

June 2008

# The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER



The Grindstone Lake Association  
is a community of neighbors  
dedicated to promoting the  
preservation and enjoyment  
of our precious lake !

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# Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

Summer is here! Now is the time to enjoy our beautiful lake the fullest. While you are boating, or watching a sunset over the lake, take a moment and think about the value of Grindstone Lake to your and your family... Got it in your mind? Good, now for news from the association.

Much has been accomplished during the winter. First, the board successfully negotiated a smart plan compromise for the development of the Cranberry bog on the southwest corner of the lake. This was a significant achievement for the preservation of the lake, and it showed the value of a lake association as the developer, the DNR and the Bass Lake Township Board all sought our input and listened to our suggestions for minimizing the lake impact of the development of the property. Bruce Paulsen led the Associations efforts and did a wonderful job. Many of you also responded to our e-mail appeals and sent in great letters supporting our position.

Next, our core sample study results have been completed and published. See the article in the newsletter for details. Our fish management plan is nearly ready. The septic system surveys were

completed and the results published. Failing system owners have been notified and many have taken action to fix this source of pollution. We have also recently upgraded to an Internet based membership database which will increase our ability to contact our membership and to develop new members.

Turning to the future, we realize that we must strengthen our Lake Association if we are to realize our vision for the future of the lake. Therefore, our overriding goal for the association for 2008 is to increase our membership. We currently have 174 members who have joined up or renewed their membership in the past 12 months. There are an additional 82 former members who have not renewed their membership in over a year, and finally there are 344 total properties on the lake, which means there are 88 families that have never joined the association. The more members we have, the more resources we have to get things done for the lake and its environment. The more members we have, the more effective is our voice in the community when we need to speak out to protect the lake. If you haven't joined or renewed for 2008, please

do so. The form to mail in is included in the newsletter. But don't stop there; ask other family members who use the lake to join. Ask people who use and love Grindstone, but don't necessarily own property to join. Each membership gives us the ability to do more for our lovely lake.

Our second goal for the association for 2008 is to get more members involved in volunteering and working to implement the plans of the association. You may have noticed that our newsletter is quite late this year. Frankly, this is due to the fact that we simply have burned out our current newsletter staff. They have been preparing the newsletter for over 6 years now and need new people to help. But it doesn't stop there. We still are short two board members. A number of board members are serving their third, three year term, and are feeling that it is someone else's turn to help. Sadly, we are not finding anyone new who is willing to step up and help the association serve you, the people who most use and benefit from Grindstone Lake. Please contact me if you can help in any way by sending e-mail to me at [twgleason@gmail.com](mailto:twgleason@gmail.com).

Finally, the action team's top priorities for 2008 are:

- Environment – Exotic species rapid response plan and curly pond weed eradication
- Communications – Membership Campaign Launched and New Member DB launched
- Events – Quality annual meeting July 5th
- Boating and Fishing – Find a team leader willing to serve and be on the board in this capacity and boat landing invasive species protection plan launched

With more help and more members, we can also tackle shoreline improvement to reduce this serious source of pollution, watershed issues, and continue our water quality monitoring. Grindstone Lake needs you!

Enjoy the lake this summer. I look forward to seeing you sailing, fishing, wake boarding, and sunset watching on our Gem of a Lake!



Tom Gleason  
GLA President

## GRINDSTONE LAKE SEPTIC SURVEY

Thanks to the cooperation of so many lakeshore owners, the Septic Survey was completed last summer. The report is now completed and available on line at [www.sawyercountygov.org](http://www.sawyercountygov.org). To view the report, click on departments – zoning and sanitation, then septic links. You'll see Grindstone Lake 2007.

This report is very detailed. I urge you to read it. To summarize the results, 286 out of the possible 305 properties were surveyed. 243, or 85%, passed the inspection. Thirty properties (11 %) failed, nine properties (3%) were inconclusive, and 4 homeowners denied the inspectors access to their property. Those with failed systems must correct the system within 1 year. There is some grant money available for those who have these properties as a permanent resident. As a board we want to thank everyone for making this survey such a success.

Linn Newton

# JETSKIERS – Protect Your Sport!

Warning!!! This is not your average “obey the rules” article. There are many lakes in Wisconsin, including Sawyer County, that have imposed additional restrictions on Jet Skis. Limiting the hours of operation is just one example. Can this happen on Grindstone? Yes, it can. Can you prevent it? Yes, you can. This article will point out ways to ride smart and “Protect Your Sport” from additional regulations.

How did these other lakes end up with restrictions? Simply put-complaints, and there are basically two of them; noise and operating too close to other boats, docks and swimmers.



The noise issue affects Jet Skiing because this sport is different than other motorized water sports. Fishermen drive to their favorite spot and shut down. Water-skiers normally do large circles that terminate back at the dock and they usually don't ski all day, as it is tiring. However, in order to have fun Jet Skiing you must operate the machine continuously and it is easy to ride as long as you want. That's what is great about the sport, but the fact is that these machines, with no thanks to the manufacturers, are noisy.

“How can I reduce noise complaints?” You ask. Simply by taking advantage of two things. First, you happen to be riding the quickest and most maneuverable craft

on the water and usually it doesn't matter where you ride. Second, you can use Grindstones shape and size, big and round, to your advantage by spending a few minutes to ride to an area away from residences, have fun and ride for hours. When picking an area to ride remember that sound travels with the wind. Do you have to do these things? No, you can go the minimum legal distance from shore and ride back and forth in front of your neighbors all day long. This will probably create some complaints, which eventually can lead to restrictions.

So, you basically ruin it for yourself. Remember, this is about riding not only legally, but smart to “Protect Your Sport”.

The next big issue is operating too close to other boats, docks, and swimmers at a faster than slow-no-wake speed. The big number here is 200 feet. “How do I know what 200 feet looks like” you ask. Here is a simple guide. Get your mom, dad, son, daughter or friend and have him/her walk 75 paces away from you and turn around. That's about 200 feet. Spend a second to memorize this distance. How big does the other person look? Then look at their face and you will notice that it is difficult to make out their facial expression. So when you're out cruising around remember, if you can make out their facial expression you're probably too close.

The 200 foot rule applies whenever you are at a faster than slow-no-wake speed. This means 200 feet from shore around the entire lake-period. This primarily affects riders who like to cruise around the lake. Many riders, because they can operate in shallow water, cruise well within the minimum 200 feet from

shore. This also means that all the areas around the islands are no-wake. When it come to other boats remember this, fishermen, sailboats and water skiers usually don't bother Jet Skiers so be courteous and return the favor. Remember, you're riding the quickest and most maneuverable craft on the water so there is really no reason to get too close to anyone. Spend an extra second to go well around other boats; it's even more fun. Lastly, sunset is sunset, have your jet ski parked by sunset and help prevent complaints.

These are just the basics, but everyone who rides should become familiar with all the rules which are readily

available on-line or from the WI boating regulation pamphlet. Also, spend a minute and be sure that everyone operating the Jet Ski at your home or cabin knows the rules. Also, encourage other riders you know to follow the rules and lead by example.

The bottom line is this; we don't need or want any more rules. It is up to you the Jet Skis riders to prevent additional restrictions on your sport; you totally control your own destiny. It's all about riding not only legally, but also and more importantly, riding smart to "Protect Your Sport".

Brian Pabich

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## BASS LAKE NEWS

The Spring 2008 elections in Bass Lake resulted in the incumbents, John McCue and Phil Nies being reelected. Now that we have a 5 person board, every year 2 seats will be up for election. All members of the Board are at-large so feel free to contact any of them if you have an issue that concerns you.

John Mc Cue 715-634-2559

Phil Nies 715-634-2920

Ralph Meixner 715-634-1554

Justin Hall 715-634-4226

Pete Sanders – Chairman 715-634-8909

The Bass Lake Town Clerk is Dawn Henk. She is available Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30 AM to 3 PM. Contact Dawn at 715-634-8469 or dawnhenk@charter.net.

The Bass Lake Town Treasurer is Kari Aderman. She is available Mondays 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM;. Contact Kari at 715-634-8469 or kariaderman@charter.net

In January, Marv Mullet was also elected as Bass Lake's new Fire Chief. He can be reached at 715-634-4291.

Stay abreast of the issues in Bass Lake by following the board minutes at their website [www.basslakewi.gov](http://www.basslakewi.gov).

Board meetings are the second Monday of the month. The Planning Committee meets the first Thursday of the month.

Linn Newton

# Mark Your Calendars !

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SET-UP, SERVE, AND CLEAN-UP AT ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC ON JULY 5.

JULY 5, 2008	ANNUAL GLA MEETING TIME 10 AM SOCIAL BREAK TIME 11:30 PM BASS LAKE TOWN HALL
JULY 5, 2008	ANNUAL GLA PICNIC TIME 12:00 NOON BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)
AUGUST 9, 2008	BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISER PICNIC
TO BE ANNOUNCED	LAKE TRASH DIVE

## Grindstone Core Study Findings

(Obtain the complete study at: [http://www.basslakewi.gov/local\\_organizations.htm](http://www.basslakewi.gov/local_organizations.htm))

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources just issued the Grindstone Lake paleoecological (sediment core) study results. Sediment on the bottom of a lake will tell the story of how the water quality has changed over the years. The sediments of the lake bottom entomb a selection of fossil remains that resist bacterial decay or chemical dissolution. In July 2004 two sediment core samples were taken of the Grindstone lake bottom. The depth of the core samples were such that changes in the sediment could be tracked for 150 years.

Conclusions of the study were:

- Grindstone Lake had one of the lowest rates of sedimentation of any

of the 48 lakes studied by the DNR, lower than Whitefish and Round.

- The sedimentation rate peaked in 1940 but declined until the late 1970's. Since that time it has steadily increased so that at the top of the core the lake is experiencing its highest rate of sedimentation in the last 150 years.
- It appears that the elevated sedimentation rate at the top of the core is the result of anthropogenic activities around the lake; probably from shoreline development. This is indicated by higher deposition rates for calcium, phosphorus, nitrogen and organic matter.
- The higher calcium is probably indicative of its use as a soil amendment in lawns near the lakeshore.

- Although the elevated levels of nutrients and organic matter at the top of the core are partly the result of incomplete recycling of these elements, it is also the result of increase nutrient runoff.
- The increase in nutrient levels at this time is small but the trend is towards higher levels. This increased productivity is already adversely impacting the lake as oxygen levels in the bottom waters are declining. The loss of oxygen in the deep waters is one of the earliest signs of eutrophication.

The clear message from this study is to take action **NOW** to curb further degradation. **YOU** can effectively slow down the aging process with several **SIMPLE ACTIONS**. If you want your children and grandchildren to enjoy the pristine quality of Grindstone and you want to protect your property values,

follow these simple actions:

- Most importantly, cultivate and nurture your “buffer zone.” When you assure that you have at least a 35 foot natural vegetative buffer strip along your shoreline, runoff and erosion will be minimized and excess nutrients will be prevented from reaching the lake.
- Quite simply - shoreline lawns are extremely detrimental to the lake! Do not use lawn fertilizers. Nitrogen and phosphorous promote growth of weeds and algae.
- Properly maintain and inspect your septic systems on a regular basis.
- Household wastes, hazardous materials, and medicines (which often contain nutrient sources) should not be disposed of in your septic system.

Bruce Paulsen

# Aquatic Plant Management Plan Summary

(Obtain the complete study at: [http://www.basslakewi.gov/local\\_organizations.htm](http://www.basslakewi.gov/local_organizations.htm))

The Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Grindstone Lake, Sawyer County Wisconsin presents data and recommendations regarding the plant community, watershed, and water quality of Grindstone Lake. It was sponsored by the Grindstone Lake Association and the Wisconsin DNR and prepared by Harmony Environmental.

In June of 2005, the Grindstone Lake Association voted to apply for a large scale Lakes Planning Grant to complete a baseline macrophyte survey and an aquatic plant management plan. A survey of property owners was conducted in March of 2006.

The Property Owners Survey revealed these top concerns:

1. Quality of the water.
2. Controlling invasive species.
3. Aquatic plant management
4. Boating
5. Quality of fishing<sup>1</sup>



- 5. Shoreline management<sup>1</sup>
- 5. Education of lake users<sup>1</sup>
- 5. Observing wildlife<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>These four items were a tie for the fifth top concern.

In July of 2006, information was provided to the trustees about what a macrophyte study and aquatic plant management plan entails. The Grindstone Lake Association board members and the Aquatic Plant Management Committee provided the public input.

The Aquatic Plant Management Committee was comprised of members from the Grindstone Lake Association, with attendance from Lac Courte Oreilles Conservation Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This committee reviewed all data provided and developed goals based on that data as well as comments from concerned citizens.

The Aquatic Plant Management Plan addresses the top concerns of the Aquatic Plant Management Committee, representing the Grindstone Lake Association:

- The introduction of invasive species into Grindstone Lake.
- The increase in algae growth on the lake bottom.
- Reduction of important aquatic plant stands.
- Protection of important fish/wildlife habitats.
- Water quality degradation.

## **LAKE INFORMATION**

Grindstone Lake is a 3111 acre lake located in Sawyer County, Wisconsin in the Town of Bass Lake (T40N R08W S29); WBIC: 2391200. It is a drainage lake with the main input from Grindstone Creek and outflows into Lac Courte Oreilles. The watershed area is approximately 9675 acres. The maximum depth is 60 feet, with a mean depth of 30 feet.

## **WATER QUALITY**

The Lac Courte Oreilles Conservation Department along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, sponsored water quality monitoring since 1995. Additionally, a comprehensive water quality study was conducted in 1998. Water chemistry and secchi depth readings have been collected continuously since 1995. GLA member Don McIntosh has been a volunteer in this effort for many years.

## **CORE SAMPLE DATA**

The Wisconsin DNR completed a paleolimnologic analysis on Grindstone Lake in 2006. The results of this analysis has recently become available. (See preceding Grindstone Core Study Findings article on pages 7-8.) Both the Water Quality Study and Core Analysis support resident observations that the lake is increasing in nutrients.

## **LAND COVER CONCERNS**

Harmony Environmental and Grindstone Lake Association volunteers re-examined the Grindstone Lake watershed in 2006.

Land cover is frequently used to estimate pollutant loading to lakes. Varying

degrees of soil erosion and rainwater runoff result in different loading rates of phosphorus per acre. Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient that affects the growth of algae in Grindstone Lake. Increased phosphorus loading to Grindstone Lake would eventually increase algae blooms and decrease water clarity of the lake. Eleven types of land uses were identified in the Grindstone Watershed: 1) Commercial Properties; 2) Cranberry Bog; 3) Agricultural Crop Fields; 4) Farmstead; 5) Forest; 6) Golf Course; 7) Grasslands ; 8) Highway; 9) Open Water; 10) Residential; 11) Wetlands.

The following land uses are most likely to generate pollutants to Grindstone Lake: commercial, cranberry bog, farmsteads, golf course, highways (and other roadways), and residential land. Watershed protection measures should concentrate on areas where phosphorus loading potential is the highest and runoff to the lake is most direct.

Grindstone Lake Association volunteers completed a shoreline assessment in the summer 2006. The results show that the majority of the shoreline is designated as natural. Only a small percentage was rip rap or lawn. In the riparian zone from the shoreline to 35 feet on land (referred to as buffer zone), the areas of various land use was measured. The largest percentage was designated natural. **However, over 20% was developed with lawns, hard surface and cleared.**

## AQUATIC PLANT COMMUNITY

### AQUATIC HABITAT AREAS OF CONCERN

Grindstone Lake has very few areas where various plant species will grow. The importance of these plants and habitats is very high within Grindstone Lake. For this reason their preservation are important. The following map indicates some of these areas that have been identified. These areas are largely designated because they represent the few portions of the lake that have plant growth present. Many of the habitat areas of concern have vegetation that is very important to fish species.

### AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY RESULTS

In June 2006, an early-season survey was completed for curly leaf pondweed and other aquatic invasive plant species. None were located in that survey. In August, 2006, the entire littoral zone and beyond was surveyed with a point-intercept method. In that survey, 22 native vascular aquatic plants, 1 non-native vascular aquatic plant (Curly leaf pondweed), and 3 algae species were sampled, with 6 vascular plant species visually observed within six feet of the boat. This gives a species richness of 32 species.

Grindstone Lake has a very diverse native plant community with 31 native macrophyte species surveyed (see table 1). No one plant dominates the lake. The highest frequency plant was filamentous algae followed by *Vallisneria americana* (wild celery) (see Table 1). The frequency of each plant is relatively low, demonstrating a varied, healthy community. In relationship to the various species found, *Potamogeton crispus* (curly leaf pondweed) was the only non-native plant found. This plant was only found at one sample site.

The most common species sampled was filamentous algae, with a relative

frequency of 12.5%. Filamentous algae is normal to have present in a lake. It usually grows on the bottom on rocks, macrophytes or other substrates in shallow enough water that allows adequate light penetration. The more water clarity there is, the deeper it can grow. Since this organism is not rooted, it absorbs nutrients directly from the water. As nutrients in the water increase, so can the growth of these algae.

Curly leaf pondweed was the only non-native species found. The plant was not located in the early season survey specifically designed to locate such species. In the late season survey, the one single curly leaf pondweed plant was sampled in a single location. This single plant was removed at the time of sampling and pressed as a herbarium specimen. Based on these observations, logic would indicate that this plant is not established in the lake. It is possible a pioneer stand was located. Upon further surveying, no more plants were located; therefore the stand should be small. For this reason, **location and removal of any curly leaf pondweed located in this vicinity may eliminate this plant from taking hold in Grindstone Lake.**

### **GRINDSTONE LAKE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT GOALS:**

1. Preserve and restore native plant communities.
2. Enhance fish habitat within the plant community.
3. Restore native shoreline vegetation.
4. Reduce human impact on water quality.
5. Prevent the introduction of non-native, invasive plant species.
6. Respond rapidly with an organized plan to new introductions of non-native, invasive plant species.
7. Monitor and reduce filamentous algae growth.

Proposed Action Plans have been identified for each of the 7 Aquatic Plant Management Goals. These include monitoring, member education, rapid response preparedness plans, shoreline restoration efforts and preventive actions. Successful implement of these goals and action plans will require member involvement, participation and support.

Summarized from Grindstone Lake Aquatic Lake Management Plan  
Harmony Environmental

## **Trails End Resort**



Out boating on Lac Courte Oreilles and looking for a place to rest? Stop in the A-frame lodge at Trails End Resort in Barbertown Bay! We have a great bar with refreshing drinks, snacks, great music, and bathroom facilities.

Come for a break, stay for the fun!

Open everyday around noon from Memorial Day to Labor Day!

Bring in this ad to the A-frame for a free drink!!

# Shoreland Landscape Design, Maintenance, and Management to Protect Water Quality

*Exerts from website - <http://www.sustland.umn.edu/related/water.html>  
See website for detailed plant lists and suitable growing conditions, etc.*

A citizen survey, entitled “Public Perceptions of the Impacts, Use, and Future of Minnesota Lakes”, indicates that the principal reasons people own waterfront property is to enjoy the view, experience peace and tranquility, observe wildlife, and fish. All of these activities can be diminished by poor water quality.

We understand what watersheds are and how activities within a watershed can have an impact on water quality. But what about direct impacts to lakes and streams from shoreland landscapes? Vegetative buffer zones can play a key role in limiting negative water quality impacts from developed shoreland property.

A vegetative buffer zone is an undeveloped area directly adjacent to a body of water. Buffers can be comprised of existing plants on the site and/or new plantings. Buffer zones include aquatic plants in shallow water, moisture-loving plants along the shore, and upland plants in dry soils. The primary purposes of vegetative buffer zones are to:

- Reduce runoff by increasing stormwater infiltration into soil. Less runoff means less nutrients and other pollutants entering the water — excess nutrients are the primary cause of algal blooms and increased aquatic plant growth.
- Stabilize soils with plant root systems.
- Reduce shoreline erosion due to wave action.
- Purify water with aquatic vegetation.
- Improve wildlife and fish habitat by providing food, shelter, and shade.

Native plant buffer zones are invaluable for wildlife habitat. A study done in northern Wisconsin looked at the impact to wildlife when natural shorelines were replaced with developed shorelines. Researchers found that the number of frog species, as well as the total number of frogs, was significantly reduced in lakes where native vegetation and woody debris were removed from the shoreline. Many bird species were also lost, particularly those depending on insects for food and those that nest on the ground.

Some additional benefits of maintaining a more natural, vegetated shoreline include: spending less time doing yard work and more time relaxing.

In addition, a native plant buffer zone can create a more aesthetically pleasing shoreline for you and your neighbors to enjoy.

The final step in creating a landscape design plan is plant selection. Types of plants used in buffer zones include trees, shrubs, wildflowers, sedges, grasses, and aquatics. Plants enable shoreland buffer zones to be effective at: soil stabilization

via extensive root systems, absorption of nutrients, filtration of pollutants, oxygen production, stabilization of sediments in the water, reduction of shoreline erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

When selecting plants for your design, keep in mind that shoreland is a continuum. That is, there is generally a gradual change in water depth, soil moisture and elevation as you move inland from the water's edge. Get a feel for the continuum on your site. Then decide where plants will be placed both in the water and upland. What is the water depth? Will plants be exposed to waves? At what elevations will upland plants be installed? How much moisture is in the soil at different elevations? Do water levels and soil moisture fluctuate during the year? Knowing the answers to these questions will aid in plant selection. Each soil moisture regiment is host to a separate plant community.

An excellent guide to plant communities and plant identification is *Wetland Plants and Plant Communities of Minnesota and Wisconsin* published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One key to a successful buffer zone planting is to use as many different species as is practical. This will promote the most biodiversity of insects, birds and other species visiting your buffer. Also, using a wide variety of species will insure that sufficient numbers of plants will survive to prevent the need for costly and time intensive replanting.

The first criteria in plant selection should always be suitability to the site. Choose plants that will thrive in a particular location's soil moisture content and sun/shade regime. Plants not properly suited to a location will not fulfill their function and will always require additional maintenance. The second criteria for plant selection should be function. For most functions listed above, native plants will be the best choice. Generally, native plants develop extensive root systems, will be best suited to a location's environment, will require less maintenance, and provide more wildlife benefits. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources encourages using only native plants for vegetative buffers and restorations. For example, good native plant selections for shoreline protection from wave action include:

- Water plantain
- Sweet flag
- Water lilies
- Sedges
- Pickerelweed
- Arrowhead
- Bulrushes

The Minnesota DNR has a helpful Web site entitled "Benefits of Growing Native Plants" at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

The third criteria for plant selection is for plants that do no harm. That is, do not choose plants that have the potential to become invasive and crowd out beneficial native plants.

Three important invasive plant species to watch for are: Eurasian Watermilfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Reed Canary Grass.

Eurasian Watermilfoil is a submerged aquatic plant. Purple Loosestrife grows in wet soils and shallow water. Reed canary grass is found in upland areas, lakeshores and wetlands. All three species are aggressive and can crowd out other species to form monocultures or areas of only one species. This type of growth pattern reduces the abundance and diversity of native plants necessary for fish and other wildlife habitat.

# Cranberry Ridge Update

The Grindstone Lake Association is partnering with two land trusts, West Wisconsin and Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust to try to buy the cranberry marsh next to the DNR boat landing.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the marsh, it is about 58 acres with 1780 feet of shoreline. The marsh was sold to a developer in 2002. Since that time the developer has gotten approval from the Corps of Engineers and the DNR to fill 0.5 acres of wetlands. As a condition of the lake association not opposing a request for changes in zoning the developer has accepted some conditions that the Board thought were important to preserve the quality of the lake. Several of these conditions include no more than five single family dwellings on the lakeshore and a land protection agreement on the 24 acres of natural wetland running from the lakeshore back to about the middle of the property. The Sawyer County Board has approved the change in zoning pending receipt of an acceptable land protection agreement which the developer, Grindstone Lake Association and the Corps of Engineers has yet to negotiate. If the property is developed it will have 28 single family homes.

Several months ago the developer approached West Wisconsin about the possibility of selling the property. West Wisconsin asked Couderay Waters and the Grindstone Lake Association to participate in the project. This is a big financial undertaking. However, the Board agreed that every effort should be made take the marsh out of production and prevent development.

The basics of the transaction are the state of Wisconsin Stewardship fund would contribute 50% of the appraised value of the property. We would try to secure grants, sell mitigation rights and solicit contributions to fund the remaining 50%.

The land trusts have hired an appraiser who should have the appraisal completed by the end of July. Once the appraised value of the property is known the purchase price can be negotiated and we will have a better idea if it is likely the property can be purchased.

Any questions? Call or email:  
Bruce Paulsen  
715-634-3618  
blpaulsen@msn.com.

Bruce Paulsen

## **The Trumpeter is now accepting ads !**

**Quarter page - \$25 for 1 issue or \$40 for two**

**Half page - \$35 for 1 issue or \$60 for two**

**Full page \$50 for 1 issue or \$80 for two**

# Attracting Orioles

<http://www.stokesbirdsathome.com/birding/feeding/feedingpages/feeding108.html>



It has been many years since we have had the pleasure of orioles visiting us at the lake. This year orioles are swooping from tree to tree and generally delighting us with their antics. They are greedily feasting on grape jelly and nectar at the oriole feeder like ravenous children. Orange slices barely last a day. Perhaps you have been noticing oriole activity at your cabin, too. A little research revealed the following information about orioles. At the website where I located this information you can listen to sample of their song to help you identify their call when you are relaxing on the deck or dock.

Most orioles do not winter in the United States, but return during the breeding season. There are 8 species of orioles that breed in the United States. The two most widespread species are the Baltimore Oriole and Orchard Oriole in the East and the Bullock's Oriole in the West. Orioles can be attracted to your backyard with food and nesting materials.

Orioles often eat fruit and can be attracted with orange halves placed on platform feeders, a deck railing, or nailed to a tree. It is important to have the oranges available just as the orioles arrive, which is around April 1st in the South and April 15th to May 1st in the northern half of the country. Some orioles

seem to be more attracted to oranges when they first return from their wintering areas but switch to an insect diet soon after. Other orioles seem to eat oranges throughout their breeding season.

Orioles also may use special sugar water feeders because sugar water is similar to the flower nectar on which orioles naturally feed. Some oriole sugar water feeders are colored orange and have large perches to accommodate the birds. Orioles may also use hummingbird feeders. Fill the feeders with a solution of either 1 part white sugar to 4 parts water or 1 part white sugar to 6 parts water; both seem to attract orioles. Boil the solution for 1-2 minutes, then cool. (Or purchase ready to mix or prepared liquid food.) Change the solution every 2 days in hot weather.

In addition to fruit and sugar water, orioles can be attracted to grape jelly and mealworms. Offer the jelly in a small dish placed on a platform. Mealworms can be placed in a small container, but make sure it has straight sides that are high enough (about 1 1/2 to 2 inches), enough so that the mealworms cannot climb out. Mealworms are found in pet stores and wild bird stores. Many orioles feed the mealworms to their nestlings, who require a good protein source.

Orioles weave nests of natural plant fibers and will also use lengths of string cut into 8-12 inch pieces. You can put the string in a wire suet basket, drape it over shrubs, or lay it in the open where orioles will see it. Orioles nest in trees in suburban areas, parks, forest edges, and along rivers.

Camille Venners



Dear Grindstone Lake Lover:

**Grindstone Lake needs you!** It is time to sign up for your 2008 Grindstone Lake Association membership. By becoming a member, you empower the association to work as your agent to protect your investment and your enjoyment of one of the best lakes in Wisconsin.

