lights of minimum intensity (lower wattage) to accomplish the light's purpose.
- Turn off lights not in use; use a timer or motion detector sensor when possible – save some cash.
- Select or modify lighting fixtures so that they direct their light only where needed.
- Adjusting the type of lights used to reduce reflected light skyward or outward towards the lake or away from your neighbor's property - be kind to your neighbors and your lake.

For those of you interested in viewing a sample of a Cutoff Light styled fixture, visit the following website that has been provided only as an **one example of many** light pollution friendly manufacturers. The internet is an excellent tool to explore lighting options. <http://www.theglarebuster.com>