**What your membership buys:**

- 1. **Information** — over a decade of valuable data collected about the ecological health of the lake’s water, fish, plant life, shoreline and watershed.
- 2. **Actions** — working with the DNR to protect and improve the health of our lake’s environment.
- 3. **Social functions** — a great picnic and fund assistance for the annual fireworks at the waterfront.
- 4. **A voice in the community** — both the DNR and the local governments recognize the voice of our membership. They both value our ability to reach out and inform lake property owners about the lake and the actions which may be needed to protect the lake.

**NONE of these things would happen without your membership in the association.**

**Please Send in your membership today. Grindstone Lake needs YOU!**

This form may be accessed and printed from the GLA Website:  
[http://www.basslakewi.gov/local\\_organizations.htm](http://www.basslakewi.gov/local_organizations.htm)

Please complete this form and return it along with your \$30.00 check (payable to the Grindstone Lake Association) to:

Grindstone Lake Association, P.O. Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843-0292.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(first and last of both husband and wife, if applicable)*

**Home address:**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Lake address (if different):**

Fire Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_



May 2007

# **The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER**



The Grindstone Lake Association  
is a community of neighbors  
dedicated to promoting the  
preservation and enjoyment  
of our precious lake !

## GLA Board of Directors 2006-2007

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Linn Newton Treasurer	7869N Indian Dr., Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-634-6329 newtonsl@centurytel.net
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Dan Tyrolt LCO Liaison & Water Quality	LCO Conservation 13394 W. Trepania Rd., Bldg. 1, Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-865-2329 dtyrolt@cheqnet.net

# Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

Opportunities! This summer affords you with numerous opportunities to make a real contribution to maintaining and improving the "state of our lake". Many of our research efforts are coming to fruition, with concrete results published and specific action plans listed just waiting for people to step up and volunteer some of their time to make a difference.

Among the opportunities:

1. Restore or improve lakeshore buffer zones to reduce algae and restrict pollutants from entering the lake.
2. Observe and preserve native aquatic plants.
3. Improve the reach and power and funding of the association by recruiting your neighbors to come members of the association.
4. Improving the social life at the lake by helping with the picnic or meetings.
5. Learn more about the "State of the Lake" by attending one of the upcoming meetings where we will present what we have learned from our research
6. Help reduce pollution in the lake by insuring that your septic is inspected

and, if necessary, cleaned or improved.

To seize on these opportunities and more, all you need do is to attend the annual meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> and sign up to help out with one of our action committees.

The association has just completed the paperwork and registration efforts required to become a tax-deductible non-profit organization. When government approval is granted (hopefully in the next 6 months) we will then be positioned to gather the financial resources to take actions to protect or repair damage to the lake that was far beyond our means in the past. While no immediate fund raising campaign is planned, we are positioned to take advantage of this opportunity should a need arise.

Our lake is a beautiful, and yet fragile resource. It is up to you to take the opportunity to be involved to help protect and improve it for years to come. It all starts with you! Seize your opportunity.

  
GLA President

# Mark Your Calendars !

JULY 7, 2007

ANNUAL GLA MEETING TIME 10 AM  
SOCIAL BREAK TIME 11:30 PM  
BASS LAKE TOWN HALL

JULY 7 2007

ANNUAL GLA PICNIC TIME 12:00 NOON  
BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)

AUGUST 11, 2007

BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISER PICNIC

TO BE ANNOUNCED

LAKE TRASH DIVE

**Volunteers are needed on July 7 to help with member registration at the annual meeting and serving or cleanup at the picnic.**

## Reminder

**Septic Surveys will continue this summer from June through September. It is anticipated that all remaining septic inspections will be completed this year.**

# Town of Bass Lake Board of Supervisors

Last Fall the Bass Lake Board of Supervisors voted to expand their membership from 3 members to 5 members. Board Chairman Pete Sanders ran unopposed. The Board members at large was a hotly contested race with 8 citizens running for the 4 seats.

The primary was held April 3. The highest 2 in votes received were given 2 year terms. The other 2 were given 1 year terms.

Elected to 2 year terms were Justin Hall and Ralph Meixner. Those receiving 1 year terms were John Mc Cue and Phil

Nies.

**Pete Sanders**: lives on Lac Courte Oreilles. He has been coming to the Hayward area since 1963 and has lived here permanently for 27 years. He is the head of Sawyer county Health and Human Services. Pete is also a Bass Lake fireman and a first responder. Pete has been on the Town of Bass Lake board since 1987 and has been the chairman since 1997.

**Justin Hall** lives in the Anderson Road

area. When he moved to the Hayward area he worked for the Sawyer County Sheriff's office, then City of Hayward Police Department retiring from there as Chief. He now is employed by the Town of Hayward as Police Chief. He is also a member of the Bass Lake Fire Department and is the Assistant Chief.

**Ralph Meixner** lives in the Anderson Road area of Bass Lake. He was raised in southern Wisconsin and moved to the Hayward area in 1978. Ralph owns a commercial refrigeration company. He has been on the Town board for 10 years.

**John Mc Cue** was born and raised in the Hayward Area. He lives on Hwy 27. He works for the City of Hayward and for the past 3 years he has been the Director of Public Works.

**Phil Nies:** Phil moved to Hayward after living in Iowa, Illinois and Madison WI. He lives on Lac Courte Oreilles. He has owned property in the region for 20 years and has been a full time resident for the past 12 years. He has served on the Board of Supervisors for the past 8 years. Phil is also

active on other boards including Lac Courte Oreilles Board, Sawyer County Lakes Forum, and the NW Resource Pregnancy Center.

You can keep up with the board's agenda and minutes by checking the Bass Lake website [www.basslakewi.gov](http://www.basslakewi.gov). Minutes of both the Planning Committee and the Board along with their agendas are located here. The Town board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. The planning committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month. You can also keep current on the board meetings by reading the Bass Lake column in the Sawyer County Record. Doc Brueggen does a good job summarizing what is going on and letting you know who to contact with your opinion on a subject. A member of the Grindstone Lake Association also attends most of the board meetings.

To contact the Board members:  
Pete Sanders 715-634-8909  
psand7231@aol.com  
Ralph Meixner 715-634-1554  
Phil Nies: 715-634-2920  
Justin Hall 715-634-4226  
John McCue 715-634-2559  
jtmccue@centurytel.net

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## Bald Eagles

One of the many pleasures of living on Grindstone is being able to see and interact with Bald Eagles on a routine basis. I'd like to pass on a few facts gleaned from several sources, and give you the web sites where you can find out more.

The cycle of life begins in February and March when mature Eagles will breed and begin to build a nest, or more commonly, repair their nest from last year. One or two eggs will be laid in late March or early April. The eggs hatch in 36- 40 days. The chicks are fed continuously by the adults until they are able to fly for themselves, fledge, at 12 weeks of age. If you put this all together, the Eagle chicks on our lake

are being hatched in early May, and stay on the nest until about early August. After that you may see them flying in the area of the nest, or beginning to find food for themselves. Many Northern Wisconsin Eagles congregate on the Mississippi River and migrate enmasse south for the winter. The DNR doesn't know for sure where they go, but it is assumed south along the Mississippi flyway to where there is open water.

Many of "our" eagles stay in Northern Wisconsin, and around Grindstone all year. In winter they can be seen on road kill, usually deer, or on the ice cleaning up minnows or fish left by the ice fishermen. Where open water is present along the Namakagon River, eagles are often seen in the trees still taking fish as they would in the summer.

Bald Eagles are considered fish eagles, and during the summer it is surely their main food source. Don't be surprised if you see an eagle swoop down and take a duckling or an adult duck or gull. They predate on many different things.

We are fortunate to have a permanent nest on the back side of the big island, Conversation Island. The nest is massive and in the top of a White Pine. Binoculars will make viewing easier. The adults of the nest can be found near the nest or all around the shoreline in tall trees overlooking the lake, or often on the biggest White Pine on the front of the island in the afternoon. There is another nest along County Highway K, again in the top of a White Pine. If you can't find either of these, there is a huge nest in the top of a tree right behind the Lumberjack Bowl, overlooking Lake Hayward, in Hayward.

Bald Eagles are at least 4 or 5 years old before they take on their distinctive coloring of white heads and tails, and yellow beaks. Immature eagles remain predominantly dark brown or speckled brown. Their beaks remain brown rather than the yellow of the adult. The immature eagle may appear like a very large hawk when flying.

**CAUTION:** In winter, when eagles are feeding on road kill beside the roadway, be particularly careful when approaching. These are huge birds, and when they fly away, they tend to fly down the roadway where there won't be trees or limbs in their way. Many injuries and deaths of Bald eagles occur every year when they are hit by automobiles. So give them a break, and like deer, if you see one by the side of the road, slow down, and let it get up in the air uninjured.

Websites of interest:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/factsheets/birds/eagles.htm>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/birds/eaglemanage.htm>

or, stop at the DNR Office on Highway 27 and ask for their Fact Sheet on the Bald Eagle.



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Chuck Newton

# Shoreline Fires: Food for Thought, Food for Algae

by Mark Sesing, DNR Lakes Management Specialist  
originally published in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes quarterly newsletter,  
*The Lake Connection*

Excessive algae causes the formation of scum, foul odors, low oxygen in water, and offensive views. Ash feeds algae.

Any fire will create ash waste. On average, the burning of wood results in about 8% ash.

Ashes contain 1 to 2% phosphorous, 5 to 10% potassium and trace amounts of other nutrients. But it's the phosphorus component in ashes that stimulates algae growth.

So, when you pile that brush high and throw that match, don't unwittingly aid and abet the algae beast by burning on the shoreline. Shoreline burning also kills vegetation and changes the soil structure with the end result being more soil erosion into the lake.

If you burn leaves, scrap wood, tree limbs, paper, or other trash, help out the lake by burning away from the shore, where it won't blow or wash into the lake. Thirty five feet is a good distance if you don't have a fire pit.

You can use the ash in your garden, but don't use too much as it decreases soil acidity. Soil acidity is necessary for

nutrient transfer to garden plants. Instead of applying directly to the soil, use wood ash as an amendment to the compost pile; the acidity of the decomposing materials in the compost pile will offset the alkaline ash. The high nitrogen content and low phosphorous and potassium level in compost will form a balanced fertilizer product with the addition of ash. Compost can then be added to the soil to help improve the soil structure and provide a balanced fertilizer solution.

You can store ash for later use or disposal as well. The storage area should be located away from wells, water, animal watering areas, and covered to prevent nuisance conditions during dry or windy weather.

## Quick Facts:

- One ton of wood will produce about 160 pounds of ash.
- 160 pounds of ash will produce about 2 ½ pounds of phosphorus.
- 2 ½ pounds of phosphorous can generate 1,250 pounds of wet algae.





# Paleolimnology: History in the Mucking

*by Paul Garrison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
reprinted from Lake Tides Newsletter - for people interested in Wisconsin Lakes  
published quarterly by University of Wisconsin-Extension Lakes Program  
Volume 32 No. 1 Winter 2007*

*Lake folks often get into lively discussions over what the lake used to be like... more plants, fewer plants, clear water, murky water... Is there any way to really know for sure? Well, the answer is yes! In fact we can have a good idea of what lakes used to be like hundreds of years ago with a science called Paleolimnology.*

Paleolimnology, sometimes referred to as “History in the Mucking,” is the interpretation of past conditions and processes in lake basins. Each year since their formation, a steady rain of sediments, plant pieces, creature parts and other materials settle to the bottom of our lakes leaving a record of past conditions. Over the eons this fascinating record has remained safe and sound in the sediments waiting for someone who could unlock its secrets. In addition to providing background information on a lake, the sediments hold a record of natural and human disturbances that have occurred in the lake. The response of the lake to these disturbances provides insight into how the lake functions, and provides a better understanding of the significance of trends observed with modern monitoring programs.

## OBTAINING A SEDIMENT CORE

To extract the lake’s past history a sediment core is usually collected using some type of a hollow tube. The tube is pushed into the lake bottom and a cap

is remotely placed on top of the tube to hold the sediment in place until it can be returned to the surface. Once collected, the core is sectioned into intervals usually of 1-2 cm. Each of these sections represent sequential chapters in time, with the top of the core being today and the bottom of the core indicating some time in the past. The time frame of interest in paleolimnological studies often is the last 200 years, which typically covers the impacts of European settlement.



Photo provided by Paul Garrison  
*This core was taken from McKinney Lake (Big Chub) in Vilas County.*



## QUESTIONS ANSWERED WITH PALEOLIMNOLOGY

The science of paleolimnology can reveal many secrets from a lake's past life. Most natural and human disturbances affecting lakes can be evaluated using paleolimnological approaches. Nutrient increases and acid rain are issues that have been extensively documented and studied with paleolimnology. Paleolimnology can give us details on the severity of human impacts and tell us within a few decades of when the impacts began. The genesis of events such as erosion, organic pollution from sewage treatment plants and animal feed lots can all be documented. Paleolimnologists can tease many messages from the sediments, such as how many and what types of aquatic plants grew in the lake, changes in species composition, past fish populations, or the frequency of algal blooms. Most recently, trends in climate change are being studied with paleolimnological techniques.

## DATING SEDIMENT CORES

An accurate sediment chronology is an essential part of a paleolimnological study. Cores are usually dated to establish the timing of past environmental changes and to determine the rate of input of materials into a lake. Paleolimnologists can accurately date sediment layers because they can be cross-checked against known historical events.

Cores are typically dated by analyzing a series of samples from the surface to a core depth that corresponds with 200 years ago. The most common dating technique for sediments deposited within the last 200 years is the lead-210 technique. Lead-210 is a naturally occurring atom that exhibits radioactivity.

It enters lakes primarily through precipitation and dry deposition (i.e. dust), following the decay of an atmospheric gas called radon-222 (radon gas).

Several methods can be used to corroborate the lead-210 dating technique. Testing of atomic weapons has left stratigraphic markers (layers) in the sediments of all lakes around the world. These markers include cesium-137 (a by-product of atmospheric nuclear testing). Atmospheric testing by the U.S.S.R. peaked in 1963. It then dramatically declined after the implementation of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that same year.

In southern Wisconsin another marker that is often used to confirm sediment dates is arsenic (yes, arsenic). Sodium

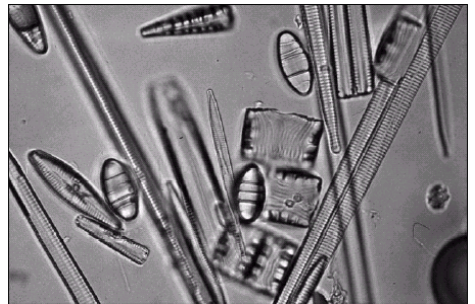


Photo provided by  
Gina LaLiberte, WDNR

*These diatoms, viewed under a light microscope, are an example of those found in a sediment core.*

arsenite was used during the 1950s-60s in a number of Wisconsin lakes to control aquatic plants. Records are available that document how much was applied (*Lake Tides* Vol. 31, No. 2, 2006). The peak in arsenic concentration in the core corresponds with the time of maximum application.

Another dating marker that can be traced in lake sediments is stable lead. It

was used in leaded gasoline until its removal in the mid-1970s and provides another time marker to check on the lead-210 dating technique.

#### ARECORDING GLASS

Fossils are one of the guides to the past life of a lake. The fossils used most are diatoms. These are a special type of algae that possess cell walls made of silica. Silica is the same as glass so diatoms can be preserved for thousands of years in the sediments. Diatoms are particularly useful because most of them live under well-known environmental conditions. This makes them ideal to characterize what past environmental conditions were like when they were living, such as phosphorus concentrations. Diatoms have been used to estimate trends in phosphorus, acidification, color, salinity and plant communities. Studies have allowed us to determine that some lakes are naturally acidic while others have become acidic as a result of human activities. Other algal groups such as certain blue-green and green algae are also preserved in the sediments.

Other fossils that are deposited and are useful for re-creating past environments are aquatic insect larvae and zooplankton. Insect larvae can be used to track changes in a lake's oxygen content over time. Zooplankton are often eaten by fish and invertebrates, so changes in their numbers allow us to infer past fish populations. For example, a decline in large zooplankton is an indication of an increase in plankton-eating fish such as perch or bluegills.

*Paleolimnology is a powerful tool to discover where a lake has been and maybe predict where it is going. This buried treasure of information is stored in lake*

*sediments and we can read the sedimentary records like the pages of an ancient book. Look for more information on paleolimnology in future Lake Tides.*

Editor's Note: A sediment core study is in progress for Grindstone Lake. The information obtained is still being assessed. When the report is released, the GLA will publish the findings.

**Membership dues provide the financial resources for lake studies, mailings, fish stocking, fish cribs, newsletters, and contacts with other like minded organizations. Please become a member or extend your membership in 2007!**



## Good Question from a GLA Member:

CAN THE LOON POPULATION ON GRINDSTONE LAKE BENEFIT FROM ARTIFICIAL NEST INTERVENTIONS?

3M has a retreat in Park Rapids Minnesota on Mantrap Lake. While at a meeting there I noticed several loon nests on the lake. These nests have the same effect as fish cribs ( to help grow the population). Mantrap Lake now boasts to have the largest loon population per capita on any lake in Minnesota. Can this approach work on Grindstone Lake?

Steve and Pam Krogness



RESPONSE FROM BRIAN PABICH, GLA BOARD MEMBER:

I, too, enjoy having loons on Grindstone and researched the man-made nesting site idea brought forward by Steve. I contacted the MN and WI DNR and was directed to a program setup by the DNR and private groups in six New England states. They are considered to be the leaders in loon re-population efforts.

The New England group does have a program for artificial nesting environments. When I contacted them, I was told that loons are picky, but are not necessarily smart when they choose a nesting site. Therefore, lakes must meet certain criteria to be considered for re-population interventions. Some of their requirements were:

- 1) the lake should have a fairly stable spring/early summer water level because loons nest just above the current water level
- 2) the lake must be large enough for long takeoff runs required by loons
- 3) the lake should have many smaller bays for several reasons:
  - so nesting sites can be sheltered from daily wave action during incubation;
  - for shelter from high wave action after hatching - infants only spend one day in the nest;
  - shelter from boat traffic on busy days;
  - improved protection from natural predators - eagles etc.;
  - large open water lakes are used by loons, but have a high mortality rate for newborns.
- 4) the lake must have large areas of undeveloped/wild shoreline with vegetation as loons like privacy and do not use sand beaches for nesting
- 5) preferred nesting areas have low elevations, just above the water line

- 6) potential nesting areas must not be in an area of boat traffic - wakes easily wipeout nesting sites
- 7) preferably not a firm bottom, heavily fished lake - ingested lead is a major contributor to loon death

These were just a few of the criteria he listed, but to sum it up best, he basically described a lake like the Chippewa flowage as being the type of lake desired for loon nesting. I described Grindstone to him and he fairly quickly disqualified it. In fact, he actually advised against it. He explained that lakes with features like Grindstone have poor incubation and high mortality rates. This is compounded by the fact that Loons are not smart when it comes to nesting. Once they are attracted to a nesting area they will return year after year to that same lake regardless of birthing success. Basically, it is detrimental for the loon population overall to purposely attract loons to less desirable lakes for nesting.

Personally, over the years, I have spent most of my lake time on Grindstone and the Big Chip. I have noticed very, very few successful breeding loons on Grindstone in comparison to what I find on the Flowage.

One thing that did surprise me was item 7 above. About 26% of all Loon deaths are attributed to lead poisoning, most occurring on heavily fished firm bottom lakes (lead sinks into muck in soft bottom lakes). Loons use small pebbles in their gizzards to aid the break down food for digesting. Unfortunately, loons do not differentiate between small rocks, lead sinkers and jigs and ingest them. This has prompted six New England states, parts of Canada and even England to ban the use of lead in fishing gear in some form. Minnesota has several free fishing gear swapping events per year where fishermen can exchange their lead gear for lead free alternates.

#### AN ADDITIONAL NOTE FROM DON MACINTOSH ON THIS TOPIC:

Cyndy and I have been "Loon Watchers" since 1992 for the Loon Watch program run by Northland College. During those 14 years, we have observed successfully reared chicks about 4 seasons, all on the west end of the lake. I attribute this to the limited, safe, nesting locations.

Active nests that failed:

- Bay next to McCoids. Nest on a log connected to shore was accessible to "4-legged critters", and eggs either were damaged or loons left nest for unknown reasons.
- North tip of the small island. Eggs found broken, probably by eagles since the eagle nest overlooks the loon nest.
- South shore of the small island. Nest was abandoned in favor of a new nest in the bay adjacent to Rickards. This new nest was successful, and was well hidden.

Regarding the channel to LCO, we have never seen a loon there.

**Please contact a GLA Board Member if you have a questions, information or topics you would like to suggest for future newsletters.**

# Shoreland Restoration Provides Opportunities for Protection of Lake Health

Source: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/news/cenews.cfm?ID=1066>

Bob Korth, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point/Extension lake management specialist

We all are aware that shoreland is where water meets land. But on many Wisconsin lakes, it can be a place where urban values clash with ecological health.

Often, the source of an ill is the tiny thing that gets repeated multiple times. But because it's a tiny thing, it's hard to see all by itself. Think of smog. You can't see the individual particulates, but you can see the accumulated effect of too many particulates in the air. The visible result is proof that the micro problem exists. Often, individuals rationalize that their small negative contributions are insignificant. Each of us must guard against this type of thinking.

Owners of shoreland property frequently bring with them conventional suburban yard landscaping ideas. Often that means a manicured lawn extends to the water's edge. Unfortunately, that carpet of green can cause serious problems for the adjacent lake.

A natural shoreline is a bridge between two worlds. Studies show that without intact natural shoreland areas, creatures, such as green frogs, waterfowl, and even song birds, may start to disappear. More than woodland and lakeshore life may be damaged when we change a natural shoreline to a lawn. Inadvertently, we could be lowering property values by contributing to water pollution.

Where trees have been removed on

a lakeshore parcel and replaced with a dwelling, driveways and a lawn, significant increases in the amount of phosphorus and sediment that enter the water may occur. Lakeshore property owners can help prevent negative effects on lake ecology by rethinking the idea of traditional lawns. Compared to a conventional suburban yard, a natural yard is better for the waterway and can be less work to maintain."

According to Bob Korth, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point/Extension lake management specialist, there are numerous ways to protect water and wildlife along shorelines.

These include:

Maintaining a no-mow zone. Creating a buffer zone by simply not mowing as far back from the shore as you can (or as the law allows) is the easy and less expensive. Over time, shrubs and trees will naturally fill in and provide diverse plant cover.

Planting native species. Native wild flowers, ground covers and trees along the shore add seasonal color and diversity. Properly placed, native plants will frame views, muffle the noise of lake activities, protect water quality and wildlife and restore the natural beauty of native shorelands.

Whether you do it yourself or hire a professional, Korth adds "A well-planned landscape with natural vegetation along

the shore can minimize the need for a lawn and still preserve views and access to the water.”

Shoreland restoration is a rapidly growing field among landscape professionals. Many local nurseries and

garden centers carry native plant stock and can recommend the best plants for your site.

Fact sheets and other literature are available free through UW-Extension county offices and DNR service centers.

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# Property Owners Urged to File ‘Notification’ Registration with County Zoning Department

*Reprint with permission Will LaBreche, Sawyer County Record, December 6, 2006*

Property owners are urged to complete a “property owner notification registration” and file it with Sawyer County zoning, to exercise their right to information under 2005 Wisconsin Act 208 which was enacted in March of 2006.

With this letter on file, the county zoning department must inform property owners of any change in status to their property, allowing owners to be more informed than simply reading zoning changes through public notices.

The purpose, listed clearly on the single-page form, states that it is “to be used by property owners desiring notice of proposed zoning ordinances or comprehensive plans or proposed amendments to the same that would have the effect of changing allowable uses of their properties.”

Simply put, because Act 208 passed in the state, property owners have the right to know exactly what changes will be made to their property as long as their respective zoning department has the form on file.

Attached to the form property owners are required to submit a map of their parcels, as well as include the parcel number and zone district available from tax statements and the zoning department, respectively.

“It is their (the property owner’s) option to do this,” said Bill Christman with Sawyer County zoning. “We maintain the form on file so when there’s a proposed change to our ordinance which would affect the use of that property, then we would notify that property owner by letter.”

When asked whether Christman recommends that property owners file the form with his department, he said “if you’re a property owner, regardless of where you live, you should be informed of any changes affecting that property. Recommend it? Yes. Encourage it? Yes.”

These forms are available from the zoning department at the Sawyer County courthouse, and should be returned to this department to be kept on file.



# Grindstone Aquatic Plant Study

## Interim Report

*BACKGROUND: During the summer of 2006 the Grindstone Lake Plant Survey was conducted. Funding for this project came from a DNR grant and GLA funds. Board member Bruce Paulsen oversaw this project from writing the grant proposal through collection and reporting of the data. Many volunteers assisted in data collection. Volunteer help reduced the portion of the cost for which the GLA was responsible. The GLA Board would like to thank Bruce and all of the volunteers for their efforts.*

The data was interpreted over the winter months and a preliminary report is currently being reviewed by the DNR. The final report should be released sometime in during the next few months. When the report is available, the GLA plans to post it on our web site.

Briefly, seven goals have been identified. Those goals are:

- 1 Preserve and restore native plant communities
- 2 Enhance fish habitat within the plant community
- 3 Restore native shoreline vegetation
- 4 Reduce human impact on water quality
- 5 Prevent introduction of non-native, invasive plant species
- 6 Respond rapidly with an organized plan to new introduction of non-native species
- 7 Monitor and reduce growth of filamentous algae

Each goal has associated action plans. All recreational users of Grindstone lake and lakeshore development have impact on the quality of the lake. The study will assist our understanding of the how the ecological health of the lake is affected by each of us and actions that can help to safeguard Grindstone Lake now and in the future.

Although there is a risk in summarizing the findings of the study some of the conclusions I have drawn from the work are:

- The lake has high water clarity. A small change in phosphate levels could have a significant impact on the water clarity
- The watershed (9765 acres) is 75% natural areas which deliver low amounts of phosphorus to the lake. Of concern are the cranberry marsh and the golf course within the watershed. Future development

### **Make wise water quality choices as you begin spring landscape maintenance on your lakeshore property.**

To protect water quality, use only fertilizers with NO phosphorus. Phosphorus is rarely needed for a healthy lawn. The middle number of the three numbers on the product label indicates the amount of phosphorus in the product. Choosing zero percent phosphorus will reduce unnecessary phosphorus runoff which fuels excessive weed and algae growth.

could add appreciably to the phosphates delivered to the lake

- The shoreline is 73% natural, slightly less than the desired 75% minimum.
- The lake has very few places where aquatic plants will grow. About 17% of the lake supports aquatic plants.
- The only non-native species found in the lake was curly leaf pondweed. It

was one strand in one location. This infestation needs prompt attention.

Grindstone Lake is in relatively good shape. However, it could be at a tipping point. We need prompt action to preserve the water quality.

Bruce Paulsen



## Trails End Resort

Out boating on Lac Courte Oreilles and looking for a place to rest? Stop in the A-frame lodge at Trails End Resort in Barbertown Bay! We have a great bar with refreshing drinks, snacks, great music, and bathroom facilities.

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April 2006

# **The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER**



**The Grindstone Lake Association  
is a community of neighbors  
dedicated to promoting the  
preservation and enjoyment  
of our precious lake !**

## GLA Board of Directors 2005-2006

Bruce Miller President	14210W Poplar Ln., Hayward mrponton@yahoo.com	715-634-5733
Ray Moeller Vice-President	8334N West Shore Ln., Hayward, WI 54843 moeller@cheqnet.net	715-634-4911
Linn Newton Treasurer	7869N Indian Dr., Hayward, WI 54843 newtonsl@centurytel.net	715-634-6329
Marilyn Lundberg Secretary	14949W Cherokee Trl., Hayward (summer-no box) 1077 Memorial Hwy #504, Lilydale, MN 55118 mardonlun@hotmail.com	715-634-7150 651-698-8110
Cyndy MacIntosh At Large	8230N Maple Ln., Hayward, WI 54843 macintod@cheqnet.net	715-634-2338
Bruce Paulsen Water Quality	8518N Hilltop, Hayward, WI 54843 bjpaulsen@cheqnet.net	715-634-3618
Dan Tyrolt LCO Liaison & Water Quality	LCO Conservation 13394 W. Trepania Rd. Bldg 1, Hayward, WI 54843 ddtyrolt@cheqnet.net	715-634-0102
Bill Miley At Large	8514N Williams Resort Rd., Hayward WI 54843	715-634-7517
Larry Berg At Large	8454 West Shore Ln., Hayward WI 54843 (no box) 2915 S Holly St., Cambridge, MN 55008 lberg@pinecity.k12.mn.us	763-689-4647 239-434-8907
Eric Nilsson At Large	8724N Yopps Rd., Hayward, WI 54843 1469 W Idaho Ave., Falcon Heights, MN 55108 enils77@hotmail.com	715-634-7145 651-646-8850
Camille Venners Newsletter	14965W Cherokee Trl., Hayward (summer-no box) 620 31 St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901 evenners2@charter.net	715-634-8614 507-289-2885
Ann Berg Newsletter	8454 West Shore Ln., Hayward WI 54843 (no box) 915 S Holly St., Cambridge, MN 55008 aberg@cambridge.k12.mn.us	715-634-6119 763-434-8907

# Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

What does a lakeshore property owners association do?

In recent years, ours put in 236 fish cribs, cost-shared on a sediment core study conducted by the LCO, and partnered with Walleyes for NW Wisconsin to place extended length Walleye in the lake and we also hold an annual picnic/pig roast following our annual meeting to help our members get acquainted with their neighbors.

In greater detail, our Grindstone Lake Association:

- Supported the adoption of additional management and protection measures for shore land in Sawyer County;
- Encouraged members to attend the shore land hearings;
- Surveyed aquatic plants, including milfoil (no milfoil found);
- Supported the DNR self-help lakes volunteer monitoring. Partnered with the LCO and the DNR for the water quality and nutrient loading study and published information about it in this newsletter;

- Strongly encouraged the DNR to post the area by the islands as a no-wake zone;
- Supported a trash dive to remove debris (we have now done 3 of them);
- Sponsored a DNR stakeholders meeting to shape a vision for the lake;
- Following the lead of other major lakes in the area we are supporting a septic survey of lakeshore properties. Look for more information on this study in this Trumpeter and at the 2006 annual meeting;
- This past Fall, we partnered with the Town of Bass Lake, the DNR and many generous members and organizations to rebuild the boat landing off Hwy K.

I think our work demonstrates how serious we are about keeping Grindstone Lake a real Northwoods gem!

Next we need to ask you to consider becoming active with the Grindstone Lake Association. We need volunteers to serve on several committees, to help with the

annual trash dive, to help set up the annual meeting and picnic, people to help clean up after the annual picnic, people to work on water quality, and to help on other projects that the Lake Association may undertake.

If we want to continue being a successful Lake Association, it takes the helping hands, and ideas, of many people. We have a hard-working board of concerned lakeshore property owners now. We have good partnerships with the LCO tribe, with Sawyer County, with the DNR, and others. Now, we need new ideas and people to continue our list of successes. I am asking you to contact me, or one of our board members, and let us know of your interest in working with us. The best way to reach me is by email: [sleepingbearcoffee@yahoo.com](mailto:sleepingbearcoffee@yahoo.com) — and I will help you connect with the right committee chairperson.

The best way to keep Grindstone Lake a great place to live, to vacation, to fish — is for all of us to pitch in, to the

best of our abilities, and keep it as one of the Northwood's great lakes.

Bruce Miller  
President



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## Shoreland Buffer

What is a shoreland buffer?

A shoreland buffer strip (also called a filter strip or buffer zone) separates your lawn from the lake. It typically includes taller grasses, blooming plants, shrubs and trees, as well as aquatic plants such as cattails, rushes, and lilies.

Why is a natural shoreline important?

Undeveloped or restored shorelines carpeted by woods, meadows, or marshes enhance the quality of lakes and rivers, as well as recreational opportunities. Natural shorelines help protect water quality by slowing runoff, reducing erosion, and filtering nutrients that can cause algal blooms. They also provide habitat for wildlife and can deter nuisance species like Canada geese. Natural shorelines add beauty and color to property, increase privacy, and can reduce the amount of time you spend on lawn care! By improving water quality, habitat, and appearance, a natural shoreline can

even improve your property value. If you're lucky enough to have shoreline that hasn't been developed, think before you clear it. If your property has already been altered, there are steps you can take to have a more natural shoreline.

How can I establish a shoreland buffer?

The easiest approach to establishing a buffer strip is simply to do nothing. If you stop mowing, weeding, and raking your shoreland area, many native plants will likely reestablish. Plants such as spike rush, sedges, and arrowhead have become established on some shorelines when people stopped cutting and raking. Another option is to actively restore the site by replanting native vegetation in the water and on the adjacent land.

There are four steps to restore your shore:

1. Start by assessing your site and the different ways you use it (e.g., swimming, making campfires, docking your boat).
2. Carefully plan your project and prepare the site.
3. Select and plant appropriate native plants.
4. Maintain the area so the plants become well established.

Source: Adapted from Minnesota Shoreland Management Resource Guide

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## Grindstone Lake Fishery

For many years the Grindstone Lake Association has channeled funds toward improving the Grindstone Lake fishery. Some of the GLA efforts included placing fish cribs, spanning multiple years as covered by a DNR permit; walleye stocking; and trash dives to clean up the lake bottom. Recently, Bruce Paulsen spoke with Frank Pratt to explain our past efforts. During that conversation, Frank was asked for suggestions on how the GLA might prioritize spending to maximize benefits to fishery as we move forward.

Frank recommended that the GLA focus on improving shoreline buffers and accelerate coarse woody debris along the shoreline via tree drops. He also favored (re)continuing aqua-cribs as well, now that the permitting process has been better defined. In the next several months, Frank

will complete a fish management plan that might assist the GLA in making decisions.

Daniel D. Tyrolt, biologist with LCO Conservation, stated, "The reason cribs seem to be especially successful on Grindstone Lake is because of the numbers of cribs placed in an area. Some lakes only put out 10, 20, or 30 cribs in an area which doesn't seem to be effective. Completely saturating an area with cribs, placing 100 - 200 in an area as the GLA has done, produces very good results. Couple this with increasing the tree drops around the shoreline and I think you would really be providing effective cover and rearing areas for young fish."

The GLA Board appreciates input from members as goals and budgets are established. Please share your fishery opinions and suggestions.

# Grindstone Lake Septic Survey Update

Thanks to everyone who has completed and returned the Septic Survey. To date, 77% of the lakeshore home owners have returned their survey. We've had a very positive response. So far, 65% of the homeowners on the lake want us to pursue the survey. If you have not returned your survey, there is still time. You can find the form and an informational sheet on the survey at the Bass Lake website [www.basslakewi.gov](http://www.basslakewi.gov). Click on local organizations, then the septic survey. You can mail the completed forms to GLA, PO Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843. The completed forms will be submitted to the Sawyer County Sanitarian in April.

## FAQ:

*Why do I need to have this done, it is checked every time I have it pumped?*

According to Mr. Maki, the Sanitarian, the Sawyer County inspection will be a thorough, in-depth study. When systems are pumped, that check does not include verification testing.

## *When will the study be done?*

The Intern, who will be assisting Mr. Maki, will arrive at the end of May. Windigo Lake is ahead of us in this process, so this summer their inspections will be done first and ours will commence after Windigo is completed. Mr. Maki feels that he will be able to complete 100-150 properties on Grindstone Lake by September. The remaining properties will be inspected during the summer of 2007.

Linn Newton

The intern assisting Mert Maki to conduct septic inspections on Grindstone Lake will most likely be a university student from Stevens Point. If anyone has information about affordable housing or can offer housing for the intern, please contact Bruce Miller 634-5733 or Linn Newton 634-6329.

## Mark Your Calendars !

JULY 8, 2006	ANNUAL GLA MEETING TIME NOON SOCIAL BREAK TIME 1:30 PM BASS LAKE TOWN HALL AND/OR FIRE STATION
JULY 8, 2006	ANNUAL GLA PICNIC TIME 2:00 PM BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)
AUGUST 13, 2006	BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISER PICNIC
TO BE ANNOUNCED	LAKE TRASH DIVE

# Library Building Fund Close to Goal

The library building fund is getting close to its goal. We still need more funds, but we are close enough that we plan to start construction this summer. We applied for and received a \$500,000 block grant. We also had several large donations as well as many smaller donations from area residents. Mr. Dave Bishop, who is a non-resident property owner with a place on Round Lake has sent a letter to other non-residents asking



for donations to help us reach our goal. We hope this will put us over the top. The library is for everyone, residents and non-

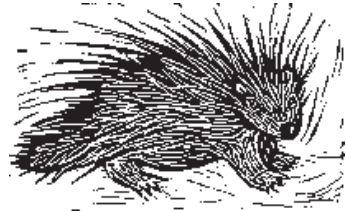
residents alike. I know that many of you have made donations, and we thank you so much for your generosity.

The new library will have many amenities that the old library did not have. There will be plenty of parking, and most important, the new library will be handicap accessible. We plan to start construction in July or August, and the building should be completed by March or April 2007. It has been a long hard road to get to this point, but our community will be an even greater place with this new public facility. The site of the new library is on highway 77 north, across from the Wesleyan

Church.

Thank you again for your support, and I will update you on our progress at the annual meeting. Donations for the new library may be sent to: Hayward Library Building Fund, PO Box 917, Hayward, WI 54843.

Ray Moeller  
President  
Library Board of Trustees



## Proposed By-Law Changes for Non-Profit Eligibility

In order to be granted 501 (c)(3) status, the Internal Revenue Service requires that certain wording be included in the Grindstone Lake Association Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. Consequently, these documents will have to be changed.

The changes required are:

- Including a statement that upon dissolution, any excess funds be given to other 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organizations
- Including reference to the Internal Revenue Code rather than reference to Wisconsin statutes.

Bruce Paulsen

# Grindstone Lake Sediment Core — Preliminary Report

The analysis of the sediment core for Grindstone Lake is nearing completion. The only major analysis left is geochemistry. I have asked the dating lab to reanalyze a couple of samples from the bottom of the core. The same samples are used for the dating and geochemistry. The radiochemistry recounts should be done in 1-2 weeks and it takes about 1 week after that for the geochemical analysis. The discussion below includes preliminary results from the dating work because I think it is unlikely there will be significant changes with the recount.

The mean sedimentation rate for the last 150 years was  $0.007 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  which is the lowest I have measured in 42 lakes in Wisconsin. In contrast, the mean rate for Round Lake was  $0.011 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . More importantly, the rate has been generally stable since 1960 and in fact the highest rates occurred around 1930 and during the late nineteenth century. The diatom community indicates that there have been minimal changes in nutrient levels in the lake during the last 150 years. The diatom community was used to estimate summer phosphorus levels using a weighted averaging model. Although this model predicted phosphorus values somewhat higher than has been measured in the lake, the trend should be accurate and it indicates that mean summer phosphorus concentrations have changed very little. We will have a better indication of water quality changes when we have the geochemical information. One indication of water quality changes will be a decline in oxygen levels in the deep waters of the lake. This is one of the most sensitive indicators of eutrophication.

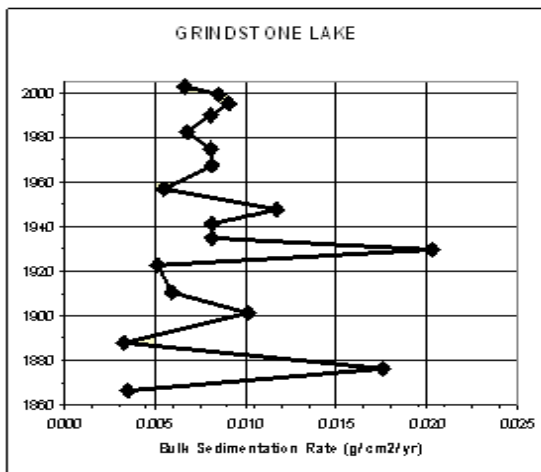


Figure 1. The sedimentation rate is generally unchanged and in fact the peak rate occurred around 1930. The rate near the bottom of the core may change with the reanalysis of these samples.



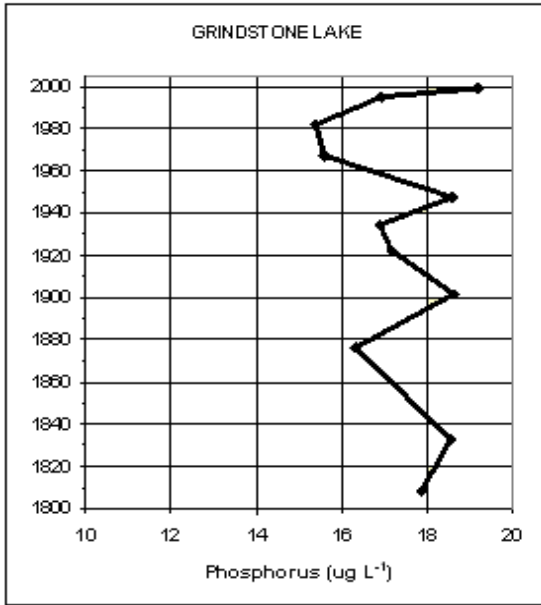


Figure 2. Diatom inferred mean summer phosphorus. Although the modelled concentrations are somewhat higher than that measured in the lake, the trend should be accurate.

## WANTED: BOARD MEMBERS

Would you like to be more active in your Lake Association?

- The board meets 6-8 times a year on a Saturday morning
- Meetings are less than 2 hours long
- Much of our updates and information sharing is done via e-mail.

At the July annual meeting, there will be several board positions up for election.

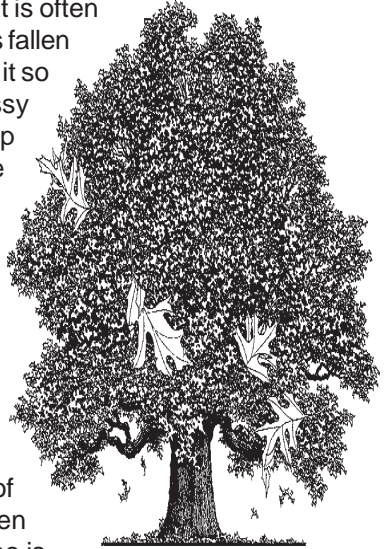
If you would be interesting in becoming a Board member...

Or have any questions about the board member responsibilities...

Contact: Bruce Miller [mrponton@yahoo.com](mailto:mrponton@yahoo.com) or  
Linn Newton [newtonsl@centurytel.net](mailto:newtonsl@centurytel.net)

# Tree Drop Program

Trees that have fallen in the water along the shoreline are one of the key factors for a healthy lake ecosystem and fishery. Unfortunately, one of the first things that is often done when a property owner discovers a tree has fallen into the water along their shoreline is to remove it so that the shoreline isn't "cluttered" with that messy tree. One of the things that can be done to help maintain and improve the fishery of Grindstone Lake is to increase the amount of coarse woody debris (CWD) that is around the shoreline. In an effort to do this, the LCO Conservation Department is providing technical assistance and funding for property owners interested in having a "tree drop" on their shoreline. This involves cutting a live tree along the shoreline and letting it drop into the water to provide the habitat that young walleyes and other fish depend upon. The tree must have a minimum diameter of 12" at the base and once it is felled it is then securely anchored to the shoreline. Anyone who is interested in this program should contact Dan Tyrolt at the LCO Conservation Department (715-634-0102) to have their shoreline assessed to determine if it would be suitable for a tree drop.



## Reminder

Have you sent your 2006 membership dues? Your dues are the fuel that allows the GLA to finance projects. The annual \$25.00 fee is a bargain! Memberships should be sent to GLA, PO Box 292, Hayward, WI 5484.

## Calling for all . . .

lake management assessment forms. If you cannot locate the forms that were mailed to you, go to the GLA website: [www.basslakewi.gov](http://www.basslakewi.gov). Click local organizations and you will find the forms there. If you cannot access them on the web, contact:

Linn Newton  
715-634-6329  
[newtonsl@centurytel.net](mailto:newtonsl@centurytel.net)



The GLA has need of persons with website or mass e-mail skills to assist with communications. Both tasks are intermittent and occasional in nature. For further information contact:

Camille Venners  
[evenners2@charter.net](mailto:evenners2@charter.net)  
507-289-2885  
715-634-8614

# Boat Landing Repair Wrap-Up

## Signed, Sealed, and Delivered



*Grindstone Lake Association Board Members, Bruce Paulsen and Bruce Miller, present a check to Pete Sanders for boat landing repairs.*

Overhaul of the Public Boat Landing was completed at the end of October in 2005. The gratifying outcome of the Town of Bass Lake and Grindstone Lake Association partnership in this venture is directly due to the commitment of the community and the GLA membership. This project was possible thanks to the generosity and support of many, many of our members, area fishing organizations, area fishermen, and other lake associations working in tandem with the Town of Bass Lake. This was a team accomplishment

Each time you put your boats in and out at the landing, take pride in your lake association, your community, and yourself for the success of this effort. And please remember to let the Town of Bass Lake Board know that you appreciate the commitment of our local government, as well.

# RAYFIELD REALTY

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*Bruce Miller*

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Grindstone Lake Resident

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November 2005

# **The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER**



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## GLA Board of Directors 2004-2005

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# Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

As I sit down to write this, there are several inches of snow on the ground. Deer hunting season is about to begin. The trees are stunning, all white and sparkly. And, the waves continue to crash on a very wild, windy day on Big Beautiful Grindstone Lake.

We clearly have stepped from autumn to winter! And I, for one, wish my boat lift was still not in the water. I was told that I might be the last one. Ah... a polar plunge, I guess is in order soon!

I was mulling over some of our recent accomplishments. We now, thanks to the generosity of our members and others who care about this lake have a navigable boat landing. We were able to partner with the Town of Bass Lake on that project. It should make life easier for many people next spring.

We are also making great progress with our initiative to protect our lake by conducting a septic survey. That too is a partnership, this time with the Sawyer County Zoning Office. If you have not yet signed and returned your survey, now is the time to do so. You have an envelope somewhere on that desk or table. Please send it back to us.

You also have a great board of director's... people willing to step up and

do the work. However, we can use more volunteers. We can especially use volunteers to help plan our next summer meeting and picnic; and we need to have some folks assist with set-up and clean-up at events. We are forming committees that need people who are willing to commit a small amount of time to help accomplish some great things. Please ask any board member how you can be useful... and then, please do sign up.

I have been thinking that it would be great if people were willing to share their stories of time at the lake. What was the lake like when you first discovered it... why did you come here, and why did you stay? That goes for those who discovered it 50 years ago, and those who just discovered it 5 months ago. What is it that makes this gem of a lake special to you? Over the holidays, please think about that, and let us know what it is that makes this lake your special place.

Finally, thank you for being a part of this Lake Association. It is an important organization, doing good work, and that is only possible through your support, your work, and your desire to keep this body of water clean, beautiful and safe!

Bruce Miller



# Annual Meeting July 2005

Bruce Miller, President, called the Grindstone Lake Association annual meeting to order at noon outside Bass Lake Town Hall. Cyndy MacIntosh, Treasurer, reported that the July 10, 2004 balance was \$4,904.01. The income was \$6,085.98 from memberships, tee shirt sales and interest. The expenses were \$3731.81 for a trash dive, pig roast, annual meeting, tee shirts, newsletters, fees and donations. The July 9, 2005 balance is \$7,258.18. The Board has pledged \$1,000 to Walleyes for NW Wisconsin for extended growth walleyes and \$2000 to the LCO for a lake core study. There are 98 memberships to date.

**Board membership:** Bruce Miller introduced the board members present: Ray Moeller, Vice President; Cyndy MacIntosh, Treasurer; Marilyn Lundberg, Secretary; Linn Newton; Dan Tyrolt, Water Quality and LCO Liaison; Skip Brossard; Helen Chevrier, and Camille Venners, Newsletter. Marilyn Lundberg reported that three board members had terms expiring: Cyndy MacIntosh, Skip Brossard, and Helen Chevrier. Helen opted not to run and Bruce Paulsen has agreed to serve. Cyndy, Skip and Bruce Paulsen were approved for the three vacancies.

**Updates:** Bruce Miller announced that the Grindstone Lake Association and the Wisconsin DNR were hosting a workshop to help set the direction for fish management on Grindstone Lake to be held on July 23, 2005. Everyone was urged to attend. He urged attendance at a DNR hearing on July 20 on changes proposed to NR 115, the shoreland rules. In addition, members should attend a Sawyer county hearing August 18 on changes to its shoreland zoning regarding

impervious surfaces.

Jim Garvey reported that the Couderay Regional Land Trust helped preserve the Big Timber Island and is working to preserve Moonshine Island on the Chippewa Flowage. It is also working on 12 conservation easements. He thanked the Association for its membership and also the individual members from the Lake.

Ray Moeller said the library has raised \$450,000 in its building fund and is hoping for a block grant. The library fund still needs money.

Skip Brossard said that Diver Dave Mathis is working with the Association to stage a trash dive on the lake. The Association has sponsored a dive for the past few years, pulling lots of trash from the lake.

Helen Chevrier said that park development is waiting for a grant, and it's possible development will be completed by fall.

Hal Meeker said that Dr. Tim Garry has permission from the DNR for a catch and release program to relocate Mergansers and will start catching them shortly. DNR wants to survey the present level of swimmers itch.

## SPEAKERS

**Water quality:** Dan Tyrolt discussed studies underway by the LCO Tribe. The Association is contributing \$2,000 toward a \$10,000 core study. The core was collected last summer and results will show biological changes on the lake. A similar study was completed on Round Lake showing nutrient spikes with settlement, especially the last 20 years when development greatly expanded. The

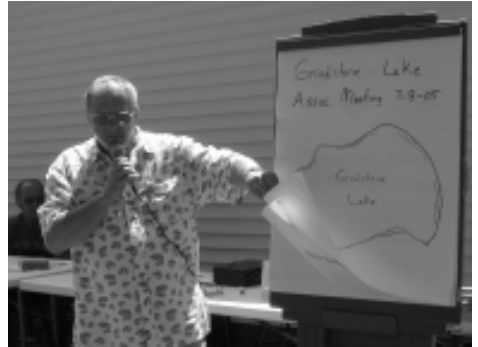


Tribe is conducting baseline monitoring and is watching for trends. While the trends are not yet statistically significant, he is seeing an increase in nutrients. He said Grindstone is very clear and recently had a secchi disk reading of 20'. The tribe also worked with the US Geological Survey to model the effect of the golf course's high capacity wells on water levels. The most the model showed was a 5 percent reduction, which shouldn't pose a problem. He said the tribe wants to work with the Association to prevent problems.

**Septic Survey:** Mert Maki said he has been working for Sawyer County on regulating septic systems since 1991. He has administered septic surveys on Spider, Teal, Ghost, LCO, Round and Tiger Cat Flowage. He explained the process for the county to survey septic systems.

1. The Association petitions lakeshore owners to see if they will agree to a septic survey.
2. 51 percent of the owners must agree to the survey, but county prefers 60-70 percent agreement.
3. When completed, the Association turns petition records into Sawyer County.
4. Sawyer county surveys lake septic systems, usually over two years.

In the past, Sawyer County has allocated \$6000 for survey work. An intern works at least 12 weeks in the summer. Systems are checked with an auger and transit. Holding tanks are checked for leakage. Failing systems get a notice and owners have one year to fix the system. There is some cost share funding available for residents that meet income requirements. Soil testers determine what



kind of system should go in, when one fails. The last resort is a holding tank.

The members moved, seconded and approved a motion to move forward with a petition to have a septic survey of Grindstone Lake owners.

**Fisheries:** Frank Pratt, Senior Fisheries Biologist, discussed the visioning session planned for July 23. The DNR and Association are hoping for maximum attendance from those interested in Grindstone Lake. They want a consensus about what is expected for lake fisheries and a clear set of fisheries objectives. He reported that Grindstone is considered a trends monitoring lake and thus is surveyed every three years. Fisheries are good. The muskies are at about the same level as historically. Walleye are reproducing well and the slot size limit is very successful. The Association's fish crib program has

resulted in very good small mouth bass numbers. There are also numerous pan fisheries. The walleye reproduction reflects on the good lake water quality. People asked about the rock ledge at the boat landing and he said the DNR is examining what could be done. It is one place dredging may be supported. Regarding Swimmer's Itch, he thought that the Merganser's relocation program was an interesting approach.



**Zone captains:** Linn asked members to be zone captains in areas of the lake where needed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board will be July 23 at noon, before the visioning session. Members were invited to attend.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. and the picnic/pig roast began shortly thereafter.

Marilyn Lundberg

## E-Mail Notices

During the summer, the GLA implemented an e-mail contact list. Members who supplied the GLA with an e-mail address were sent notices regarding Grindstone Lake events or issues via e-mail.

If you wish to be added to or removed from the list (or need to update your e-mail address) — send an e-mail message with “GLA e-mail list” in the subject line to:

Camille Venners  
evenners2@charter.net

A volunteer with Word 2003 on their computer is needed to maintain the e-mail list and send messages as needed. Training can be provided, if needed.

FYI — *All e-mail addresses are considered confidential and will not be sold or shared.*

# 2005 GLA Annual Picnic



**Mmmm,  
mmm,  
good!**

Ron and Kathy Tenney prepared the roast pig to perfection once again this year. Incredibly, we had the remarkable good fortune to select another wonderful day to host this event. Picnickers enjoyed the savory fare under the bright blue summer sky.

The annual picnic provides an opportunity for our lake community to share a magnificent meal, boast about fishing adventures, swap lake stories, and catch up on lake events. It also allows us to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. If you were unable to attend the picnic, please join us next year! We guarantee a good time and good eats!



# Public Boat Landing Repair



Grindstone Lake has a “new and improved” public boat landing. Thanks go to the Town of Bass Lake, The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, property owners on Grindstone Lake and the Grindstone Lake Association.

Many of the readers know that the public boat landing next to the cranberry farm has been a challenge for many years. The hump out 75 feet from the ramp has claimed many a prop. In time of low water it is difficult to get boats in and out.

Only in rare circumstances will the DNR dredge a boat landing. In the past the local DNR office has submitted a request to have the cement pad redone, but was reluctant to ask for dredging. In any event, the local DNR request for work on the Grindstone Lake boat landing was not funded when the State DNR office

allocated funds. According to the local DNR folks it would be three to five years before the Grindstone Lake boat landing would move high enough up the priority list to receive funding.



For the last two years, various people, including Steve Butchart, have been trying to get the boat landing repaired. In August of this year things came together when Phil Nies, Bass Lake Town Board; Frank Pratt and Dave Kafura, DNR; Doug Thompson, Thompson Sand and Gravel and Bruce Paulsen, Grindstone Lake Association all met at the boat landing. At the meeting, the DNR agreed that the landing should be dredged and that the DNR would be willing to issue a permit if \$9600 could be found to cover the cost of the project.

At its September 10, 2005, meeting, the Grindstone Lake Association Board approved funding a portion of the cost to repair the boat landing. The Board acknowledged the need to seek contributions from property owners to cover the commitment. If more funds were collected than needed, the excess would be applied to future lake improvement projects. At its September 12, 2005, meeting, the Town of Bass Lake passed a resolution agreeing to fund \$5000 of the



cost of dredging the boat landing if the Grindstone Lake Association would fund the rest unless there was grant money available to cover the entire cost of the project.

Given the show of public support for the boat ramp improvement, Joel Weinert, Hayward DNR Lands Management Technician pressured the DNR in Madison to release funds to replace the boat landing cement pad. Even though the funding request was previously rejected, the DNR folks in Madison saw the wisdom of completing all the boat landing repairs at one time and released funds to replace the cement launching pad.

All the work on the landing has been completed. The “new and improved”

landing reopened October 24, 2005. All of us will enjoy the new landing for a long time. The DNR said that given the prevailing winds and the lake bottom structure they doubted if the landing would ever have to be dredged again.

As it worked out the Town of Bass Lake received a \$4,800 grant from the DNR. The Grindstone Lake Association collected some \$6,000 to help fund the dredging and the DNR waived its \$500 permit fee.

Thank you to all who contributed to the boat landing repair. In total, 77 donors contributed. The contributions ranged from \$10 to \$500 from individuals and Muskies, Inc. The GLA Board has not officially decided where to apply the \$2,000 collected above the amount needed. However, two projects have been discussed — 1) the septic survey, if the County asks the Lake Association for supplemental funding or 2) the Association’s portion of the planned aquatic plant base line survey conducted in partnership with the Lac Courte Orielles Tribe.

Bruce Paulsen



## Walleye Stocking

On October 29, 2005, 1250 extended growth walleyes (6” to 10” in length) were stocked in Grindstone Lake. The cost of this project was \$2,000. Walleyes for Northwestern Wisconsin (WFNW) and the Grindstone Lake Association each contributed \$1,000 to fund this project. WFNW also matched funds with COLA to introduce the same number of extended growth walleyes into Lac Courte Orielle.



# Round Lake Core Study Results

The results of a paleoecological study of Round Lake in Sawyer County, WI, which was funded by Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Tribe and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, were authored by Paul Garrison of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and published in June 2005. Grindstone Lake is undergoing a similar study for which the report is not yet complete. While we await the results of the Grindstone Lake Study, it may be beneficial for us to consider the results of our neighbor, Round Lake.

The report begins with an explanation of the benefit of paleoecology studies. "Questions often arise concerning how a lake's water quality has changed through time as a result of watershed disturbances. In most cases there is little or no reliable long-term data. Questions often asked are if the condition of the lake has changed, when did this occur, what were the causes, and what were the historical condition of the lake? Paleoecology offers a way to address these issues. The paleoecological approach depends upon the fact that lakes act as partial sediment traps for particles that are created within the lake or delivered from the watershed. The sediments of the lake entomb a selection of fossil remains that are more or less resistant to bacterial decay or chemical dissolution. These remains include diatom frustules, cell walls of certain algal species, and microfossils from aquatic plants. The chemical composition of the sediments may indicate the composition of particles entering the lake as well as the past chemical environment of the lake itself. Using the fossil remains found in the sediment, one can reconstruct changes in the lake ecosystem over any period of time since the establishment of the lake."

Analysis of the Round Lake data reveals that little significant changes occurred before 1900. Gradually the effects of European settlement which included logging and tourism began to have an impact on the lake as shoreline development increased.

The report states that, "The core shows that Round Lake has been impacted by shoreline development beginning around the 1920s. Runoff from development lead to an increase in macrophytes in the 1950s. This impact has accelerated during the last 15 years resulting in an increase in sediment infilling and loss of oxygen in the bottom waters. If this trend continues, the lake will be further degraded with increasing nutrient levels resulting in a loss of water clarity." It also notes that, "The greatest change in the geochemical record has occurred during the last two decades. The soil erosion has not increased very much but there has been a significant increase in elements indicative of shoreline development."

Accelerated change seems to be occurring. Without intervention and attention to lake management concerns, the water quality of northern lakes may be endangered. Round Lake now has data to help plan for and implement future lake practices. Grindstone Lake also will soon have the beneficial data from a core study. As soon as results are available, they will be shared in the Trumpeter.



# Grindstone Lake Management Actions & Recommendations

While awaiting the results of the Grindstone Lake Core Study, it is useful to revisit 10 recommendations from the 1990's Grindstone Lake water study conducted in partnership with the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Tribe. The recommendations are listed below. An italicized progress note follows each recommendation.

The development of a comprehensive lake management plan for Grindstone Lake is recommended in order to prevent further degradation of the water quality. This plan should include:

1. The development of a long-term water quality goal for the lake; *Once the core study is complete, a better understanding of past lake quality will be available to enable establishment of realistic goals.*
2. An evaluation of different watershed development scenarios to determine acceptable (i.e., the water quality of the lake is within the established goal) and unacceptable (i.e., the water quality of the lake fails to meet its goal) development options; *Ongoing*
3. Recommendations for ultimate watershed development relative to achieving the lake's water quality goal (i.e. minimum lot size, maximum area of impervious surface, etc.); *Ongoing*
4. Recommendations for watershed best management practices under

- future development conditions; *Ongoing*
5. Recommendations for ordinances to control watershed development; *Supporting County and private citizen shoreland zoning revision efforts.*
6. Recommendations for the riparian owner management practices; *Providing ongoing information for landowners.*
7. Recommendations for best management plans to protect sensitive lands including wetlands, steep slopes, undeveloped land, shoreline, etc.; *Working to identify areas, map them, and prepare a plan to implement efforts to protect them.*
8. Algal study to determine species abundance and distribution; *Completed, as well as zooplankton and benthic sampling.*
9. A macrophyte study to determine the spatial coverage, density, and species composition of the macrophyte community. A special area of concern would be identification of Eurasian Water Milfoil; *Application for a study grant in progress.*
10. Volunteer monitoring program to record long-term water quality database. *Progress on this item uncertain.*

Dan Tyrolt

**The GLA Board invites and welcomes member input regarding all lake issues and programs. Please add your views to the discussion and decision process.**

**The GLA is YOUR organization!**

# 2005 Trash Dive

This years trash dive was held on July 11. Diver Dave and his group dove along the sand shelf and rock bar on the Northeast corner of Grindstone. Along with several anchors (now residing in Diver Dave's anchor garden, at Trailways), a thirty foot gill net with several dead walleyes and two small muskies was removed from the lake. The net was reported to the DNR office.



Divers stated “that Grindstone is cleaner than Lac Court Orielles”, where they dove the previous week. Many thanks to Dave McJoynt, Gary Pregracke, Don McIntosh, Hal Meeker, Dennis Keeffe, Marilyn & Don Lundberg and Skip Brossard for providing shore support. Thanks also to our friends at the town of Bass Lake for providing trash bags.

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## Septic Survey Update

At the 2005 GLA Annual Meeting, the membership voted to conduct a survey of the Grindstone Lake property owners regarding septic inspections. An information sheet was written and a survey form prepared. The Septic Survey form asks owners to indicate approval or disapproval of a septic inspection of their property.

During the latter part of the summer, GLA Board Members began personally contacting Grindstone Lake owners. In October, a letter was mailed to 1) owners who had been contacted but had not yet returned survey forms and 2) owners that board members were unable to contact .

As of November 19, 202 survey forms have been returned. This is approximately 55 percent of Grindstone Lake property owners. Currently, the majority of responses indicate septic inspection approval.

If you have not yet responded to the survey and returned your form, the GLA Board urges you to do so. Our goal is to obtain a completed form from all owners. Mailing repeated requests will increase the cost of conducting the survey. If you need another form or if a form did not reach you, please let us know and a board member will make sure that another is sent to you. The survey form will soon also be available on our website: <http://www.basslakewi.org>

# Grindstone Shallows

At long last, the reality of a park is in the near future. This fall the Town of Bass Lake was able to get some of the planned work completed at the park. The split rail fencing was installed on the east and the west property lines. Shrubbery was installed on the east side of the park. Three spruces were planted to create a privacy screen for the neighbor. Along the fence, a line of Miss Kim lilacs was planted. The rest of the work will have to wait for spring.

For those who do not know the history of the park, here are the sequences of events. The property was purchased in May, 2004, from the family of Elmer Corbin. Mr. Corbin had a small resort of three cabins on Poplar Avenue to the east of the Bass Lake town landing on Grindstone Lake. A federal grant was received to help purchase the property. The Town also owns the property across the road from the boat landing. The Town of Bass Lake Park Committee organized to develop a plan for the park. By late summer, the cabins were demolished. Public input was obtained to name the park. Several names were suggested and the winner was Grindstone Shallows. GLA Board member Linn Newton had submitted the name.

Once the park plan was complete, the committee worked to obtain a Department of Natural Resources grant to build a pavilion, install bathrooms, finish the landscaping and post signs. The grant was awarded in August, but no work could be done until the money was distributed in late September. The rest of the facilities should be let for bids this winter so the



plan can be completed in spring.

Sawyer County owns the property to the east and to the south of the Town of Bass Lake property. The Town has obtained permission from the County to utilize some of the property to put in a walking and snowshoe trail. The trail will go down to Little Grindstone. This will be a great recreational opportunity and the park will be a great asset to the community.



## GLA Website

Skip Brossard recently submitted his resignation to the GLA Board concluding many years of service. He, along with his wife, Eileen, did the investigative legwork, preparation and set-up to make the GLA website a reality. The GLA Board extends thanks to them both.

Currently the GLA Website is in need of a new mentor to oversee and maintain the content. Please contact any board member if you can help!

# Coarse Woody Debris (CWD)

*Edited from information at <http://lakeaccess.org/habitats.html>*

Before shoreline development, the land around our lake and others, the riparian zone, consisted of large trees which shaded the shoreline and provided a steady supply of organic matter in the form of leaves, branches and logs to the near shore area. Aquatic organisms in the lakes and streams evolved during a time when large trees often fell into the water.

When human development came to the shoreline, trees were removed, and logs were often pulled out of the lake. Now scientists and resource managers have come to realize the importance of coarse woody debris in aquatic ecosystems (and forested ecosystems as well).

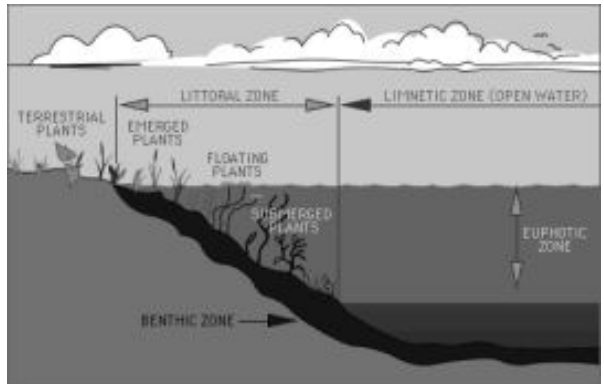
Lakeshore development may affect woody debris abundance in the littoral zone and adversely effect lake ecosystems because coarse woody debris does the following for your lake:

- provides physical structure for aquatic organisms
- alters water movements and other hydrologic processes
- affects the flow of organic matter from the terrestrial ecosystem into surface waters and affects the transport of organic material within the aquatic environment

Trees that fall into the water create important fish habitat. Small fish feed on the invertebrates (insects and zooplankton) in the wood and use the

cover to hide from predators. Musky, and other large predatory fish, often stalk these logs looking for prey.

A study by the University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology studied fish habitat in 16 northern Wisconsin lakes. Their study showed that as homes become denser the number of fallen trees



decreases. Research on the importance of CWD has really just begun. We'll most likely be hearing more in the near future. This trend cannot be totally reversed but shoreland property owners can help. Fisheries management often involves the addition of "structure", cribs etc. You could accomplish similar goals by not removing that branch or log that falls into the lake.

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## Become Active!

In an effort to provide more service to the Grindstone Lake community, the Grindstone Lake Association has formed the committees listed below. Each committee will be headed by a board member. We are searching for residents who are willing to work in these specific areas. You do not have to be a full-time

resident to be active on a committee. Nor will any committee consume overwhelming or continuous amounts of time. If you are interested, please contact the committee chairperson. If you would like to suggest additional committees, please contact any board member.

Annual picnic: Ray Moeller

Trash Dive: Cyndy MacIntosh

Fund raising: Larry Berg

Water Quality: Bruce Paulsen

Membership: Linn Newton

Communications (e-mail and newsletter):

Camille Venners

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# GLA Exploring Non-Profit Status

Becoming a 501(c)(3) will be on the agenda for the next GLA Board meeting in January. In order for the GLA Board and GLA membership to have time to digest what it means, I thought I would share all I know about what it means.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A 501(C)(3)

A 501(c)(3) is a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income taxes and usually state. The benefits include the eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Nonprofit charitable organizations may be eligible for savings such a lower or no bank fees, depending on the policies of those providing the goods or service.

Prohibited or limited activities are:

- No participation in political campaigns; local, state or federal

- Restrict lobbying to an insubstantial part of the operations
- Contributions do not enrich board members, related parties and other individuals
- Must not operate for the benefit of the founder, the founder's family, board members or others controlled by these groups
- Must not operate for the primary purpose of conducting a trade or businesses that is not related to the tax exempt purpose
- May not conduct activities that are illegal or violate fundamental public policy

The cost of filing for tax-exempt status is \$150, assuming the Associations average receipts for the last four years average under \$10,000. It is taking about 200 days for the IRS to process the request.

Filing and disclosure requirements:

- Annual information return (Form 990). For us this would be a simple filing, we could use the EZ version.
- Unrelated business tax if there are receipts of \$1,000 or more from unrelated trade or businesses.
- The application for tax- exempt status and three years of annual information returns must be made available to the public on request. We should probably have these documents available at the annual meeting
- Any donor of \$75 or more should be sent a receipt acknowledging the gift and state how much of the contribution is for goods and services provide to the giver. This is not that onerous using mail merge. We keep a list of our members and contributions anyway.

Bruce Paulsen

**Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association

PO Box 292

Hayward, WI 54843

May 2005

# **The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER**



**The Grindstone Lake Association  
is a community of neighbors  
dedicated to promoting the  
preservation and enjoyment  
of our precious lake !**



## GLA Board of Directors 2004-2005

Bruce Miller President	14210W Poplar Ln., Hayward ..... 715-634-5733 mrponton@yahoo.com
Ray Moeller Vice-President	8334N West Shore Ln., Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-634-4911 moeller@cheqnet.net
Cyndy MacIntosh Treasurer	8230N Maple Ln., Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-634-2338 macintod@cheqnet.net
Marilyn Lundberg Secretary	14949W Cherokee Trl., Hayward (summer-no box) .... 715-634-7150 1077 Memorial Hwy #504, Lilydale, MN 55118 ..... 651-698-8110 mardonlun@hotmail.com
Linn Newton At Large	7869N Indian Dr., Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-634-6329 newtonsl@centurytel.net
Dan Tyrolt LCO Liaison & Water Quality	LCO Conservation 13394 W. Trepania Rd., Bldg. 1, Hayward, WI 54843 ... 715-865-2329 dtyrolt@cheqnet.net
Howard (Skip) Brossard At Large	8689 N. Brossard Rd., Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-634-4314 hcbrossard@JREC.net
Helen Chevrier At Large	7902N Stone Bay Ln., Hayward WI 54843 ..... 715-634-3449 Chevy66@centurytel.net
Bill Miley At Large	8514N Williams Resort Rd., Hayward WI 54843 ..... 715-634-7517
Larry Berg At Large	8454 West Shore Ln., Hayward WI 54843 (no box) .... 715-634-6119 2915 S Holly St., Cambridge, MN 55008 ..... 763-689-4647 lberg@pinecity.k12.mn.us
Eric Nilsson Past President	8724N Yopps Rd., Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-634-7145 1469 W Idaho Ave., Falcon Heights, MN 55108 ..... 651-646-8850 enils77@hotmail.com
Camille Venners Newsletter	14965W Cherokee Trl., Hayward (summer-no box) .... 715-634-8614 620 31 St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901 ..... 507-289-2885 evenners2@charter.net
Ann Berg Newsletter	8454 West Shore Ln., Hayward WI 54843 (no box) .... 715-634-6119 915 S Holly St., Cambridge, MN 55008 ..... 763-689-4647 aberg@cambridge.k12.mn.us

# Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

Hi All! We are, as you know, having a late spring! However, summer is soon upon us... really, I believe it! Once again, we have many challenges, such as teaching our guests and children how to avoid the dreaded "lake itch," figuring how to keep our lake free of invasive species, restocking our muskie and walleye population, and working with the Town of Bass Lake on fire protection, crime prevention and developing the new "Grindstone Shallows" park.

This lake continues to change! Even though I am a Real Estate agent, I am truly amazed that the asking price of an undeveloped lot on this lake is nearly 400,000!!!

Plus, if you have any kind of building on it, and if it is lower elevation, the price may rise rapidly from that! Those of us who have been here 20+ years are still in shock over that! Now, of course that takes us to the question of taxes. Tax increases reflect the increased demand for services...paved roads, police protection, fire protection, ambulance services, zoning protection, clean water

protection, and many more things. Will taxes keep going up? Probably, as long as demand for services from residents, and non-residents, keep going up!

How does that all impact Grindstone Lake? It has a real, and immediate impact! This is still one of the area's premier lakes. A jewel. A gem! One of the lakes prospective buyers look at. One of the top lakes for fishing, recreation, and just all-about enjoyment in the area.

Our responsibility as property owners? To keep it as a jewel and a gem! Without you agreeing to participate, to jump in and protect it, Grindstone Lake could be an endangered lake. We do not need invasive species, rampant development, or further degradation of this lake. We ... you and I ... are who stands between this being the pure lake that it is, or a lake we do not want. Please become active with your lakeshore association!

Bruce Miller  
GLA President

# **Legislative Budget Panel Votes to Kill Smart Growth**

## **WHAT IS SMART GROWTH?**

The 1999 Comprehensive Planning law, commonly referred to as “Smart Growth,” requires Wisconsin communities to create long range land use plans by 2010. Smart Growth was created and is supported by many groups including farmers, local governments, realtors, builders, and riparian property owners. The goal of Smart Growth is to have citizens determine how they want to their communities to grow. Comprehensive planning is an important tool that can help protect property values for landowners, lower costs for municipal services, and preserve special places for future generations.

This popular and successful law enables local governments to make locally based land use decisions about the best ways for them to grow into the future. These plans allow communities to decide where growth occurs, where treasured resources will be protected and to better plan for the cost effective delivery of services like sewer, water and schools. The law requires that the voices of private property owners and the public be heard in the plan creation process.

Many communities have already adopted Smart Growth plans and the overwhelming majority of citizens are supportive of the planning process

## **WHAT HAS HAPPENED?**

In May, the Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee voted to repeal the

state’s “Smart Growth” Comprehensive Planning law and the funding for the planning grants program. The fate of comprehensive planning in Wisconsin now rests in the hands of the full Wisconsin legislature.

To date, comprehensive planning grants have helped 743 Wisconsin communities write their own plans to guide the future development of their communities. The number of requests for these grants continues to outpace the amount of money available; this year Department of Administration received \$5.5 million in grant requests from local governments for the \$2 million available.

## **HOW DOES SMART GROWTH AFFECT MY LAKE?**

The quality of our lakes is dependent on the health of their watersheds. Nothing has a more profound effect on our lakes than the decisions we make on how we use the land that surrounds them. Planning helps guide future decisions to preserve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and lakefront property values.

Local citizens, who best know their lakes and lake issues, must be part of land use planning decisions. Maintaining the right to an open planning process guarantees that the citizens who live on, use, and enjoy our lakes will help determine their future.

“Communities that have implemented or finished the Smart Growth process have found that it benefits

everyone,” says WAL Executive Director Peter Murray. “Good planning ensures that there is certainty about where and how development can be implemented to serve the needs of growth while protecting our natural resources. “

#### HOW CAN I MAKE SURE MY VOICE IS HEARD?

The WAL board of directors passed a resolution Saturday urging that the

Comprehensive Planning Law and its supporting grant program be maintained. Please contact your legislator to let them know your feelings on this important law.

*The preceding information is reprinted from a recent e-mail alert sent to Wisconsin lake organizations by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL).*

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Our State Representative, Gary Sherman, and our State Senator, Bob Jauch, support continuance of the Comprehensive Planning Law (Smart Growth) and grant funding initiative.

The Bass Lake Town Board supports continuance of the Comprehensive Planning Law (Smart Growth) and grant funding initiative.

The GLA recommends continuation of and funding for Smart Growth.

Your GLA Board urges you to contact Rep. Sherman, Sen. Bob Jauch and other Wisconsin legislators to express your support of Smart Growth and the accompanying grant funding.

#### **Representative Gary Sherman**

##### **74th Assembly District**

Madison Office

*Room 320 West*

*State Capitol*

*P.O. Box 8953*

*Madison 53708*

Telephone

*(608) 266-7690 or*

*(888) 534-0074*

Fax

*(608) 282-3674*

District Telephone

*(715) 774-3691*

email

*rep.sherman@legis.state.wi.us*

#### **Senator Bob Jauch**

##### **25th Senate District**

Madison Office

*Room 130 South*

*State Capitol*

*P.O. Box 7882*

*Madison 53707-7882*

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*(608) 266-3580*

District Telephone

*(715) 364-2438*

email

*sen.jauch@legis.state.wi.us*

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INTERNET SITE TO LOOK-UP CONTACT INFORMATION  
FOR OTHER WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS

**Senate** <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/senhomepages.html>  
**Assembly** <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asmhomepages.html>

# Hayward Library Progress Report

The Hayward Library wants to welcome all our summer folks back to the north woods.

The building project for the new library is on track with several fund raisers planned for this summer and fall. We will have our 2nd silent auction, known as "Blues for Books" on August 27th from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Comfort Suites. Along with many auction items, we will have live music, great hors d'oeuvres and beverages. The other major event is the 2nd annual Fall Century Bike Tour, Picnic and Pumpkin Raffle. This will be held on September 25th at the site of the future library. We will also be raising funds during the Musky Festival and Fall Festival.

Remember, the library is for everyone. Come in, get your library card, and start checking out books, audio books and video tapes. Here is a list of some other activities planned for this summer:

June 16, 23, 30 & July 7 — Dragon, Dream & Daring Deeds: Hayward Library Summer Reading Program 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. This is at the Veterans Community Center across the street from the library. Live entertainment to encourage children to read. Best for ages 3 to 12 and their guardians.

July 25 — Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale, 9a.m. - 2p.m.

Some ongoing activities: 1st Thurs. of each month — Story Hour, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for preschool children in the Hayward Library children's room. Friends of the Library Used Book Shop — Open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you have any questions, or need information call the library at 634-2161.

If you wish to make a donation to the Library Building Fund, send your check to the Hayward Carnegie Library at PO Box 917, Hayward, WI 54843-0917

Ray Moeller  
President, Library Board of Trustees

## GLA Zone Captains

### Zone 1

Indian Drive & Lake Drive to Dixon  
Captain: Betty Foster

### Zone 2

Poplar from Dixon to the channel  
Captain: Shaun O'Meara

### Zone 6

Williams Resort Rd  
Captain: Bruce Paulsen

### Zone 8

Cranberry Marsh to Beckwith Rd  
Captain: Helen Chevrier

## Captain Vacancies

### Zone 3

Hwy K from the channel to Hwy E

### Zone 4

Hwy E to Brossard Rd

### Zone 5

Norwis Rd to Yopps

### Zone 7

Goss Rd

### Zone 9

Indian Drive to the Cranberry  
Marsh

# Northwoods Beach Zone District

The Town of Bass Lake was well on its way to having a Northwoods Beach Zone District (NBZD) established. Supervisor Phil Nies has been working with the Sawyer County Zoning Committee to have such a district enacted. The NBZD would give property owners an easier time to obtain building permits. At present, most permits need a variance from Sawyer County to have a building, remodel or outbuilding constructed, due to the road setback requirements. By changing the road setbacks in the area from Grindstone Lake to Lac Courte Oreilles and from Indian Drive to Grindstone Creek, the majority of variances could be changed to just a building permit.

The Sawyer County Zoning Committee had been receptive to the proposal, but realized that there were several other areas in the county that had the same problem. The County is now considering whether to grant the NBZD, change the zoning ordinance to comply with each town's roads after town approval or some other action.

**UPDATE :**

Supervisor, Phil Nies, has worked up some language for an addition to Section 4.21.3 of the Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance. This section covers the setback requirements of class C highways, which are the town roads.

The paragraph is as follows:

"By resolution, a town may deem certain town roads to have lesser setbacks and said resolutions shall be filed at the Sawyer County Zoning Office."

Phil has submitted this paragraph to the Sawyer County Zoning Office for review. If it works for the zoning office, it will be submitted to the Sawyer County Zoning Committee. If approved, it would eliminate the need for a variance request.

Helen Chevrier

## Mark Your Calendars !

JULY 9, 2005	ANNUAL GLA MEETING TIME TBA SOCIAL TIME TIME TBA BASS LAKE TOWN HALL AND/OR FIRE STATION
JULY 9, 2005	ANNUAL GLA PICNIC TIME TBA BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)
AUGUST 14, 2005	BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISER PICNIC
TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)	LAKE TRASH DIVE — PROBABLY JULY 11 OR 18

# WHAT'S THAT GOING ACROSS THE LAKE?

**IT'S A BOAT ... IT'S A SNOWMOBILE ...  
NO, IT'S A CABIN !!!!**

Gary and Sharon Rajkowski said goodbye to their old cabin this winter as it was towed across Grindstone Lake March 3, on the way to its new home near Danbury, Wisconsin. In its place, a new, two-story year round home has been built, occupying the old footprint of the original, seasonal cabin on William's Bay.

Gary and Sharon have been "summering" here since 1989, and now plan to make Hayward their new, permanent retirement home. When they first made plans to build a new home on the old footprint, they found a buyer for their old cabin, but couldn't transport it down their narrow roadway by conventional means. So, an alternative route across the lake was arranged.

Moving a cabin across a body of water is a meticulous process. Early in the winter, a roadway was plowed across the

ice to assist in making the ice freeze deeper. In the fall, the cabin was moved from its foundation and set on blocks and situated near the lake's edge in preparation for its winter journey.

When the ice reached the depth to safely transport the 15 ton cabin across the lake, it was attached to a tractor, and away it went at a top speed of 5 miles per hour! Any faster than that, and there was a danger of the ice buckling up in front of the cabin as it traveled along. It was reported that "the ice sang" to the cabin as it was transported. According to long-time Grindstone resident, Vic Petty, that was a good sign that the ice was distributing the weight evenly. The trip from Williams Bay to the boat landing near the cranberry bog took about one hour.

Some winter residents of Grindstone Lake were surprised to look out their windows and see a cabin moving across the lake. While the cabin was at the landing, the movers made the cabin "street ready", and it moved along conventional roadways a few days later. While it was hard for Gary and Sharon to say goodbye to their old cabin, they are looking forward to retirement in their new place in the north woods.



Moving across the frozen lake . . .

Ann Berg





... arriving safely at the west public landing

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## Minimize (or avoid) a City Style Lakeshore Lawn

Lake research demonstrates that runoff from most lawns introduces undesirable nutrients into your lake, especially if they are fertilized. So, if you must have a lakeshore lawn, consider avoiding fertilizers (and pesticides) and cut the grass long so as to improve absorption of rainfall and minimize runoff.

If you think you need to fertilize, have your soil tested to see if nutrients are indeed lacking. You may be buying chemicals you don't need. If you decide to fertilize, especially look at phosphorus, as this nutrient causes nuisance level algae and other aquatic plant growth.

Here is the key fact — each pound of phosphorus washed into your lake can produce up to 500 pounds of algae and aquatic plants!! For this reason, consider using zero phosphorus fertilizer (middle number *on* fertilizer bags). Zero phosphorus fertilizer is a law in some areas of Minnesota.

Additional information:

- *Rethinking Yard Care* is an 8-page brochure produced by UW-Extension that describes the impacts of runoff pollution and suggests simple best management practices.
- *Managing Leaves and Yard Trimmings* also offers helpful information.

Some of these publications can be downloaded by visiting the WAL web site and going to Lake Connection Links. If you lack Internet access, contact your local UW Extension county agent or the regional DNR lake coordinator.

*Source: 2002 Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Best Lake Practices*

# Grindstone Shallows Park

The new Bass Lake Township park which was approved February, 2004, is starting to take shape. The park is located on Poplar Avenue adjacent to the old boat landing.

Last fall the three dwellings on the property were razed and a parking lot was prepared across the street. The township was awarded a \$120,000 grant, much of which was applied to the mortgage for the property. The Town will also receive money if the Weston Powerline goes through. Money received from the power line must be used for recreational purposes.

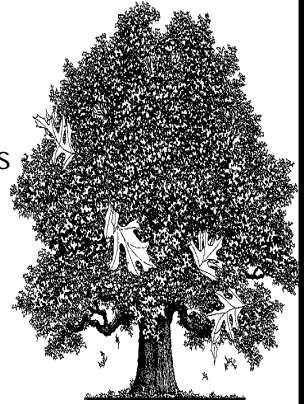
Presently the Park Committee is preparing another grant application for park improvements. These include a picnic pavilion, grills, picnic tables, bathrooms and possibly an outside shower to allow bathers to rinse off after leaving the lake.

Sawyer County owns property adjacent to the parking lot and the area is being explored with the hopes of establishing hiking and snowshoe trails. Town residents Nancy and Jim Albertin have added topographical maps and have taken GPS readings for a proposed trail site. Multiuse trails such as this enhance the chance of a grant being approved. Shirley Miller, Town Clerk, has completed the grant application and it should be submitted by the end of April.

If you have any questions or comments about the park you should contact the Town Board. Phil Nies is the Bass Lake Board Member who is on the Planning Committee.

Linn Newton

We  
All  
Treasure  
Earth's  
Resources



We  
All  
Are  
Earth's  
Stewards

## Those Little Black Bugs

The influx of waves of small black bugs usually signals the beginning of May. These insects are in fact "Non-biting aquatic midges" (chironomids). They are indicative of a healthy environment and clean water. I took home a bottle of the little guys last Spring and they were identified by the entomology staff at the Department of Agriculture in Pennsylvania. Ours are one of over 600 species of this type of midge. The males are also called "fuzzy bills" because of their bushy antennae.

Most species of chironomid midges are highly desirable organisms in aquatic habitats. Midges are an important food source for fish and predatory aquatic insects. Larvae "clean" the aquatic environment by consuming and recycling organic debris.

Chuck Newton

# What We Know (or Don't Know) About Swimmer's Itch on Grindstone Lake

As we continue our series of articles on swimmer's itch and its impact on Grindstone Lake, let's consider what we know, and what we don't know.....yet!

## WHAT CAUSES SWIMMER'S ITCH?

That we do know. A cycle with three organisms: a flatworm, a snail, and a vertebrate host are involved. Vertebrate hosts are typically ducks, geese, birds, muskrats, and mice. The problem arises when a human ends up as the mistaken vertebrate host!

## WHAT CAUSES SWIMMER'S ITCH ON GRINDSTONE LAKE?

That, we're unsure about. However, on most lakes like Grindstone, the vertebrate hosts are usually ducks, because the snails that infect them live in lakes. For example, the snails that infect Canada geese, swans, and red-winged blackbirds live in marshy areas where people do not swim. So, these species are not generally the culprits in lake infestations.

## DOES THAT MEAN THAT NOT ALL FLATWORMS CAN INFECT ALL VERTEBRATE HOSTS?

Correct! We know that most flatworms are specific to one species of snail, and one vertebrate host. In other words, the flatworm species that infects mallards are different than the ones infecting Canada geese, or common mergansers, or red-winged blackbirds. Plus, the water must contain the correct

snail species for the flatworm lifecycle to continue.

## WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENS IN THE SWIMMER'S ITCH LIFECYCLE? DOES IT COME DIRECTLY FROM DUCKS?

The actual infestation cycle goes like this: A flatworm lives in a vertebrate host, let's say a duck. The flatworm's eggs come out in the duck's feces. The eggs hatch and the larvae that emerge wriggle around for no more than a day. These larvae do NOT cause swimmer's itch. They're looking for a specific species of snail. If, in that time, they find the right snail, they burrow in. If not, they die. Those larvae that are successful in finding the snail reemerge a month later in a different form, looking for the vertebrate host that will complete the cycle. This is the time that humans can be affected!

## WHY IS THE COMMON MERGANSER SO OFTEN IMPLICATED IN STUDIES OF SWIMMER'S ITCH?

For several reasons. On lakes where swimmer's itch is an annual problem, nearly all the common mergansers are infected. Also, common mergansers carry large infestations. For example, in lakes that have been studied, the average number of larvae that hatch from a gram of common merganser feces is more than 300, and the infection rate is nearly 100%. In comparison, mallards, Canada geese, and wood ducks have only a couple of

larvae hatching from each gram of feces, and the infection rate of these species is less than 25%. Plus, the larvae coming from the common merganser is larger than other species, which may contribute to the severity of infestation in humans. However, we do NOT know for certain at this time what snail/vertebrate host species infect Grindstone Lake. It sounds like the problem is also related to the snail.

### CAN WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?

Yes. We used to place copper sulfate in lakes with swimmer's itch, because it kills snails. However, that approach is no longer recommended, because it kills everything else, too! However, snails eat algae. More algae means more snails. Conversely, snails are eaten by crayfish. Anecdotal evidence that Grindstone's algae production is increasing, while the crayfish population is decreasing may impact swimmer's itch on the lake. More study is needed.

### OK, SO CAN WE DECREASE ALGAE?

Yes. The best way to decrease algae that snails feed on is by eliminating pollution. Following recommendations for healthy lakes, such as adding buffer zones, eliminating or reducing lawns, and not fertilizing lawns will all help keep the algae growth to a minimum. Some lakes associations are looking at removing their lake's phosphorus-rich waters to reduce snail populations/swimmer's itch infestations. But, it's much easier to keep pollution out of a lake than to deal with a polluted lake!

### HOW CAN WE FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GRINDSTONE'S LAKE'S SWIMMER'S ITCH INFESTATIONS?

Plans are underway to seek funding

to study Grindstone Lake. Once we determine the snail and host pairs that cause swimmer's itch on our lake, recommendations and plans can be made to help minimize it.

### IN THE MEANTIME, WHAT CAN WE DO?

Several things. Follow the steps to minimize exposure to swimmer's itch detailed in the last newsletter. Don't feed ducks, naturalize YOUR shoreline, eliminate fertilizer use, and minimize lawns and mowing that encourage algae growth. The fall newsletter will share other lake's experiences in eliminating and reducing swimmer's itch.

Ann Berg

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## GRINDSTONE LAKE T-SHIRTS

A limited number of Grindstone Lake shirts are still available. They are available in both the small crest or large logo in both green or blue.

If you wish to order one, call Linn Newton 715-634-6329, or email [newtonsl@centurytel.net](mailto:newtonsl@centurytel.net) to check on size and color.

The cost is \$12 for sizes Small – XLarge. XXL is \$14, XXXL \$15.



# Evaluating Your Lake Cabin

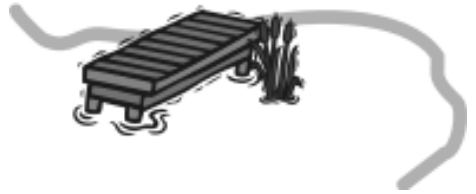
A glance at the Area Realtors property publication or the weekly ads in the Sawyer County Record confirms what each of you has suspected — property values on area lakes have increased significantly in recent years. Like most lake residents, each time a neighbor's property is listed you experience sticker-shock and wonder if the seller is in line with market value or lost their mind since you last talked with them. Later, when the property sells, rumors circulate regarding the final purchase price and you once again are astounded.

How do you absorb and process this information? Your inner self is probably in conflict. On one hand, you are pleased that you have made an investment that has appreciated. On the other hand, you are dismayed that your tax assessment and related property tax has increased as well.

I recently spent an afternoon in the Sawyer County Courthouse to research a few properties and to determine, if possible, percentage of increase in value. I was a casual researcher. Sawyer County records are computerized from 1997 to the present, so I confined myself to properties that had accessible computerized data. Data regarding initial price, current selling price, and length of time between each sale was easily gathered. If possible, I was looking for properties that changed ownership during the same or very similar time intervals. I did not consider any factors such as the lot location, size, exposure, and zoning restrictions. Nor did I consider dwelling condition or property aesthetics.

During my afternoon's work, I discovered two properties fitting into the

scope I defined. In both cases, the properties had existing dwellings at the point of each sale but how the property and dwellings might have changed is unknown to me. Each property changed



owners after three years.

Property one sold in 2000 for \$160,000. When it transferred again in 2003, the selling price was \$221,400, which reflects a 38.4% increase in value. Property two sold in 1999 for \$54,200 and then again in 2003 for \$95,500, which reflects a 76% increase in value. Greater attention to all factors would be needed to apply this information to your own property, but it concretely confirms what I had just speculated in the past. Along the way, I learned the complexities of my task, where to find information, and the limitations which inhibit data collection and evaluation.

Camille Venners

# **2005 Joint Effort**

## **Grindstone Lake Association and Walleyes For Northwest Wisconsin**

Fishing opener signals the start of another year of great fishing in the northwoods. Anglers ready their boats, rods and tackle hoping to catch that elusive "big one".

In years past, the Grindstone Lake Association (GLA) has worked with both the Wisconsin DNR and Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin (WFNW) in fish crib placement programs. As fish cribs are no longer favored as a means of improving fish spawning, permits for fish cribs are not being issued.

WFNW continues to offer a matching funds opportunity, up to \$1000, to area lake associations. In the past, the GLA worked with them to maximize our funds when fish cribs were permitted.

This season, WFNW is working with the GLA to stock extended growth walleyes in Grindstone Lake. Extended growth walleyes, 5-8 inches in length, are spawned and nurtured in a fish hatchery. In the fall, they are transported and relocated in the destination lake. The combined GLA and WFNW investment (\$1000 each) will purchase approximately 1000 fish. The Lac Courte Oreilles and Whitefish Lake Associations are also participating at the same level in the WFNW matching grant program to stock extended growth walleyes.

The GLA encourages members to support WFNW through memberships as this organization uses their funds to assist Grindstone and other area lakes.

# **WALLEYES FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN**

## **(HAYWARD AREA CHAPTER)**

Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin (WFNW) was formed by a local group of anglers in August of 1994 who wanted to give something back to the sport of walleye fishing. The main purpose of the club was, and remains to be, to act as a vehicle for walleye enthusiasts to join together to protect and enhance the opportunity to catch walleyes now and in the future. Our initial charter objectives were to:

1. promote a high quality walleye fishery in area lakes;
2. protect and enhance water environment quality and to maintain and improve habitat;
3. work with Tribal, and State agencies, area Lake Associations and area Resort Associations to maintain and improve area lake walleye populations; and
4. encourage the importance of catch and release programs.

Early on the emphasis was on promoting the raising and stocking of extended growth walleyes into area lakes. This effort guided by the DNR was very successful. In addition to these efforts, which will be on going, our recent efforts have been involved with the improvement of walleye habitat. Over the past 4 years, in conjunction with the DNR and various lake associations we have established a matching grant program whereby WFNW will match lake association funds for the purchase of fish cribs, stocking and water quality efforts. To this end, over the past several years, WFNW has provided the following support:

- \$ 24,500 to Grindstone, Courte Oreilles, Round, Teal, Windigo, Whitefish, Spider, Tiger Cat, Nelson and Sand lake associations for assistance with stocking programs and for the purchase of fish cribs
- \$ 14,000 the Sawyer County fish habitat program
- \$ 1,000 to Wisconsin Association of Lakes Clean Water Fund
- \$ 500 to the Spooner Hatchery towards the purchase of a special microscope
- \$ 3,000 to Fishing Has No Boundries
- \$ 3,000 in support of Kids Fishing Day
- \$ 2,000 Courte Oreilles tribal hatchery for hatchery expansion purposes
- \$ 1,000 Round Lake Milfoil Program
- \$ 2,500 Chippewa Flowage Crane Lake Aeration Program
- \$ 1,000 Chippewa Flowage Big Island purchase

In order to continue with these programs we must expand our membership base which currently stands at approx 80. The majority of our funds are raised through our membership fees and through sponsorship of an annual family ice fishing contest which is held on Lac Courte Oreilles each year. Although this has been generally quite successful and in fact has supported the programs noted above, more members and a greater turnout at our ice fishing contest are needed. Annual membership fees are \$35 (household), \$25 (individual) and \$10 (student). Anyone interested in joining our organization should include the following membership information, along with your check, to the address noted below:

Return To:  
Walleyes For Northwest Wisconsin  
PO Box 13249  
Hayward, WI. 54843

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tele. No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association

PO Box 292

Hayward, WI 54843



April 2002

# The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER



**Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association

PO Box 292

Hayward, WI 54843

The Grindstone Lake Association  
is a community of neighbors  
dedicated to promoting the  
preservation and enjoyment  
of our precious lake !

## GLA Board of Directors 2001-2002

### President

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### Secretary

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### Water Quality

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Ralph McGraw 13877W Cty Hwy E, Hayward, WI 54843 ..... 715-634-5163  
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Jim Garvey 14083W Cty Hwy E, Hayward (summer-no box) .. 715-634-3640  
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### Newsletter

Camille Venners 14965W Cherokee Trl, Hayward (summer-no box) 715-634-8614  
620 31 St NW, Rochester, MN 55901 ..... 507-289-2885  
discover@chartermi.net

## Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

# THE SHACKLETON EFFECT ON GRINDSTONE ICE

by Eric Nilsson

*Author's Preface: I suppose that this column should focus on Association matters, but the experience that prompts this particular piece is a reminder of the dangers posed by our gem of a lake. If it's a little "out of season," may this story at least heighten respect for Grindstone at all times of the year.*

Once I heard a story about an ice fisherman who went through the ice on White Bear Lake, just north of St. Paul. By itself, a guy going through the ice is more or less a yawner here in these parts, where every year a number of stupid people — and even a few semi-smart people, I can now attest — go through the frozen surface of one lake or another. What was remarkable about this particular story was: (1) It occurred after a two solid

weeks of subzero temperatures; and (2) The guy had just augured a fishing hole through a foot and a half of ice. What a surprise, then, when he stepped back to admire his handiwork and broke through a mere *half-inch* of ice no more than a yard from the spot where he had labored securely. I didn't necessarily believe the story, but with an authoritative tone, I passed it on to my teenage sons to illustrate the dangers of venturing out onto thin ice in front of our cabin on Grindstone. However, based on my own terrifying experience, the story now has legs. Anything can happen out there on the ice.

The storm blasted the Northland for three days straight. First raged snow, then rain and sleet, more snow, followed by high winds and a plunge of the mercury into the deep freeze. Finally, the storm relented and the sun burst forth, clearing

the skies but with little effect on the frozen landscape. I donned my cross-country skis and ventured onto the white, wind-swept, wide open flat that is Grindstone in winter. The recent concoction of weather had produced a perfect surface for skating on skis. I set out along the shore, and after a half-mile or so, decided it was an auspicious day for a round-the-lake tour on skis, an expedition I had often contemplated but never attempted.

If you follow our shoreline closely, you discover many interesting little bays, inlets and corners that aren't apparent during summer boating farther from shore. I made good time all the way to *The Waterfront* directly across the lake from our cabin. I stopped there briefly to phone my wife and let her know my plan to circle the lake and that I was approximately halfway around. It was too early for the lunch crowd, and no snowmobilers were on hand either. No Rick. Just his backup bartender, concentrating hard on a game of pinball, and three waitresses, looking bore. Within less than a minute, I was back out on the ice.

The wind was now behind me, and like a giant invisible hand on my back, it pushed me ever faster along the wooded shoreline. I imagined that I was circling Antarctica, the first man to do so on skis, or by any other conveyance, for all I knew. In my imagination, I simply inverted water and *terra firma*. The lake would be the continent, and the shoreline would be the ocean. The year was 1930. Except for one stop — at McMurdo Station, *The Waterfront* — the feat would be accomplished without human



contact, without any assistance. Always within a mere ten miles of the geologic edge of the white continent, it would be a first in the annals of polar exploration. There would be a feature article in *National Geographic*, a speaking tour, laurels and riches.

No sooner had the full image taken shape, than disaster struck. Down I went, as if the hand on my back shoved me violently forward and down into the snow. How on such a cold day, after such a cold week, with everything frozen hard, could I be in the drink? In *liquid*? Now, this wasn't a case where a guy breaks clean through the ice, uses a long stick, or, in my case, his ski poles, spreads out his arms and legs and distributing his weight as far as possible, crawls onto the ice at the edge of the break and proceeds to safety. This was worse. My skis broke through the crust, punched through soft snow and splashed into a good foot of icy slurry. In falling, my hands found the slush as well. Bad enough, but when the slush began to harden around my feet, I felt panic displace my romantic sense of adventure. Try as I might, I could not pull my skis out of what felt like concrete, nor could I release the bindings, which were encased in fast-forming ice. Worse yet, I had double-knotted my laces, and now they too were frozen stiff. With all my strength, I struggled, but to no avail. I

cast a view up and down the shoreline, but saw no sign of life. McMurdo Station was half a mile to the west, around the bend and out of sight.

Just then, I saw a mirage — Sir Ernest

Shackleton himself, coming my way. My eyes were playing tricks on me, but what would he have done in a situation like this? One thing was certain, I told myself: he wouldn't have lost a man. There in my predicament, I called it the Shackleton Effect — *When you might think you're doomed, you're not*. The Shackleton Effect gave me a charge of adrenalin, and with a mighty pull, I broke my feet and skis free from the lake's icy grip. I used the tip of my ski pole like an ice pick and chipped the ice away from my binding. After some effort, I managed to shed my skis. However, I wasn't yet in the clear. With each step toward shore, I splashed into knee-deep slush, and only then did I realize that my left pole — the upper half still attached to my wrist — had snapped in half. The good pole I had left behind at the place of my struggle, now four yards away. Without at least one good pole for the return to civilization, the Shackleton Effect might lose its *effect*. But alas! The Shackleton Effect allowed me to retrace my steps in the slush, retrieve the pole and make my way safely to shore.

The trek home wasn't easy, what with frozen mitts, an awkward stride, with the one pole, and a serious wind chill. I shall spare the reader further details, except to say that, an hour later, I was safe and sound, sipping a cup of hot Ovaltine inside our cabin. As I said at the outset, I no longer question the story about the ice fisherman who went through the ice on White Bear Lake. Any danger is possible, when it comes to snow and ice. What I'm uncertain about is whether the hapless man experienced the Shackleton Effect.



## Fish Crib Project

Once again this year, there are no matching funds from the state or county for Grindstone Lake fish cribs. Therefore, the Fish Crib Program remains in hiatus for the 2002 season.

by Bruce Johnson  
GLA Board Member



# WANTED

## Writers Article Topics

Several members have suggested ideas for future articles. Others have volunteered to write an article on a topic of interest to them that pertains to the Hayward area and Grindstone Lake.

Your input and your participation are welcome and appreciated. Contact Camille Venners, or any board member, to share your ideas and skills.



# Gathering Waters Conservancy

The mission of Gathering Waters Conservancy is to help communities, land trusts, and private landowners protect the places that make Wisconsin special. Gathering Waters Conservancy helps individuals, communities, and non-profit conservation organizations to preserve, protect, maintain, and enhance the beauty and ecological integrity of the lands and waters in the state of Wisconsin.

The Gathering Waters Conservancy is primarily an education and information resource to facilitate organizations and persons interested in land stewardship. Seminars, workshops, low cost legal advice, personal appearances, and discussions are included in their array of services.

In the fall of 2001, Grindstone Lake Board Member, Roger Rickard, joined the Gathering Waters Board of Directors. Roger is a retired human resources executive with the 3M Company and currently lives year round on Grindstone Lake with his wife, Judith.

Roger, along with other GLA members, is keenly interested in preserving the quality of Grindstone Lake for future generations. He is actively researching new land trust opportunities in the Hayward area.



# Keeping Clear Waters

We hope to keep Grindstone a clean, clear lake. Shoreland development, urban and agriculture runoff, reduction in near-shore aquatic vegetation and increased recreational use put pressure on the lake. The more nutrients it gets, such as phosphorus or solids in the form of soil from erosion, the more algae will grow in the lake and the murkier the water will be. Studies show that lawns deliver about 8 times more runoff than wooded areas. Consider that soil eroding the thickness of a dime over one acre is roughly equivalent to 10 tons of soil.

If you do have a lawn in Grindstone's watershed and you fertilize, make sure you select one with "0" phosphorus (the middle number on a bag of fertilizer). Many places are now requiring this. In fact, the state of Minnesota has just passed legislation banning application of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus in the seven county metropolitan area and applying more than 3 percent in the 80 remaining counties. There are some exceptions, such as for new turf or if soil samples showing phosphorus is lacking. Several cities in Minnesota, including Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Shoreview already adopted similar ordinances.

Dale Olson, Sawyer County Conservationist, indicated that all the hardware stores in the county sell fertilizer with no phosphorus. There are also store signs that tell lake property owners to select zero or low P fertilizers if they must fertilize their lawns. This is one easy way to ensure you are not adding to Grindstone's algae problem.

by Marilyn Lundberg, GLA Secretary

— Update —

# Sawyer County Lakes Forum

*The Sawyer County Lakes Forum submitted the articles on this and the following three pages for inclusion in The Grindstone Trumpeter. This group has worked earnestly to research existing regulations, propose amendments, and solicit public input.*

*Please note that the previously publicized date for the upcoming Zoning Committee hearing (April 19, 2002) has been changed to May 17, 2002.*

## # 1 - February 15, 2002 meeting:

The Forum Board of Directors met with the Forum Members of the Shoreland Protection Committee on Friday, February 15, 2002. Here is a synopsis of the meeting and information for your members.

The Forum Member Meeting scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2002 has been postponed to a future date to be determined. Plans for a Property Tax focused program are being developed. We will keep you informed as this will be a popular subject with good attendance. Speakers from the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance and Out of State Landowners Organization are expected. This Forum sponsored meeting will be open to the public and held in a large meeting venue in Hayward.

On Friday, May 17, the Shoreland Protection Committee will make an informal presentation of their revised Amendment recommendations to the County Zoning Committee. This is an open meeting. Your attendance is welcome. We expect that the Zoning Committee will recommend two or three Public Information Meetings similar to

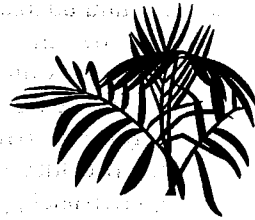
those held last year in Winter, Stone Lake and Hayward. The Zoning Committee may also set the date and place for the official Public Hearing where the Amendments may be adopted, revised or rejected. When the dates and locations are determined the Forum will send you a supply of Oversize Post Cards with pre-printed Meeting Information and an Executive Summary of the Amendments for you to distribute to your Lake Association Members and other Interested Parties.

The Forum efforts in support of the Proposed Shoreland Zoning Amendments and the Property Tax Forum Meeting will require financial expenditures. Therefore, we are requesting voluntary contributions from each Lake Association. One dollar per lake association member has been suggested. Send contributions to Mary Ann Churchill, our Secretary-Treasurer, Box 20, Hayward WI 54843. Thanks, very much!

Be on the lookout for a Forum Newsletter Page that we suggest you include with your Association Newsletter Spring mailing. Mel Kelly is our editor for this Page which will be mailed to your editor soon. She can be reached at

melkelly@cheqnet.net. She will welcome your contributions.

Harry Schroeder, President  
February 21, 2002



## #2 - Upcoming Meeting:

Shoreland Protection Zoning Revisions will be presented to the Sawyer County Zoning Committee for their review and comment at the Committee's May 17, 2002 meeting to be held at 9:00 am in the Sawyer County Courthouse. Lake Association members are encouraged to attend. Public Information listening sessions may be scheduled after that date; watch for dates, locations and times.

The Shoreland Protection committee has been meeting regularly for more than three years to prepare revisions, consolidations and clarifications of current county ordinances as they pertain to shoreland development. Previous public information sessions held in June and July, 2001 generated numerous comments; the committee continued to meet, discussing and including much of the public input. These proposed amendments detail regulations for shoreland vegetation protection areas, land disturbing activities, mitigation requirements, resource management and agricultural exemptions, structures with nonconforming shoreline setbacks, setbacks from navigable waters, impervious surface limitations, shore land lighting, lake access, and resorts. Some of the issues listed are being amended to insure county conformity with existing Wisconsin administrative rules and regulations, such as NR 115 which was passed early in the 1970's, mandating

shoreland vegetative protection buffer areas, for example.

Copies of the proposed Sawyer County amendments may be found at the Zoning Office, 406 Main, Hayward (715-634-8288). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulations currently in effect may be read on the DNR website: [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us).

The Shoreland Protection committee was appointed by the SC Board in 1999. The committee is composed of area-wide representatives from businesses, private citizens, lake associations and government. The committee members were directed to review and prepare these amendments to help the zoning administration and concerned residents better understand and apply the often-confusing current ordinances which are intended to regulate shoreland development, expansion, remodeling and vegetation.

The SC Lakes Forum has been an important energy behind the review, completion and presentation of these amendments. Now, it is time to call upon our membership to join in our efforts. We need letters of support written to the SC Record and Gazette newspapers. We need you to attend the scheduled information sessions and to take an active part in supporting the committee's work. We need accurate information, not rumor or heresy, to be disseminated to lake shore property owners (and others

as well), so that fear and suspicion will not slow or sabotage the SCSP committee's well-accomplished achievement. We need the SC Zoning Committee and County Board to hear our support and appreciation for these revised amendments which, when finally passed, will help to preserve and protect our valued lakeshore resources. We need all

our lake association members and leaders to become informed, to become shoreland advocates and to rally in public support of these proposed amendments.

"A lake is much more than an individual body of water...it is a reflection of how we use the surrounding land..." cautions a WDNR publ-wr-261 90.

## # 3 - NORTHWEST LAKES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SLATED FOR JUNE 28

### *Five Counties Partner to Produce Lake Event*

Minong, WI The fourth annual Northwest Lakes Leadership Conference Will be held at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center on Friday, June 28, 2002. Sponsor organizations include the Bayfield County Lakes Forum, Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association, Douglas County Association of Lakes and Streams, Sawyer County Lakes Forum, Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association, and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. The event will be funded in part by contributions from area businesses and a grant from the WDNR Lakes Planning Grant Program.

The one day event Will focus on four major themes: Local government issues, building more effective lake organizations, protecting our lakes and fisheries from exotic species and threats, and recognition of lake organization volunteers.

Jeff Bode, WDNR Section Chief, Lakes and Wetlands, and a panel of local legislators will provide insight into

department and government action affecting lakes. Attending lake' managers, county and local government leaders and other attendees will have opportunities to participate in discussions with these state leaders.

Newsletters, web pages, fund-raising and grant application will be among subjects explored in sessions on the nuts and bolts of successful lake organization operations. Wisconsin Association of Lakes specialists will be on hand to answer questions and help with the formation of new lake associations.

Purple loosestrife, Eurasian Watermilfoil, zebra mussels and other invasive species will be the focus of sessions on lake protection and modern lake monitoring techniques. Lake specific information will be available. Successful lake management techniques and ideas will be exchanged as northwestern Wisconsin lake leaders are recognized for their accomplishments as the conference closes.

The Schwan Center,

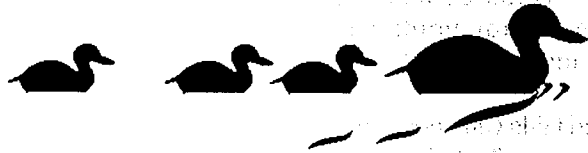


associated with Bethany College, is a new retreat nestled between two lakes near Minong, Wisconsin. Pre-registration is required; no registrations will be taken at the door. Early registration discount is \$35 through June 1, \$40 afterward. Registration closes June 20. A buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Local and county governments and all lake organizations are asked to send

representatives to the Northwest Lakes Leadership Conference. Lakeshore owners, lake users, relevant businesses and media representatives are also urged to attend.

For information go to [bclf.freewebspace.com](http://bclf.freewebspace.com) or contact Sybil Brakken, Conference Coordinator, at 798-3163 or [NWLLC@hotmail.com](mailto:NWLLC@hotmail.com)



*The March 20, 2002, Sawyer County Record published the following article. This information is provided as an update to the Fall 2001 GLA Trumpeter article.*

## Boys and Girls Club of LCO Serves the Area Community

The Boys and Girls Club of Lac Courte Oreilles serves the LCO Community and surrounding areas in numerous ways, including:

\*\*The Smart Moves program, offered to youths 6-18 years of age through the Hayward School District. It helps promote an alcohol-, drug-, and tobacco-free lifestyle along with abstinence.

"The Smart Moves program soon will be offered to the LCO Ojibwe School also," said Brian Jackson. "The goal is to train more volunteers or staff to implement this needed message."

"A core cultural component is the Woodland Dance Troupe, which includes dancing and singing at the Club and at pow-wows, and attending youth conferences (networking with other tribes),"

he added.

\*\*At community circles and general membership meetings at the LCO Lodge and Convention Center, Club youth assist with the serving of meals and beverages and with clean-up.

\*\*The Club provides technical assistance to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission with posters and flyers for hunter safety, snowmobile safety and ATV safety classes.

\*\*Staff and youth donated their services to the LCO Sobriety Pow Wow on New Year's Eve by doing set-up, serving of food and clean-up.

Club youth also were honored as part of the pow wow for their alcohol-and-drug-free lifestyles and for being positive roles in the community.

\*\*The club participates in the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) youth employment program in coordination with the LCO Tribe. Youth have the opportunity to work up to 10 hours per week during the school year, learning the core employment values of respect, being on time, working as a team and understanding what it takes to complete tasks.

\*\*The club provides community service employment for youths in conjunction with the Sawyer County Juvenile Court.

\*\*The Boys and Girls Club computer lab is open to the community during times when youths are not using it.

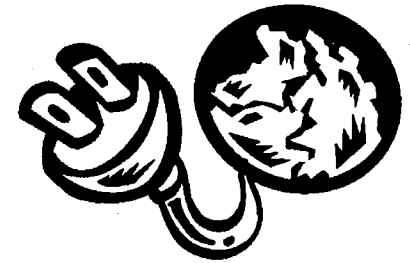
\*\*The club's main unit on Trepania Road is open to the community. For example, the LCO Veterans hosted a dance, elders' feast and bingo.

\*\*Teenage youths participate in the overlapping character and leadership development programs of Keystone Club, United National Indian Tribal Youth Organization, and Images.

These organizations within the Boys and Girls Club give back to the community by offering such services as road clean-up, stacking wood for elders, cutting grass, and working with Hayward area organizations such as Fishing Has No Boundaries and the American Birkebeiner.

"Our facility is in need of major renovation just to accommodate the growing number of youth being served," Jackson said. "Just imagine or vision what a new building or major remodeling can do for youth. Picture a gym, baseball field, camping area and more rooms to really zero in on impactful messages."

"This is not just a dream, but a reality vision," he added. Anyone who is interested in helping out can call Jackson at 634-4030.



**The GLA has not yet made the leap to a functional Internet web site. Initial planning has begun and hopefully a website will be operational by fall of this year.**

**Please consider what information the Grindstone Lake Association could include on the website that would be useful and helpful to you.**

**Perhaps . . .**

- **The newsletter in Adobe PDF printable format**
- **Bass Lake Town Board contact information**
- **Local events calendar**
- **Links to other sites**
- **An email link to send messages to the GLA Board**
- **Etc.**

# Spring and Fall Turnover of the Waters of Grindstone Lake

James G. Straka and Peter Vaughan

Lakes are remarkable and dynamic bodies of water. Most support a wide variety of life, such as plankton (including algae, beautiful glass-encased diatoms and microscopic animals), plants, insect larvae, all the way up the food chain to bass and muskie. For a lake the size and depth of Grindstone Lake in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, this wide variety of life is supported in part by periodic circulation of nutrients and life forms.

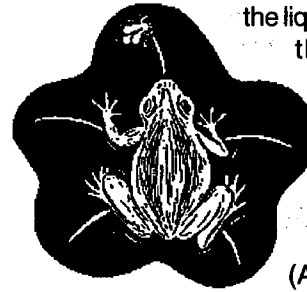
The behavior of lakes the size of Grindstone can be partially explained by the remarkable properties of water. Water is a unique substance in many regards. First, the water molecule comprises only three atoms, two atoms of hydrogen attached to one atom of oxygen. Most substances made up of molecules as small as water are gasses at room temperature, for example methane and propane. So considering its molecular size, water has very high melting and boiling points. Second, most substances are more dense when they are solids than when they are liquid. You may have



noticed that in home-canned preserves, the paraffin wax used to seal the contents of the jar sometimes has pulled away from the sides of the container and

formed a little dent on top; as the liquid paraffin solidified, it contracted and became more dense. This is the neat part about water. Liquid water is more dense than solid water (ice). Let's do a little thought experiment. If you were to cool liquid water starting at room temperature, about 25 °C, the density of water will increase, as is true for all fluids. (When you open the refrigerator door, you feel the cold air pouring onto your feet, so cold air is more dense than warm air.) At about 4 °C (near 39 °F), water is at its most dense. This is most unusual, since this is still above its freezing point, which is 0 °C (32 °F). So as you continue to cool liquid water to its freezing point it becomes a little less dense than it was at 4 °C. And solid water is significantly less dense than liquid water at any temperature. We, of course, know this to be true, since ice cubes float in your lemonade. Another demonstration of this is that if you let a bottle of water freeze it expands (becoming less dense) and breaks the bottle. As the ice layer on a lake gets more thick, it expands, pushing material up from the bottom and forming a hump around the shoreline; ice fishermen often hear booming sounds as the freezing ice cracks under the pressure of its own expansion.

So let's look at the consequences of this on the lake. In the winter, ice forms over the top, making an ice shell a few inches to a few feet thick. This insulates



the liquid water below the ice from potentially very cold air temperatures, and prevents the lake from freezing solid.

(A layer of snow

also helps with the insulation. Excessive snowmobile activity removes this insulation by compressing the snow. The ice layer thickens, and sunlight is blocked from getting through into the water. Algae suspended just below the ice don't get enough sun and can't produce oxygen by photosynthesis. The combination leads to winter kill in the lake.)

The water immediately below the ice is at the freezing point, 0 °C, but as you go deeper the water temperature increases to 4 °C, which you remember is the temperature of water's maximum density. So in winter, there is an inverted temperature gradient, with the warmest and densest, 4 °C, water at the bottom, and the coldest water at the top of the lake.

In the early spring, the air warms, the sun's rays strike the surface of the ice more directly, and the ice melts. At the point when the ice has just melted, the temperature of the lake becomes uniform top to bottom, at 4 °C. Early spring winds create waves, and the wave action is capable of generating considerable turbulence all the way to the bottom of the lake. This results in mixing the contents of the entire lake. Nutrient-rich sediments, diatoms, and microscopic algae are brought up from the bottom of the lake toward the surface and into the sunlight, where the organisms start to grow. As a result, there is often a "bloom" in the lake at this time of spring turnover.

The bloom may make the lake appear cloudy and yellow to yellow-brown in color. In addition, since the diatoms and algae are photosynthetic, they actively produce oxygen. Between photosynthesis and wave action, which both mixes and aerates the lake water, the entire lake becomes oxygenated. As long as wind and wave action keeps mixing the lake water, heat from the sun is transferred throughout the lake basin. The temperature of the lake remains uniform, increasing to perhaps 6 to 10 °C (43 – 50 °F).

The only significant heat source for lake water is the direct radiation from the sun. Now, even when water is perfectly clear, sunlight penetrates poorly, losing about 90% of its intensity by about 6 meters (18 feet). When suspended sediments and plankton blooms are present, the penetration is much less deep with 90% loss observed as shallow as 4 to 6 feet. Because of this, the top few feet of water absorb all the energy responsible for heating the entire lake. As the sun warms these topmost layers and the spring winds decrease, mixing by wave action becomes much less efficient. Within a period of a few days to a few weeks, the sun's radiation will cause the top water of the lake to become significantly warmer than the deep water. Between the middle of May and early June, the surface water will reach 12 – 15 °C (54 – 59 °F), while the deeper water remains 6 – 10 °C (43 – 50 °F).

For lakes like Grindstone, there is a region 5 – 7 meters (16 – 23 feet) below the surface where the temperature changes rapidly. The depth at which the temperature change is greatest is called the *thermocline*. Remember that as water becomes colder, it becomes more dense, so the thermocline is also a region where



the density changes rapidly as well, the warmer less dense water above and the colder more dense water below. The region of rapidly changing density through the thermocline serves as a barrier which prevents the water layers above it from mixing with those below. You see something similar to this when you add cream to your coffee or tea. The dense cream sinks to the bottom of the cup. Disturbing the liquid near the top of the cup (for example blowing across it – even pretty hard) is very ineffective at mixing in the cream because of the density barrier between the two liquids. You have to dig down with a spoon and get right into the cream layer to mix it efficiently. Like your breath, the wind and waves just can't dig down through the thermocline the way your spoon can in the cup. So we now have a layer of water about 15 feet below the surface that prevents mixing the top water with the deeper water of the lake. With the establishment of the thermocline the lower layer becomes less turbulent, plankton and sediments settle back to the bottom, leaving a smaller population of algae and diatoms suspended in the surface waters. As a result, the lake water near the surface becomes clear again.

By the middle of the summer, surface water temperatures can be quite variable over time and from place to place. This depends on wind, local depths, presence of plants ("weed beds"), among other things. Local pockets at the top of the lake may reach temperatures as high 20 to 25 °C (68 – 77 °F), and growth of algae and very small animals (*zooplankton*) may become very active in these waters during the summer months. Meanwhile, the temperature toward the bottom of the lake remains fairly uniform and stable between 6 and 12 °C. We now have a normal



temperature gradient, with the coolest and densest water at the bottom, the warmest and less dense at the top, and the two layers separated by the thermocline. The thermocline may move deeper as wave action brings some of the thermocline water into the upper layer. For the most part, however, the thermocline remains intact throughout the summer months, and the presence of this barrier prevents the lower and upper water layers from mixing, even with strong winds and high waves. The cold water below the thermocline is at about refrigerator temperature, so you can keep your beer and soft drinks cold while you are fishing by lowering them below the thermocline (probably 15 to 20 feet) on a well-tied rope.

As summer moves into fall, the sun's path becomes lower in the south, and air temperature begins to drop. Along with some cooling due to the evaporation off the surface of the lake, these effects cause the top layer of the lake to begin to cool down. Between early October and the middle of November, depending on the year, the temperature of the surface waters approaches the temperature of the deep waters. As this happens, the temperature of the lake becomes more uniform and the thermocline vanishes. So in mid to late fall, the barrier to mixing disappears, and moderate to strong winds will cause lake-wide mixing once more. The lake undergoes its second turnover, again bringing nutrient rich water from the bottom up into the sunlight. It is common to have a second bloom of plankton

during the fall turnover. As the air temperature becomes colder and lake mixing continues, the entire body of water cools toward winter levels. When ice begins to form, the inverse temperature gradient is again established and is maintained until ice-out in the spring.

**Summary:** Lakes, such as Grindstone Lake, undergo two periods of wave-generated turnover through the course of the year, once in the spring and once in the fall. During those periods, the entire lake becomes oxygenated, and plankton and algae grow and become abundant, providing important food sources for animals such as small fish and crustaceans. During the rest of the year, the lakes show thermal stratification, normal in the summer and inverse in the winter. During summer and winter, wind driven mixing of the lake water is prevented, in the winter by the ice layer and in the summer by the presence of the thermocline.

*Dr. Vaughan is an aquatic ecologist and Dr. Straka is a biochemist. Dr. Vaughan is Director of the Environmental Studies Program, and both are in the Biology Department of Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.*



## Mark Your Calendars !

JUNE 29, 2002

ANNUAL GLA MEETING  
BASS LAKE TOWN HALL 9:30 A.M.

JULY 6, 2002

ANNUAL GLA PICNIC  
PUBLIC BOAT LANDING  
(LUNCH SERVED 11:00 A.M. - 3 P.M.)



# Swimmer's Itch

(cercarial dermatitis, schistosome dermatitis)

## What is swimmer's itch?

Swimmer's itch is a skin rash caused by a parasite (shistosomes) which ordinarily infect birds, semi-aquatic mammals, and snails. Common grackles, red-winged blackbirds, ducks, geese, swans, muskrats and moles have been found to carry the parasite. As part of their developmental life-cycle, these parasites are released from infected snails, migrate through the water, and are capable of penetrating the skin of man. After penetration, these parasites remain in the skin and die but can cause an allergic reaction in some people. The parasite in man does not mature, reproduce or cause any permanent infection.

## Who gets swimmer's itch?

Only about one third of the people who come in contact with the parasite develop swimmer's itch. People who swim or wade in infested water may experience this itchy rash. All age groups and both sexes can be involved, but children are most often infected due to their habits of swimming or wading in shallow water and playing on the beach as the water evaporates from the skin. Swimmer's itch may be prevalent among bathers in lakes in many parts of the world, including the Great Lakes region of North America and certain coastal beaches.

## How is swimmer's itch spread?

An individual may get the infection by swimming or wading in infested water and then allowing water to evaporate off the skin rather than drying the skin with a towel. Person-to-person spread does not occur.

## What are the symptoms of swimmer's itch?

Whenever infested water is allowed to evaporate off the skin, an initial tingling sensation may be felt associated with the penetration of the parasite into the skin. The irritated spot reaches its maximum size after about 24 hours; the itching may continue for several days. The symptoms should disappear within a week.

## How soon do the symptoms begin?

A person's first exposure to infested water may not result in the itchy rash. Repeated exposure increases a person's allergic sensitivity to the parasite and increases the likelihood of rash development. Symptoms may appear within 1 to 2 hours of exposure.

## What is the treatment for swimmer's itch?

There is no treatment necessary for swimmer's itch. Some people may get relief

from the itching by applying skin lotions or creams to the infected site.

## When can you get swimmer's itch?

The first outbreaks usually occur in late May or early June. The outbreaks in Wisconsin may last from 2 weeks in the northern lakes to a month in the southern lakes. In some lakes it may last the entire summer.

*GLA Editor's Research Note: Wind, weather, and parasite conditions vary from year to year. Therefore, swimmer's itch problems may be present in a lake one year but not another. There are no treatments for the parasites that are not also harmful to fish and vegetation.*

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*Bill Brewster wrote an article for ABCNEWS.com pertaining to swimmer's itch. The following prevention tips and treatments were just part of the article. If you wish to read the article in its entirety, it can be found at:*  
<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/science/DailyNews/swimmersitch990816.html>

## TIPS FOR PREVENTING SWIMMER'S ITCH

Experts differ on how to prevent swimmer's itch. Some of the parasite species burrow into human skin while in the lake; others wait until you're back on dry land and the film of water clinging to your skin begins to evaporate.

There's no consistent prevention, but if you insist on swimming in a lake where the parasites are cycling, you can:

**Swim in deeper water** — many parasite species congregate near the shore because of wind and current.

**Apply waterproof sunscreen**, which might act as a barrier to some parasite species.

**Avoid marshy areas** where snails tend to congregate. Stick to sandy or rocky beaches.

**Take a hot soapy shower** immediately after getting out of the lake. **Remove swimsuits** as quickly as possible.

**Towel dry your entire body briskly** as

soon you get out of the water (**inside swimsuits too**), if showers aren't available.

**Don't feed the ducks!** The presence of waterfowl does *not* guarantee that parasites are in the lake, but if they are, feeding birds on the beach will only increase the level of parasite-infected poop in the swimming area. That, and it's just generally bad policy to encourage wild animals to rely on human feedings.

## IF A RASH DEVELOPS ...

- Treat the symptoms with a **corticosteroid cream**.

**If that's not available**, various individuals and health departments recommend:

- baths with baking soda
- applying baking soda paste to the skin
- anti-itch lotion with antihistamine
- cool compresses
- Whatever salve you choose, heed your mother's childhood advice: Stop scratching!

Joanna Rovelstad brought this salad to the GLA 2001 Annual Picnic. She kindly shares the recipe which she received from her daughter.

### Laurie's Summer Salad

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 16 oz. can black beans, drain & rinse thoroughly            | into 1/2 circles   |
| 1 16 oz. can light red kidney beans, drain & rinse thoroughly | 1 head cauliflower, separated into bite sized pieces   |
| 1 16 oz. can corn, drain & rinse thoroughly                   | Add 1 bottle of Italian dressing or a packet of dry Italian dressing prepared as per directions on the package |
| 1 16 oz. can pitted black olives, drain & rinse thoroughly    | Add garlic powder, dill weed and paprika to taste.   |
| 1 jar marinated artichokes                                    | May add small zucchini, broccoli, carrots, cooked asparagus, etc.  |
| 1 bunch green olives, sliced thinly                           | Optional: add cubed cheese, wild rice, or cooked sausage, chicken, or ham.                                     |
| 1 medium red onion, sliced and cut                            |  |

Toss and refrigerate. Mix daily. Serve with tomato wedges.

## Drinking Water Issues

### Well Owners Responsible for Own Water Safety

As GLA members primarily rely on well water, water quality issues should be considered every few years. Testing is required when a new well is put in (and sometimes when property changes ownership) but contaminants can be introduced at any time. Periodic testing to monitor your well water quality is recommended. Traditionally, nitrates and fecal matter are common well concerns. Water quality topics, and resources related to drinking and ground water, are provided at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/>.

An article in a December issue of the

Sawyer County Record mentioned that arsenic in drinking water is currently an emerging health concern and suggested an Internet resource for individuals concerned about issues related to the quality of drinking water.

As promised, the recommended site, <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/arsenic/index.htm>, specifically offered information about arsenic in drinking water.

Persons drinking well water exclusively might also seek information from their dentists about fluoride supplements to prevent tooth decay.

Have you . . .

- moved?
- changed your phone number, e-mail address, etc.?
- changed your name?

Keeping our mailing database valid and up-to-date is increasingly more difficult in our mobile society. Please let us know when contact changes occur so we can continue to include you in our mailings.

## To renew membership or become a member:

Please complete this form and return it along with your \$20.00 check (payable to the Grindstone Lake Association) to: Grindstone Lake Association, P.O. Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843-0292.

Bass Lake Fire Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(first and last of both husband and wife, if applicable)

### Home address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Lake address (if different):

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

### AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

Since its establishment a decade ago, the Grindstone Lake Association has focused on the lake itself. However, with the onslaught of developers and non-natural sources of phosphorous, we've learned that preservation efforts must focus on what lies behind us, not on what shimmers in front of our decks and docks. Simply put, what shimmers will lose its shine if we don't conserve the lands behind the lake.

Although the GLA board recognizes the connection between lake and lands, the directors also realize that when it comes to the watershed and environs, it is supremely difficult to draw a line of demarcation between what's within the reasonable purview of the Association and what lies without. Accordingly, with the board's full moral support, a sub-group has joined Grindstone's neighbors to form a regional conservancy to help preserve a broader area.

The leaders of this effort are GLA directors Roger Rickard and Jim Garvey, with very able and substantial assistance from Association member Bob Oesterreicher. Both Roger and Jim are retired but hardly retiring, and their commitments of time, thought and energy are a model of civic activism. On his own initiative, Roger, a retired business exec, plunged into Gathering Waters, a Madison-based resource group dedicated to assisting private citizens form and administer land trusts and conservancies in Wisconsin. Roger is now a member of the board of Gathering Waters. Jim, a retired attorney from Eau Claire, has likewise dived head first (with experienced legal arms stretched out overhead) into the "waters" of conservation and preservation, helping Roger in these spearheading efforts. Bob, also an attorney, has devoted many hours to the development of articles and by-laws for the nascent organization — articles and by-laws that are specially-tailored, and not simple boiler-plate forms on a hard-drive. To these individuals, we — and our heirs — owe a hearty thanks.

The next step is to file the articles and identify and recruit prospective directors from the region — Spring Lake, Windigo, Lac Court d'Oreilles and Whitefish, in addition to Grindstone. Once

the organization takes shape, watch for it to educate land-owners and solicit financial contributions and outright land grants and conservation easements, all in an effort to preserve the northwoods and those shimmering waters that we enjoy from our decks and docks.

It is hoped that the foregoing initiative will dove-tail with the "Smart Growth" planning efforts mandated by state law and currently underway in Bass Lake Township (and adjoining towns). One aspect of the Smart Growth Plan will be the review and revision of outdated zoning quiltwork that typifies the area.

What many before us took for granted — clear water, unthreatened forests, northwoods appeal — is under pressure unprecedented since the sawyers' heyday a 100 years ago. That's the bad news. The good news is that people are responding to the challenge. It's not too late. There's still much left to preserve. With a collective will and sleeves rolled up, we can do it.

Eric Nilsson, GLA President



Cover: The graphic on the newsletter cover was designed for the Grindstone Lake Association by artist, Herb Keiffer. Herb, a resident of Grindstone Lake, created a unique image to serve as our logo.

## Aquatic Plant Study

Due to the potential of harmful aquatic plants such as Eurasian milfoil invading Grindstone, The GLA Board decided to help facilitate a study of the current status of the plant life in Grindstone to obtain a base line of information.

A committee of volunteers comprised of Dave Mc Joynt, Skip Brossard, Joan Busta, Jim Queenan, Bruce Johnson, Jim & Helen Chevier met with DNR botanist Craig Rossitier and Dave Blumer on Grindstone to instruct us in taking plant samples.

The committee obtained samples from various parts of the lake and gave them to Joan Busta who has volunteered to identify each one as to location with photos and descriptions to start our base line study. On subsequent sampling we will take samples from the same locations to note any changes in type or quantity.

Identifying Eurasian milfoil turned out to be much more difficult than we thought as we obtained samples of Northern milfoil which looked like the description of Eurasian. This proved to the committee that identification can only be confirmed by the DNR or other trained specialist. It will be imperative for us to send questionable samples to the DNR.

This is the first step to an ongoing study of aquatic plant activity in Grindstone. We welcome anyone interested in helping to preserve the water quality of Grindstone to contact Dave McJoynt.

Dave & Mary Mc Joynt

## The Hayward Carnegie Library

The Hayward Free Library Association was established in 1887, and was located on the second floor of the town hall. (The Hayward Bakery is located in this building today.) In the 1890s, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation began making grants to construct community libraries throughout the country. Eventually, Carnegie offered \$10,000 for a new library in Hayward. When our present day library opened in 1904, the Board of Directors wrote to thank Andrew Carnegie for his generosity. Their letter concluded with a flourish "We hope you may live long to gladden the seekers after knowledge, by furnishing buildings to house books that all may read for recreation and the educating of the people"

The Hayward Carnegie Library has served well for nearly 100 years, but our community has now outgrown the grand old building. Library shelves, reading areas, work tables and offices are literally bursting at the seams. Parking spaces are almost nonexistent. Access for senior citizens and those with physical challenges is a major concern. After many years of study and community dialogue, it's clear that our library is overdue for new facilities. The Board of Trustees has announced plans to build a new public library for all citizens of the Hayward and Sawyer County area.

An excellent site has been acquired on Highway 77 across from the Hayward Wesleyan Church. This project is expected to cost between \$2.5 and \$3 million. The Board of trustees has chosen to base the fundraising campaign on donations, thus minimizing additional tax burden on area residents.

The new library will be more than just a library to our community. The new facility will have space for art, concerts, film clubs, and exhibits of all kinds. The meeting rooms will be available for community clubs, business meetings and other civic activities. The new Hayward Public Library can be an ideal "technology center" -with ready access to Internet resources, word...processing, e-mail services, e-books, reference information and much more.

However, all of this can only be possible with the generosity of the entire community. The Library Board has begun a vigorous fund raising campaign, but we need your help. The library is not just for those who live here year round, but for all our friends who make the Hayward area a home away from home. All contributions will be appreciated, but for those who wish to make a major contribution, it is also an opportunity to make a lasting legacy. When you or your organization make a major contribution, we will dedicate a portion of the new library in the name you have chosen to honor.

If you or someone you know are interested in making a contribution, please contact Library Director Molly Lank-Jones at (715) 634-2161, or Ray Moeller at (715) 634-4911.



Ray Moeller, President, Hayward Carnegie Library

Board of Trustees

Over the years, the Walleyes For Northern Wisconsin Club has been a friend to many area lakes and lake associations including Grindstone Lake. This organization actively promotes walleye fishing through their activities and donations. Area lakes have greatly benefited from their commitment to the continued enjoyment of walleye fishing now and in the future.

## Walleyes for Northern Wisconsin

Walleyes For Northern Wisconsin was formed by a local group of anglers in August of 1994. The main purpose of the club was, and remains to be, to act as a vehicle for walleye enthusiasts to join together to protect and enhance the opportunity to catch walleyes now and in the future.

Our main charter objectives are:

- a) to promote a high quality walleye fishery in area lakes;
- b) to promote and enhance water environment quality and to maintain and improve habitat;
- c) to work with Tribal and State agencies, area lake associations and area resort associations to maintain and improve area lake walleye populations; and
- d) to encourage the importance of catch and release programs

Toward these ends, over the past 3 years, in conjunction with the DNR and various lake associations we have established a matching grant program whereby WFNW and the DNR will match lake association funds for the purchase of fish cribs. A summary of our activities for the past several years is as follows:

- \$5,750 to Grindstone, Courte Oreilles,

Round, Teal, Windigo, Whitefish, Spider Nelson and Sand lake associations for the purchase of fish cribs.

- \$10,500 to the Sawyer County fish habitat program
- \$1,000 to the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Clean Water Fund
- \$500 to the Spooner Hatchery for the purchase of a special research microscope
- \$1,000 To Fishing has no Boundaries
- \$1,500 to LCO Tribal hatchery for hatchery expansion
- \$1,000 to Round Lake Milfoil eradication program.

The majority of our funds are raised through membership fees and through sponsorship of our annual family ice fishing contest. This year's annual ice fishing contest will be held Feb. 16, 2002, on Lac Courte Oreilles.

Your membership is important. Should you be interested, annual memberships are \$25 (individual) and \$35 (family). Membership dues may be sent to Bob Degen, 7759N Wilkie Rd., Hayward, WI 54843. Please contact Bob Degen at 715-634-3336 if further information is required.

## Report: 18-Hole Golf Course Project

When news of the Pete Dye golf course with 150 homesites being planned in the Grindstone lake watershed was announced, I was immediately concerned about the enriched ingredients contaminating our watershed.

GLA Board member Ray Moeller and I attended the zoning meeting at the Sawyer County Courthouse Sept. 21, 2001. Although we expressed our desire to be cooperative, we firmly stated our concern about pollution to the watershed

by the fertilizers. We felt by being positive to the project we could obtain good feedback from the developers.

This proved to be a good move as I was invited to meet with Pete Dye and his staff on site to discuss our concern. I met with Mr. Dye and his staff on Monday, Sept. 24. Mr. Dye assured me that they were very interested in capturing as much of the fertilized runoff as possible in retention ponds to feed back to the course and very little would

get to our watershed. In fact they would be converting a corn field, which has contributing phosphorus to our watershed, into a golf course managed runoff system.

I left the meeting assured the Grindstone watershed would probably be in better shape because of the golf course project.



Dave Mc Joynt  
GLA Board Member

*The following article, written by Terrell Boettcher, appeared in the October 3, 2001, Sawyer County RECORD. It is reprinted with permission.*

## New 18-hole Championship Golf Course, Residential Development Is Planned West of LCO Casino

By Terrell Boettcher

An 18-hole golf course and residential development with up to 150 homes on 305 acres just west of the LCO Casino has obtained zoning and conditional use

approvals from the Town of Hayward Board and Sawyer County Zoning Committee as a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

The course will be designed by Pete Dye of Del Ray Beach, Fla., a

world-renowned golf architect who has designed more than 70 courses. Seventeen of them are ranked among the top 100 in the world, including the highly-acclaimed Black Wolf Run and Whistling Straits

courses at Kohler, Wis.

The owners and co-developers include Dave Weber of St. Paul, who is the owner of Country Inn and Suites and has a lake home in the Hayward area, and Jed Lund from the Minneapolis area. PGA professional Matt Vandelac is also involved with the project.

The group purchased the property about three months ago from Pinewood Realty Inc.

Dye and his associate, Tim Liddy, walked the property on Sept. 24. Dye is probably the premier golf course designer in the world," said Weber. "We expect this to be a very unique design — that's the way all of his courses are. It will be a first-class, Type A golf course that I think will fit very nicely into the Hayward area.

"We expect it to be one that attracts a great deal of attention and people to the Hayward area," Weber added. The group of more than 100 owners also will become members in the golf course. The course primarily will be a, daily-fee public golf destination,

The front nine holes will be on, rolling to flat land and nine holes in the wooded hills on the development's west side. There will be a clubhouse

and driving range. "We're going to do some nice housing, some town homes and single-family dwellings. We're going to have some minimum requirements, probably 1,600 square feet," Weber added.

Weber said they plan to do some grubbing this winter, and then to start moving ground around extensively next spring. Their tentative time line is to open the golf course in July, 2003.

"We will work closely with the Grindstone Lake Association to make sure that we keep our water, on the property and do a good job of maintaining the cleanliness of the lakes," Weber added.

### Zoning hearing

During the Sawyer County zoning hearing, the Hayward Rod and Gun Club said they voted unanimously against the development with their primary concern being the possible environmental impact on local waterways from runoff of fertilizers from residential driveways and lawns.

The club leases 40 acres just west of the development. About one-half mile of the development borders Sawyer County Forest land.

Also, neighboring residents Michael and Lois

Downey said they are concerned about the quantity and quality of groundwater in the area. Their well is 250 feet deep, and a new well would be prohibitive, they said.

On behalf of the developers, Steve Bodenschatz said that they have met with Department of Natural Resources water regulators and must comply with DNR permit regulations for high-capacity wells and grading. They will do a plat which has to meet state approval.

There are no wetlands or streams on the 305 acres, so water bodies will be man-made for beauty, water retainage and irrigation, Bodenschatz said. The DNR is very strict in its review of the plat and grading permits so the fertilizers and pesticides do not run off, he said.

Grindstone Lake Association member James McJoynt spoke in favor of the golf course, and said that "We just want to be sure we don't bother the pristine lake conditions that we have here."

A water-quality study performed three years ago by the LCO Conservation Department showed that 30 percent of Grindstone Lake's, phosphorus inflow comes from Grindstone Creek, and the proposed

development is in the creek's watershed, McJoynt said.

"I play golf all over the country and (Dye) is very good," McJoynt said. "I'm sure the course will be well designed. The course will probably have retention ponds in order to capture the runoff from the fertilizer used in order to put it back on the golf course. The DNR is more concerned with the runoff from the home sites that have roofs and paved driveways-how that water will be contained in the basin that brings nutrients to the lake.

"We're not against the golf course: we just want to make sure that proper procedures are in place and followed so this doesn't affect our water," McJoynt said.

Curt Scherer, co-owner of the neighboring Mobil Outpost on the corner of

Hwys. B and K, said he is "very much in favor of this development. I think it's going to be good for the area, for the tax base and for tourism. Pete Dye is a world renowned golf architect and he does first-class developments, and I think it would be a great addition to an already-great area."

On behalf of the Hayward Rod and Gun Club, Herbert Leuthe said that club members are opposed to the residential, part of the development, because they believe residents of neighboring lots will complain about the noise from the shooting range.

Zoning committee chairman Don Trettin replied that there are state laws to protect the club on this.

Bodenschatz added that there will be a "delicate balance with the neigh-

bors" in planning the residential lot development around the golf course.

The zoning committee unanimously approved the rezoning of the property to Planned, Unit Development, and the conditional use permit. The committee's action will come before the county board on October 18.

In the committee's finding of fact, Ray Silack said the development would not be damaging to the rights of others or property values, and it would probably increase the property values around it."



## Fish Crib Project

To date, 236 fish cribs have been installed in Grindstone Lake since 1997.

After four consecutive years of helping us lay fish cribs in Grindstone, the DNR took a breather in 2001 to assist other area lakes.

However, we have plans to resume placement of fish cribs in our lake in 2002.

Bruce Johnson  
GLA Board Member

# Action on County Shoreland Protection Rules Delayed

Discussion regarding the Citizens Shoreland Protection Advisory Committee was a topic at the July, 2001, annual meeting of the GLA.

Attendees will recall that the Citizens Shoreland Protection Advisory Committee is a 16 member group of citizens formed by the county over two years ago to address the task of revising and clarifying the county's existing shoreland development ordinance. Their goal is to develop and propose possible changes to the county ordinance that would improve, protect, and enhance the quality of navigable waters. A proposal was drafted and public meetings were scheduled throughout the summer to gather public comment and consider revisions to the proposed ordinance changes. GLA members were encouraged to attend these public forums and express their views.

During the summer, over 200 persons attended the public meetings, voiced their opinions, or submitted written comments. Clearly, public interest produced extensive input on this issue.

As might be expected, opinions ranged from supportive to oppositional. The most controversial areas included impervious surfaces, resorts and condominiums, nonconforming structure rules, backlot development and lake access, removal of dead and diseased trees, and erosion controls. Committee members acknowledged that those very issues had given them the most difficulty in preparing the draft.

The need for more education about the existing ordinance and proposed changes became evident in discussions. While new limitations are part of the draft proposal, many proposed changes were simply clarifications to the language of the existing ordinance.

The Citizens Shoreland Protection Advisory Committee decided not to present the proposed changes to the Sawyer County Zoning Board last August as originally scheduled. Instead, they are using the public comments to revise the proposed changes. More public forums may be scheduled after the revisions are completed.

This briefly summarizes activity on this issue during the summer, to the best of our knowledge. Two articles appeared regarding this issue in the July 18, 2001, issue of the Sawyer County Record should you wish to obtain more details.

The following article provides information about recent activities.



Camille Venners, Trumpeter Editor

The following article, written by Terrell Boettcher, appeared in the September 4, 2001, Sawyer County RECORD. It is reprinted with permission.

## Citizens Group Seeks to Educate Shoreowners on Need to Protect Lake Water

### Gets mixed reaction from county

By Terrell Boettcher

A Sawyer County citizens' advisory committee is seeking to convince shore owners of the pressing need to protect the quality of the lakes they live on by voluntary practices such as installing vegetative buffers.

At the same time, the 22-person committee is continuing a 2 1/2 year effort to draft a shoreland protection ordinance which would clarify and simplify the existing zoning ordinance and make it easier to enforce.

Most things in the present county ordinance are mandated by the state but haven't been fully implemented, committee member Cliff Stoner told members of the Round Lake Property Owners Association recently.

"We want to preserve the quality of the lakes, which are the lifeblood of

this community," Stoner said. "If they are contaminated or too densely populated, then we're losing the very thing we're up here for. There are things in there (the ordinance) which are critical to the life of our lakes."

After holding four listening sessions throughout the county earlier this summer, the committee has met several times to incorporate the revisions into the proposed ordinance and hopes to complete its review at a Sept. 19 meeting at the courthouse.

Two committee members, Harry Schroeder and Dave Andersen, appeared before the Sawyer County Zoning Committee recently and pleaded with them to

and pleaded with them to get involved in the revision process. "I think we have done a heck of a good job of listening to the people and

incorporating their comments" into the draft ordinance, Schroeder said. "We have tried to address the concerns" raised at the forums and "have made some significant changes that reflect the views of the public, the builders, Realtors and other interested parties. We've tried to put together a document that is for the good of Sawyer County."

Andersen said that the citizens' committee "is diverse. If some members had their way, we wouldn't allow anyone to build anything within 1,000 feet of the lakes; others would say almost anything goes.

"We've listened to the technical people," Andersen added. "For example, they have convinced me that a 35-foot natural vegetation buffer strip is critical to keeping runoff out of the water.



"We've listened to the taxpayers, and we've come up with a pretty darn manageable set of shoreland and water quality protection rules and regulations. It will protect our resources, our assets, and yet it's something we can all live with from an economic standpoint," Andersen said.

#### 'Too detailed'

Zoning committee member Don Trettin said that "I don't agree with everything they (the citizens committee) have done, but we need some kind of protection of lakeshore property."

Committee member Ray Silack said that "We have to do something — I understand that. But it's getting so technical, so detailed that it's creating more problems than it will solve. People in my area are saying 'enforce what we got now, make minor changes to what's going on.' The detailed information (on nonconforming properties) is completely over most people's heads. It's overwhelming."

"The people on the lakes figure they can take care of what they got," Silack said. "It sounds to me like the people who have got what they want, want to keep and perfect it and don't care about the

next guy coming down the road."

Schroeder replied that "I think it stems from an uneven application of the zoning ordinances over the years. It's hard for a person to understand why his neighbor could do something and he couldn't. We're trying to address the ambivalence of the present ordinance; that's why the detail is in there, so it's more clear to the person buying the property and to the zoning administration as to what is acceptable."

Schroeder said that once they have a complete document, the committee members and many others "will rally around it."

Andersen said "It's important for the fishery that property owners understand what is good and bad" about basic practices affecting the lake. They need to talk to their neighbors "in order to stop some of the really stupid things going on today, like dumping leaves into the lake," he said.

#### 'Education important'

Trettin agreed that "Education is important; people feel their property rights are being infringed, but they should consider that they are infringing on the ecology, what they're doing to the lakes and what

we've got to do to preserve these lakes."

"You can't just say 'I own the land and water and you can't tell me what to do,'" Trettin added.

"What we are trying to accomplish," said Schroeder, "is education, inducement (through free services and advice), and finally enforcement."

Mel Kelly of the Nelson Lake Property Owners Association said that packets of information are available to shore owners from the county zoning office, DNR, and local real estate professionals. This information "is an important tool of home ownership," she said.

Kelly also noted that Langlade and Burnett are among the counties which have published illustrated guides for shoreland owners and said Sawyer County could do the same once the revised shoreland ordinance is adopted. State grant money is available to publish these.

"We're not the only ones who are struggling with this issue," Kelly said.

Zoning committee member Jim Bassett said that "there is 25 percent of the old document that I could support; if this new one came to a vote right now, I would vote against it. I don't believe lighting

has anything to do with zoning. If I had a problem with my neighbor, I'd plant lilac bushes down my property line."

Bassett added that "A person should be able to put a basement under his house, no matter how close to the shoreline it is. Also, I'm a little nervous about forced mitigation."

Zoning administrator Bill Christman said that most counties allow roof replacement and repairs on nonconforming structures, but that the owners may be required to do mitigation for being allowed to keep the structure within 75 feet of the lake. The options for required mitigation in order to receive a permit could include reducing the impervious surfaces on their property, or installing a shoreline buffer zone or a bigger buffer zone. Each site would have different requirements, he indicated.

Citizens committee member Alan Reinemann said that Round Lake has a lot of buildings within 40 feet of the lake, and "maybe they should be required to restore the buffer zone. That's where the major runoff problem is. We have to stop it."

Committee member Al Arnold said that Barron County determines what mitigation should be in

each case, based on a point system.

Committee member Doug Kurtzweil noted that Burnett County offers a property tax break to shoreowners as an incentive to perform shoreline protection practices. "As a property owner, I would quit mowing if they knocked \$40 - \$50 off my tax bill," he said.

Kurtzweil added that the draft Sawyer County ordinance as originally presented to the public this summer "appears to be somewhat more permissive and weaker than what has already been adopted in neighboring Washburn, Burnett and Bayfield counties."

It may take another three to five years "to get the revised ordinances in place that we need to protect the integrity, quality and viability of our lakes here," Kurtzweil added.

"Quality water is the economic lifeblood of Sawyer County, and we need to hang in there" to finish the revision process, Kurtzweil said.

Committee member Dorothy Pasko said that sometimes local governments make mistakes that cause water to run off into lakes due to poor planning on roads and culverts. "The problem is inherited by all

the property owners and the governments are free and clear," she said.

"We have been getting such a tremendous response from the public and it has been so helpful," said committee member Marilyn Buman. "We've done a lot of very serious work in 2 1/2 years, and I don't think we should hurry through this process. Our draft is only getting better."



A subscription to the Sawyer County Record is an excellent source for keeping abreast of issues and events pertaining to Sawyer County and the Hayward area.

In addition, they have a web site (equipped with an efficient search engine) containing most major articles located at :

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



# GLA Contributes \$500 toward Purchase of Sawyer County Rescue Airboat

The Grindstone Lake Association board of Directors discussed the merit of the Sawyer County Rescue Airboat and voted to contribute \$500.00 toward the airboat purchase. For those of you who may not have heard or read about the rescue airboat, the following articles provide more detail.

*Excerpts from articles about the rescue airboat which appeared in the Sawyer County RECORD are reprinted with permission.*

*By Terrell Boettcher, September 26, 2001.*

## ... Rescue boat ...

The board voted to appropriate an additional \$14,984 to complete the purchase of a rescue airboat to be used for water

and ice rescues in the county.

Sawyer County approved an initial \$5,000 toward the purchase, the LCO Casino donated

\$10,000, and private donations have totaled \$6,250 to date. Additional donations will be accepted and reimbursed to the county.

*By Nancy Iverson, Bass Lake news section, October 17, 2001.*

... As most of you probably know, Sawyer County has acquired an airboat for cold water/ice rescue. The boat was built in Texas, and members of the Sawyer County Dive Team went down there the end of September to pick

it up and attend training sessions on the operation of it.

This is a very important acquisition for our area. It will be utilized by all fire departments and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department, and members

will have to train in order to be able to operate it.

It is a piece of equipment that is long overdue, and hopefully will save some lives in the county.

*By Terrell Boettcher, October 31, 2001.*

## ... Airboat purchase

This summer and fall, the county had a rescue

airboat constructed at a cost of \$30,000. The boat "is a tool we have needed

for a long time," Sheehan said. "The sheriff's department and Sawyer County

Fire Association got together and made a big effort and push to get it. We had a lot of donations from the lake associations, private people. The LCO Tribe donated \$10,000, and the county kicked in the remainder. There are still donations coming in."

The airboat will allow trained personnel to, get out safely onto thin ice and shallow open water to try to rescue the snowmobiler or fisherman who is hanging desperately onto the ice or is in the water. Powered by a 454-horsepower Chevrolet V-8 engine and with an airplane propeller on its rear, the craft can turn around on a boat landing and travel on ice, open

water or in a swamp.

At their October 17 meeting in Winter, the members of the county fire association decided to have the airboat housed initially in the City of Hayward, because the three people who are trained to use the boat live in the Hayward area.

Also, the boat is covered by the county's insurance while it is stored in the county's garage. But if it were housed in another facility and a fire department member hooked onto it with their personal vehicle or a fire truck and got into an accident, "our insurance will not cover that," Sheehan said.

If the airboat were

stored elsewhere, the fire department association would have to provide insurance. The members have agreed to take out a policy to cover those personnel who use the craft.

Also, each fire department will find out which of their members want to be trained to use the airboat, Sheehan said. The intent is to have two or three volunteers from each department trained by the three currently-certified sheriffs deputies/dive team members before freeze-up this fall.



## 3RD ANNUAL GLA PICNIC

A beautiful sunny day again graced the GLA Annual Picnic.

Approximately 140 people attended the Third Annual GLA Picnic. This year the crowd consumed 144 bratwurst, 60 hotdogs, 6 quarts of beans, 96 cans of soda, 3 gallons lemonade, and 12 dozen bars. The youngest participant was 6 months and the oldest over 90.

Conversation was

lively as people introduced themselves and greeted old acquaintances. No one is considered a stranger in this group. If you have not attended any of the past picnics, we encourage you to attend the picnic next year and join the fun.

Our Annual Picnics are open to members, family, and friends. The menu is casual picnic fare — brats, baked beans, salads, dessert and beverages —

completely provided by the GLA.

Apparently this year's number of picnic attendees was greater than previous years. Some anglers were disgruntled about limited trailer parking space. We are fortunate to have had the use of the Grindstone Lake boat landing for all of our picnics and need to be considerate of parking areas for lake use.

# Membership Report

What are the duties of a Membership Chairperson? My primary responsibilities include welcoming new lake property owners, conducting the annual membership drive, and maintaining a membership database.

As Welcome Wagon Hostess, I distribute folders with pertinent information we have compiled relating to Grindstone Lake and the Hayward area. But I need your help in identifying new residents if I am to be effective. When you get a new lake neighbor, please notify me of the new lake property owners so I can invite them to our meetings; social affairs; inform them of the goals and aims of GLA; and secure their dues.

As part of the annual membership drive, I encourage non-participating property owners to join GLA and remind current members to renew their membership.

In 2001, the GLA membership drive ended with 166 members. That's about 44% of the total lakeshore properties. We should do better, with your help.

It is not too late to become a member this year. And for those of you who want to "beat the rush", dues for 2002 are now being accepted.

Mary Mc Joynt 715-634-5691 (May - Sept.) 941-948-3640 (Oct. - Apr.)

To become a member, or renew a current membership, please complete this form and return it along with your \$20.00 check (payable to the Grindstone Lake Association) to: Grindstone Lake Association, P.O. Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843-0292.

Bass Lake Fire Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(first and last of both husband and wife)*

**Home address:**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Lake address (if different):**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Members' Concerns

Most groups are formed for a purpose and the Grindstone Lake Association is just such an organization. The GLA founders were interested in building friendships within the Grindstone Lake community. Additionally, environmental awareness and activism became an important part of the focus. Board members have tried to keep abreast of legislation, developments that will impact Grindstone lake in positive or negative ways and provide information to the collective membership.

Participation of members strengthens the organization. Sometimes it is as simple as making a few telephone calls or assisting at an event. Other times, someone is needed to fill a board position or attend community meetings and report on the proceedings. Always, feedback from members is a vital element in providing service to members.

What are your concerns? Do you have ideas for newsletter topics that you would like pursued? Do you need information that you think other members also need? Have you encountered an article that you would like to propose be included in a newsletter? Take a few moments to reflect on your property, Grindstone Lake, and the GLA. Then jot down your thoughts. The Grindstone Lake Association Board of Directors would like to hear from you.

Please return this completed this form or send a letter to:  
Grindstone Lake Association, P.O. Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843-0292.

Concerns, Ideas, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

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The following article appeared in the October 31, 2001, Sawyer County RECORD Emergency section. It is reprinted with permission.

## Little Bass Lake Volunteer Fire Department has Big Heart

The Bass Lake Volunteer Fire Department is a small group, but one that takes on a lot of responsibility.

The 35 year old department protects both seasonal homes and the homes of permanent residents in the Town of Bass Lake including those on Grindstone Lake -and Lac Courte Oreilles, as well as several businesses.

The department is also called on to fight fires on the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Indian reservation. The department works in conjunction with the LCO Fire Department.

The Town of Hayward Fire Department, the City of Hayward Fire Department, and the Stone Lake Fire Department can call on the Bass Lake Fire Department, and vice versa, through mutual aid.

The Bass Lake Fire Department has also found time to help itself. Since 1999 it has added a 20' by 44' truck stall onto its existing fire hall. Fire Chief Ken Shuey said the depart-

ment members donated time to build it. The town and department raised the funds.

A new brush truck was also acquired by the department. Other equipment includes a 1,000 gallon-per-minute (gpm) pumper truck with foam unit, a 2,000 gallon tank truck, a tanker/pumper truck, a 600 gpm portable pump, a Jaws of Life, and ice rescue equipment. Annual fund-raisers help the department purchase new equipment.

New members are always welcome, Shuey said.

Although the department is small, the death of the many New York firefighters on Sept. 11 stirred members of the Bass Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

"We were pretty much shocked like everyone else," Shuey said. "We thought about what we would have done in that situation. We'd have been fighting the fire like they were."

The Bass Lake Volunteer Fire Department members are: Pete Sanders, Gary Johnson, Gregg Koepke, Ken Shuey, Dan Woods, Gary Sundberg, Ed Jeffries, Mariam Young, Bob Young and Tim Dillon.



### Longtime Grindstone Lake resident John "Jack" Harapat dies

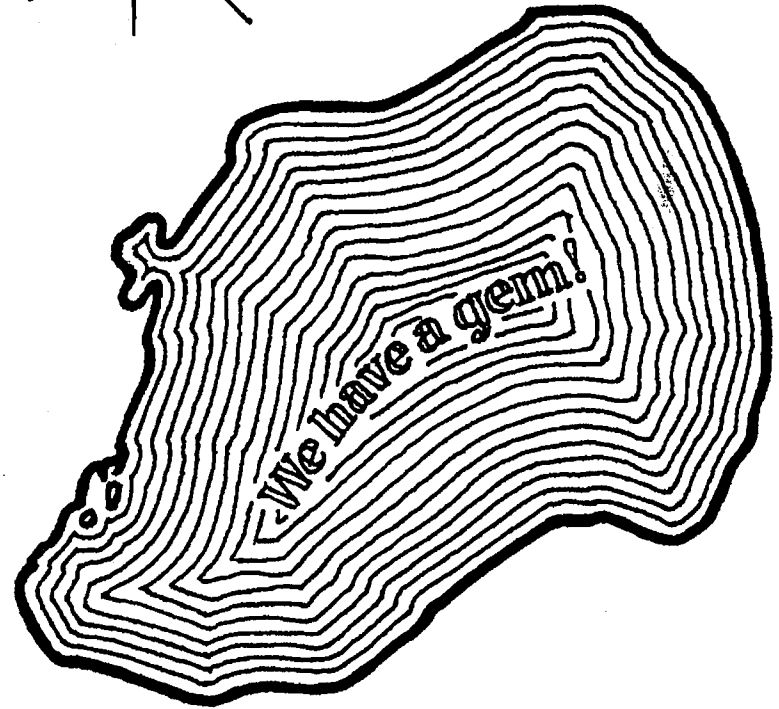
John Harapat, 92, of Hayward, died Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital.

John "Jack" Harapat was born August 20, 1909 in Brook Park, MN, the son of Joseph and Marie Harapat. Jack and his wife, Evelyn (Bazinet) Harapat were married 65 years. "Jack" was a butter maker and food inspector for National Tea Stores.

Jack is survived by his wife Evelyn, of Hayward, and many nieces and nephews.

# The Grindstone Trumpeter

April 2001



A community of neighbors  
dedicated to promoting the  
preservation and enjoyment  
of our precious lake !

**Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association

PO Box 292

Hayward, WI 54843

**Grindstone Lake Association  
Board of Directors  
2000-2001**

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651-646-8850

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Roger Rickard ..... 715-634-5042

Emily Haddad ..... 612-667-3891

**Newsletter**

Camille Venners ..... 715-634-8614  
507-289-2885

## Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

## President's Message

### Thinking "ROOFTOPS" and "SHORE PLANTS"

Years ago when we held the organizational meeting for the Grindstone Lake Association, several dozen people squeezed into the Bass Lake Town Hall to talk about the main concerns regarding the lake. Water quality was one of the hot topics, and a number of people claimed emphatically that the cranberry bog and non-compliant septic systems were principally to blame for water degradation over recent years. The cranberry people worried that soon a group of pitchfork-wielding environmentalist vigilantes would descend on their bogs and older residents on fixed incomes and old septic systems figured it was only a matter of time before Association activists would start a petition drive to have the county test everyone's system — and

require expensive upgrades.

Thanks to the recently completed comprehensive water study that was funded by the LCO Tribe and supervised by Dan Tyrolt of the LCO conservation office, we have far better information than the purely anecdotal observations and speculation that fueled the discussion a decade ago. Granted, many variables exist, and when a host of environmental factors converge, it is difficult to achieve absolute scientific certainty about cause and effect, but I dare say that we are substantially better informed today than we were on that day back at the Bass Lake Town Hall.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a summary of the findings that Dan Tyrolt presented to the GLA board of directors last August. The bar graph depicting sources of phosphorous captures the essence of those findings. Simply stated, here's what we learned: (1) the main cause of water degradation is excess phosphorous; (2) a certain amount of phosphorous occurs naturally; (3) of the "unnatural" phosphorous in Grindstone Lake, the main sources are (a) agricultural lands many miles from the lake but within our "gerrymandered"

watershed; (b) "thin" vegetation along our shoreline; and (c) runoff from impervious surfaces, namely, our roads and roofs. Sure, the cranberry bog contributes some phosphorous, but in the overall scheme of things, it's a smidgeon, thanks to sound management practices and the open (as opposed to confined cove, bay, etc.) shoreline on which the bog sits. Likewise, if we assume that, consistent with findings on other lakes, as many as 20% of the septic systems around the lake are failing, these non-compliant systems are also a relatively minor source of degradation.

Don't misinterpret me. It behooves us to ensure that the cranberry bog owners do not abandon "best practices," and we must assume individual responsibility for proper maintenance of our septic systems. However, we can achieve the biggest bang for our buck if we focus on runoff and shoreline vegetation. Who at that organizational meeting a decade ago, was thinking "rooftops" and "shore plants" when we were blaming the cranberry bog and failing septic systems for the present and future threat to our water quality?

So, now that we know where to focus our efforts, what can we do? For starters, enhance our shoreline vegetation buffers. Let the trees be, and allow natural grasses and vegetation to flourish along the shore. Attach rain gutters to our roofs and connect the gutters to easily installed drywells. Keep an eye on indiscriminate development, not only on the lakeshore itself but anywhere within our 10,000 acre watershed. Oppose attempts by developers to obtain variances that would allow greater building density. Hope that a drop in the price of cranberries doesn't force the cranberry bog owners to sell out 3,000 feet of lakeshore on which

innumerable square feet of impervious surfaces — rooftops and driveways of new lake homes — would inevitably replace the bogs. Hope that engineering firms out for a big profit don't lobby local officials to create a water and sewer district that would install a multi-million dollar sewer system, which, in turn, would allow many more rooftops and driveways to be developed within our watershed.

The water quality study doesn't tell us everything, but it establishes a benchmark and it tells us what are priorities should be to preserve our liquid gem, Grindstone Lake.

by Eric Nilsson



Cover: The graphic on the newsletter cover was designed for the Grindstone Lake Association by artist, Herb Keiffer. Herb is a resident of Grindstone Lake and graciously agreed to work with GLA to create a unique image to serve as a logo. Final renderings are not yet completed but watch for his finished work on the cover of the next newsletter.

*The following article, written by Terrell Boettcher, appeared in the July 12, 2000, Sawyer County RECORD. It is reprinted with his permission.*

*The Grindstone Lake Association would like to note that Mr. Burgess is not a lobbyist. More accurately, the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, with which he is associated, is an organization that employs lobbyists.*

## State lakes group lobbyist updates Grindstone Owners Association

by Terrell Boettcher

At their July annual meeting, Grindstone Lake Shore Owners Association members heard a report from the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) legislative chairman about state-wide issues which WAL has been dealing with.

James Burgess, who has a home on nearby Lac Courte Oreilles, outlined a "short laundry list of issues".

1) Eurasian water milfoil, a weed that's finding its way into northern lakes. "It is very threatening and dangerous," Burgess said. "It is transmitted in a variety of ways — by birds, animals, and boats that move from

lake to lake. For way too long, the DNR has not paid adequate attention to information systems, to notices, penalties, and enforcement to try to control it."

Round Lake, Burgess added, "now has a big milfoil island, and it will be a problem for years ahead. We need to focus more attention and enforcement on controlling and fighting milfoil."

2) Personal water craft (PWCs, also called Jet Skis) "has been an issue through out state, and the legislature is hearing more about it and is interested in it," Burgess said.

"Everybody likes to kick around the jet ski people," he added. "The people who don't like PWC

activity greatly outnumber the people who do like it. There has been some legislation and court cases that now for the first time allow statutes to separate motor boats from jet skis. Previously, they had to be lumped into the same rules.

"There are and will be legislative proposals to continually restrict the use of personal water craft, partly by distances from other boats, docks, and shores (now there is a 200-foot no-wake zone), partly to limit the number of hours they may be on lakes, depending on the size of the lakes and the interest of the lakeshore owners; and to restrict their use to certain days of the week, Burgess said.

3) Dockminiums have not been an issue up here — but they will be," Burgess said. "We need to be informed about it."

A dockminium is a dock with individual boat slips which are sold to the users. On Lake Geneva, for example, there's a 350-boat dockminium," Burgess said.

"Constitutionally, the people of Wisconsin own all the water everywhere in the state," Burgess added. "So who has the right to sell a dock slip? It's a contentious issue." "If you allow Grindstone Lake to have 2,000-3,000 more boats because of these slips, what happens to the environment of the lake? As land becomes more dear, more difficult and expensive to acquire, people will more often live off the lake and buy a dock slip.

WAL has been in court for six years on this Lake Geneva issue," Burgess indicated. "We're determined to guard against uncontrolled growth of docks beyond what is reasonable for the use of shoreland owners," as defined by the Department of Natural Resources.

4) Lake classification: "We're helping counties come to grips with selective management of lakes based on their level of risk,"

Burgess said. "Sawyer County is a leader" in this, with a lake classification system incorporated into its zoning ordinance.

5) Shoreland restoration: "WAL offers materials "on how to manage your shoreland." Burgess said. "We're trying to convince people who come from the city to leave the city behind when they come here to experience the Northwoods lakes, and to leave the lawn mower at home.

"It's a difficult sell," Burgess added, "because people who come and put up beautiful new homes on these lakes tend to want to landscape them, to have gorgeous yards. There are all sorts of fertilizer and runoff risk. So we're trying to encourage people to voluntarily put in a 30-foot wild strip on the edge of the lake."

6) Cranberry issues: "This is very contentious, because we have good neighbors who are cranberry growers," Burgess said.

WAL and many lake associations are in the legislature attempting to either repeal or modify the 133-year-old law "which exempts cranberries from all oversight of the water that flows from their bogs into the lake," Burgess said.

"The effort was unsuccessful in the past legislative session, as were almost all legislative bills on anything," he added. "The two parties (Republicans and Democrats) spent so much time fighting each other that very little was accomplished.

"We think we have some work to do to put cranberry bogs on the same agricultural and residential footing as everybody else." Burgess said. "Sawyer County has a lot of cranberry operations. And even though these are not good years for cranberry market prices, the acreage of cranberry bogs statewide has grown significantly."

According to the Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association, they and all farmers are not exempt from state environmental regulations that pertain to surface water quality, wetlands, pesticide use, fuel storage, groundwater quality and common-law restrictions on water use.

The "Cranberry Law allows growers to access water for their operations. With this right comes the responsibility of returning it in accordance with applicable state and federal water quality standards," the association said. "Any agency can and does monitor this water for quality. The DNR has never

been denied access to a cranberry marsh to investigate environmental problems."

They add that "The Wisconsin DNR and Department of Agriculture are in the process of adopting stricter rules regulating nonpoint pollution — changes supported by the cranberry growers.

7) Burgess said that a percent of each dollar of state gasoline tax at the pump goes into boating, and that WAL is "very busy trying to change the formula, because there are more and bigger boats out there, so the percent of tax going to boating should be greater."

The money goes into a fund for projects related to lakes — boat ramps, shoreland restoration pilot projects. "There are millions of dollars in this fund,

to repair damages from past use and from new development on lakes," Burgess said.

8) Mercury pollution, which comes into lakes from the air, and is carried from emissions from coal-burning factories and power-generating plants. Some comes from Wisconsin and some is blown over from other states.

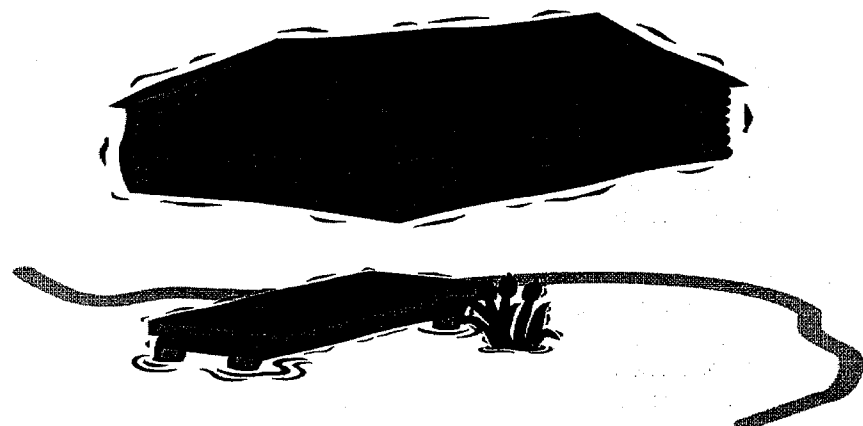
The effect of this, Burgess said, is that "There are now fish-eating warnings on hundreds of lakes in Wisconsin. That's a sad commentary. When it rains, mercury washes into lakes. It builds a permanent mercury level in lakes, and goes through the food chain into the fish."

In the past legislative session, a compromise between industries and environmentalists to reduce and put a cap on emissions

"died" because legislators got tired and went home," Burgess said. But, "It will be back."

9) Boating laws. Since the DNR can't be everywhere to enforce boating laws, Burgess said, "Its up to you (the lakeshore owners) to educate in a thoughtful, constructive way the fact that people are interfering with the pleasures of other people, and say, 'Please stop.' This organization can be instrumental in that."

Lake associations can organize a boating committee, as has been done on Lac Courte Oreilles, to do this education, placement of 'Danger' and 'No Wake' buoys etc., Burgess said. They wear bright-orange shirts. But "Don't try to be amateur cops," he added. "Make yourself very visible, but no guns, no pitchforks."





# Fish Crib Project

transported by DNR boats and placed in 14 to 22 feet of water.

The Fish Crib project has spanned four years, beginning in 1997. This last effort has increased the total number of cribs to 236. Cribs placed in 1997 numbered 26, 150 in 1998, and 25 in 1999.

Volunteers have made this project a success over the years and more willing hands are always welcome. This activity is a great way to be involved with your neighbors and meet new lake friends.

Since we coordinate our efforts with the DNR, we are not always able to drop

the cribs on the projected day but we plan on the first Wednesday in August, when-ever possible.

Frank Pratt will have information regarding a Grindstone Lake creel report in the spring.

Funds to sustain the project have come from the Grind-

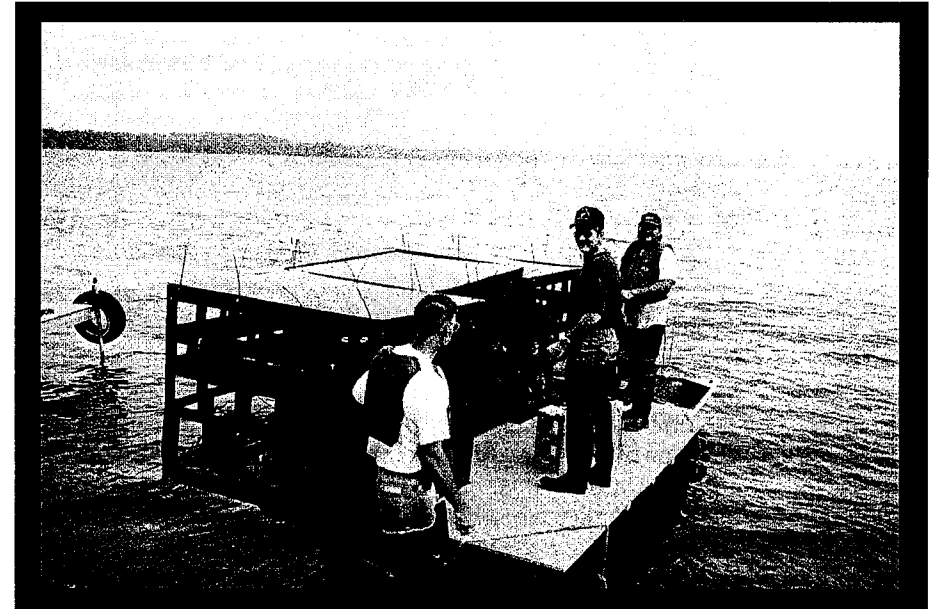
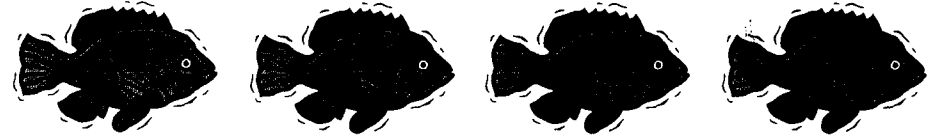
stone Lake Association, the DNR, Wall-eyes of Northern Wisconsin Association and some privately offered donations.

Plans are again in place for the year 2001. Thanks to all our volunteers for their time and commitment. It is very much appreciated.

Bruce Johnson



On August 23, 2000, an additional thirty-five fish cribs were placed on the southeast shore of Grindstone Lake. Twenty volunteers arrived at the Waterfront Restaurant to assist the DNR with the assembly and installation of the 4x4x6 foot plastic cribs. After the assembly, and before being dropped into the lake, brush collected by GLA members was placed inside the cribs. The cribs were then





# GLA Membership Report

It is rather shocking to find that only about 25% of our Lake residents are members of the GLA. How can we carry out the goals and aims of the Grindstone Lake Association, that represents all of us, if we don't have a much greater membership participation? In other words, it is up to all of us to encourage membership and participation by word of mouth and through our own participation. There's that word again . . . participation.

Rick has generously allowed us to use Waterfront Restaurant for our annual summer meetings for many years and we are very appreciative. However, as we have grown our group has spilled out the door in recent years. Due to additional space considerations, our annual summer meeting in 2001 will be held at the Bass Lake Town Hall so we can better serve our growing membership.

Join us! We will explain our findings on lake clarity, fish cribs, and milfoil concerns. Coffee is served and members have an opportunity for fellowship before and after the meeting.

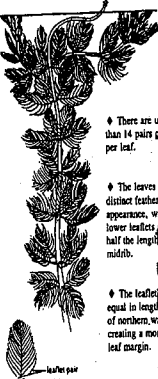
My goal as membership chairperson is to see all of you at the annual picnic, the July 4th fireworks (weren't they great last summer!) and the fish crib installation day. Remember, participation can be fun as well as work!

Please let me know if you have new neighbors so we can welcome to the Hayward Grindstone Lake area and include them in our mailings.

Mary McJoynt

## Eurasian Water Milfoil

◆ Eurasian water milfoil is a submerged aquatic plant with feathery-like leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on the stem.



◆ There are usually more than 14 pairs of leaflets per leaf.

◆ The leaves have a distinct feathery-like appearance, with the lower leaflets being about half the length of the upper leaflets.

◆ The leaflets are about equal in length and width, creating a more rounded leaf margin.

*This information is reprinted from Wisconsin DNR publication WR-463-96-REV. In Sawyer County, the waters of Big Round Lake and the Chippewa Flowage have already been invaded by Eurasian Water Milfoil. The Grindstone Lake Association hopes that continued education regarding Eurasian Water Milfoil will help preserve our lake from this threat.*

### THE DILEMMA:

Exotic species disrupt the stability of natural ecosystems and threaten biodiversity. An exotic species of special concern for lake users is Eurasian water milfoil. Eurasian water milfoil was introduced into North America and has spread to lakes across the nation. This exotic plant has invaded lakes in 35 states and in 3 Canadian provinces. In Wisconsin, the plant can be found in at least 235

sites in 43 of the state's 72 counties.

Eurasian water milfoil replaces native aquatic plant communities and forms thick underwater beds of tangled stems and vast mats of vegetation at the water's surface. These dense beds cause loss of plant diversity, degrade water quality, and may reduce habitat for fish, invertebrates and wildlife. They also hinder boating, swimming and fishing. Many lake organizations and local governments devote much of their lake management budgets to control this exotic plant. Eurasian water milfoil is an affliction that costs the citizens of Wisconsin millions of dollars in plant control and lost tourism revenue annually.

### HOW DOES IT SPREAD:

This prolific plant doesn't spread well by seeds. It spreads by shoots and runners that creep along the bed of lakes and rivers. New plants also grow from small fragments transported from lake to lake. Commonly it's transported by boats and trailers but could also be transported on SCUBA gear, water skis or waterfowl. Eurasian water milfoil has become a successful invader primarily by means of its stem fragments. A single fragment can take root and form a new colony.

Eurasian water milfoil is most successful in waters disturbed by cultural developments such as shoreline construction, watershed runoff, aquatic nuisance control activities or heavy boat traffic. Eurasian water milfoil also has a competitive advantage in lakes that are stressed by pollution. It has difficulty becoming established in lakes with healthy populations of native plants. A healthy lake ecosystem and preservation of native plants is protection against a Eurasian water milfoil invasion.

### RECOGNIZING EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (Myriophyllum spicatum):

Eurasian water milfoil is one of eight water milfoil species found in Wisconsin and the only one that is not native. The most common native water milfoil in Wisconsin lakes is northern water milfoil (Myriophyllum sibiricum). It bears a strong resemblance to Eurasian water milfoil but it is not prone to the rapid growth and canopy formation that make Eurasian water milfoil a nuisance.

It is important to be able to distinguish Eurasian water milfoil from other similar aquatic plants. The native plants provide valuable habitat for fish and invertebrates without obstructing recreational uses of lakes. Healthy beds of native plants also reduce the risk of Eurasian water milfoil successfully invading our state's waters.

### THE SOLUTION:

*There are three key elements to the control of exotic plants:*

#### I. REMOVING THE PLANT:

Early detection of Eurasian water milfoil growth is critical in stopping the plant from becoming a widespread problem in a lake. The best chance to halt these non-native invaders is when they first appear on the scene. Eurasian water milfoil often appears near boat landings and at disturbed sites.

New colonies are best removed before they expand. Hand pulling and removal from the water is a simple and effective control method for small areas. Harvesting, raking or screening the bottom also works well. Milfoil can be effectively treated with selective chemicals early in the summer before plants flower. A permit is required from the DNR for chemical treatment or bottom screening. Whole-

lake herbicide treatment is not generally permitted because of the potential to disrupt lake ecosystems by eliminating both exotic and beneficial native plants.

For lakes dominated with beds of milfoil, control efforts must be focused on reducing its spread. Mechanical harvesting can open areas for boating and swimming and cut fish cruising lanes. Harvesting can encourage growth of native plants while removing milfoil canopies that limit native plant growth.

New research is underway to explore biological control of Eurasian water milfoil. A small aquatic insect (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*), a weevil native to Wisconsin, shows particular promise. It has demonstrated a preference for Eurasian water milfoil over native plants. It was first associated with milfoil decline in Vermont. More recently scientists have found it in lakes in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois where milfoil decline has occurred. The distribution and natural history of this weevil is being studied and tests are being conducted to determine the role it could play in milfoil control.

## II. STOPPING THE TRANSPORT:

Studies suggest that Eurasian water milfoil is moved from lake to lake by small fragments transported on objects used in a lake. Commonly it is transported by boats and trailers but it could be transported by fishing equipment, live wells or water toys.

- Remove all aquatic plant fragments when leaving the water and before launching in another lake or river. Plants should be disposed of on high, dry ground where there is no danger of them establishing a new colony.
- Help establish a plant disposal station at boat landings for plant fragments that are removed from watercraft.

- Carefully inspect any equipment that enters the lake: boats, motors, anchors, bait buckets and trailers.

## III. BUILDING AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM

Citizens and lake communities are the cornerstones of the struggle against the spread of non-native plants and animals. State aquatic biologists can monitor only a small number of Wisconsin's lakes each year. Citizen watches must play a role in finding and responding to new infestations with appropriate actions. Lake management organizations, the DNR and UWEX can work to educate citizens about Eurasian water milfoil.

- Pamphlets and bumper stickers explaining how to identify and remove milfoil from boats, trailers and motor propellers can be handed out at bait shops, boat landings, highway rest areas and marinas.
- Learn to recognize Eurasian water milfoil. Regularly monitor boat landings, marinas and inlets for the first sign of invasion. Report new invasions to your local DNR office.
- Be sure all boat landings are posted with Eurasian water milfoil signs that describe the plant and instruct boaters to remove all plant fragments from their boats and trailers.
- Work with your local lake association to develop an aquatic plant management and protection plan for your lake, including contingency plans in case Eurasian water milfoil is found in the lake. Help others understand the benefits of native plants and use discretion in their control.
- Organize a volunteer program to meet boaters at your lake's access areas, pass out milfoil literature, explain the

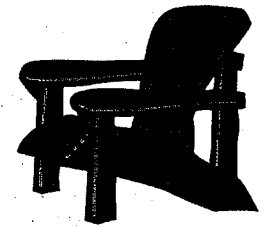
threat this plant poses to Wisconsin's lakes, and help boaters remove and dispose of plants.

- As your local lake organization about their milfoil volunteer alert program or start a lake organization if one doesn't exist.
- Share this pamphlet and your knowledge with others.

## WHY SHOULD I HELP?

Because of the vast number of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams in Wisconsin, citizen involvement in plant monitoring and removal of exotics is crucial in preventing the spread of Eurasian water milfoil. Our waterways are the pride of Wisconsin and belong to all of us. Your participation in Eurasian water milfoil control and prevention is essential to the successful control of this nuisance plant.

# Annual Grindstone Lake Association Meeting



*Minutes — July 1, 2000*

Under threat of rain, 82 persons crowded inside Rick Kramer's Waterfront Restaurant, and the annual meeting of the GLA was called to order by Eric Nilsson at 9:42 a.m.

Prior to the election of new members, President Eric introduced the Board of Directors. Cyndy MacIntosh, a former accountant, had offered to replace departing treasurer, Gerry Donovan. In addition to Eric Nilsson, Ray Moeller, Jo Rovelstad, Bruce Johnson, Jim Rigotti, Skip McGowan, Mary McJoynt, Ralph McGraw and Cyndy MacIntosh, the Board also nominated Jim Garvey, Roger Rickard and Emily Haddad to serve this year. The Board of 12 was approved unanimously.

Expressing the gratitude of all for Marilyn Buman's professional editing of

the Grindstone Trumpeter, in view of her resignation, Eric was pleased to announce that Camille Venners had volunteered to take on the task of getting out our newsletter!

Treasurer Cyndy reported that the GLA bank balance on June 1, 2000, was \$4,537.25. Briefly addressing the recent increase in property tax levy, President Eric said that with such a complex issue it behooves all property owners to become well informed, show up at public town meetings when possible, and express opinions fully.

Ray Moeller announced another picnic was being planned for July 22nd at the public boat landing, in view of the fact that the first, in 1999, was deemed a great success!

Bruce Johnson reported that with 201 fish cribs (artificial spawning beds valued at \$20,000) already having been placed, volunteers were getting ready to place at least 20 more in August.

Then Jim Rigotti introduced Dan Tyrolt, LCO water biologist who has organized water quality studies the past two years for our lake association and the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Conservation Department. Tyrolt showed a bar chart based on collected data that revealed percentages of major sources of phosphorus loading on Grindstone Lake in 1998 from agriculture, households, wetlands, aerial and Grindstone Creek. The watershed area involves 12,000 acres of agricultural land, 6,000 acres of forest, 1,000 acres of wetlands, and extends north beyond HWY 77 and west to Highland Road. The completed study, to be presented to the GLA Board in September, includes the management plan for ways to reduce man-made sources of nutrients/pollutants coming into the lakes.

The featured speaker, Jim Burgess, retired publisher of the *Wisconsin State Journal*, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) and vice-president of COLA — the

Lac Courte Oreilles Lake Association. His talk, written up by Terrell Boettcher for the *Sawyer County RECORD* was an inspiration to all in attendance.

President Eric Nilsson thanked Jim Burgess for his efforts in our behalf. He also thanked Rick Kramer for his hospitality, and invited all who enjoy his 4th of July fireworks display to leave a contribution on their way out.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Jo Rovelstad, Secretary



# Grindstone Lake Water Quality Study Summary

The purpose of these studies is to help lakeshore property owners and public agencies identify trouble spots in order to preserve the water quality of the lake.

The water quality data collected over the last two years by Dan Tyrolt, with the help of volunteers and a Wisconsin Lake Planning Grant, shows that Grindstone Lake has good water quality. However, increased conversion of forested land and natural wetlands to agricultural and residential land use, may result in increased phosphorus concentrations in the lake and produce very noticeable water quality change. Thus a baseline has been established against which future changes may be measured.

As a result of these studies a management plan to prevent further degradation of the water quality has been developed for Grindstone Lake. The plans, as proposed, includes:

1. The development of a long-term water quality goal for the lake;
2. An evaluation of different watershed development scenarios to determine acceptable (i.e., the water quality of the lake is within the established goal) and unacceptable (i.e., the water quality of the lake fails to meet its goal) development options;
3. Recommendations for ultimate watershed development relative to achieving the lake's water quality goal (i.e., minimum lot size, maximum area of impervious surface, etc.);
4. Recommendations for watershed best management practices under future

development conditions;

5. Recommendations for ordinances to control watershed development;
6. Recommendations for riparian owner management practices;
7. Recommendations for best management plans to protect sensitive lands including wetlands, steep slopes, undeveloped land, shoreline, etc.;
8. Algal study to determine species abundance and distribution;
9. A macrophyte study to determine the spatial coverage, density, and species composition of the macrophyte community. A special area of concern would be identification of Eurasian Water Milfoil;
10. Volunteer monitoring program to record long-term water quality database.

(See chart on page 16 for model details)



## Mark Your Calendars !

JUNE 30, 2001

ANNUAL GLA MEETING  
BASS LAKE TOWN HALL 9:30 A.M.

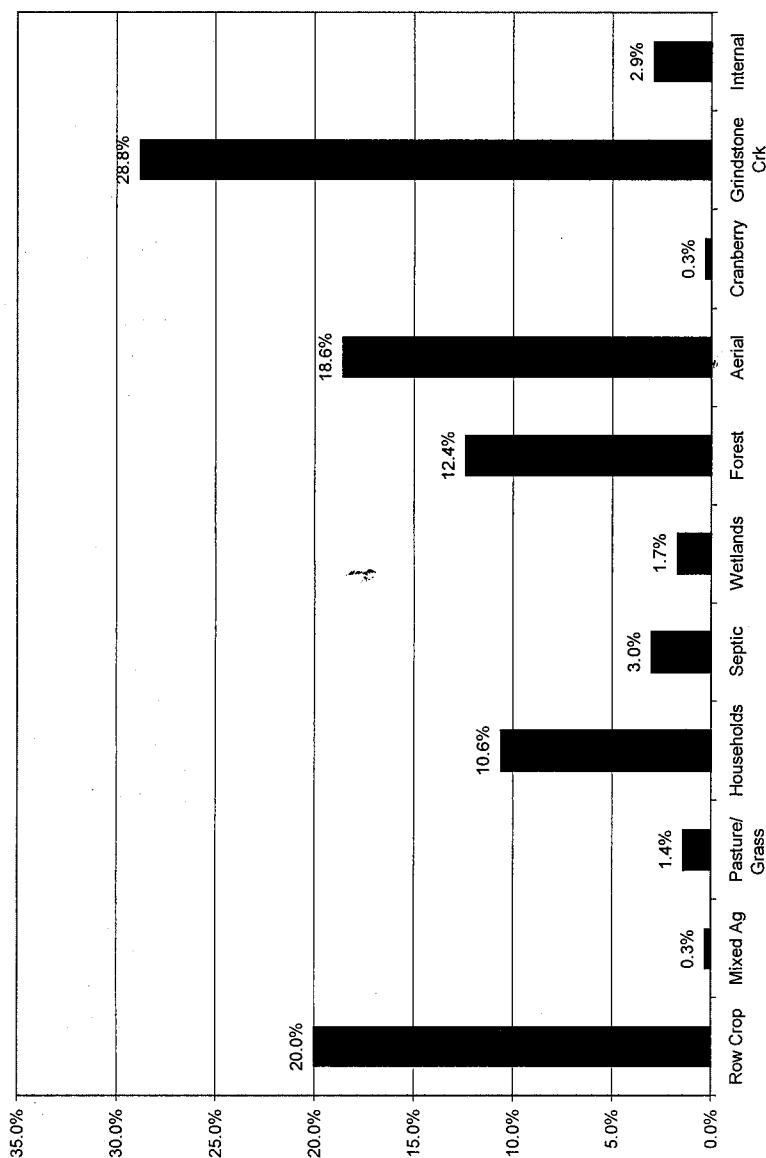
JULY 7, 2001

ANNUAL GLA PICNIC  
PUBLIC BOAT LANDING  
(LUNCH SERVED 11A.M. - 3 P.M.)

1st WED, AUGUST 2001 (TENTATIVE)

FISH CRIB PROJECT DAY

# Grindstone Lake 1998 Phosphorus Loading



## Eutrophication — What Is It?

**DOES GRINDSTONE LAKE HAVE IT?  
YES — CULTURAL AND NATURAL**

Eutrophication or lake degradation is the accumulation of sediments and nutrients in a lake. As a lake naturally ages and becomes more fertile, algae and weed growth increases. Inflow of these sediments and nutrients from the lake's watershed will eventually fill in the lake's basin. However, cultural eutrophication is caused by human activities and is an acceleration of the natural process. Nutrient and sediment inputs from construction, houses, septic tanks, lawn fertilizers and storm water runoff can far exceed the natural inputs to the lake, causing profuse and unsightly growths of

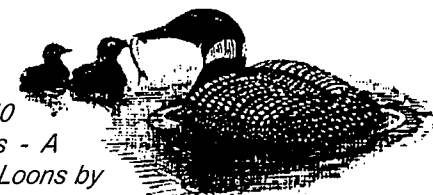
algae and/or the proliferation of rooted aquatic plants.

Creating and implementing a lake management plan prior to the development of the lake's watershed is the best way to prevent and minimize the impacts from cultural eutrophication.

The trophic status of a lake can be calculated on the basis of total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a concentrations and Secchi disk transparencies (to measure water clarity). Impairment of a lake's recreational use is most severe in more shallow water where algae grow in abundance.

## Loon Appreciation

Loon information provided on pages 17-21 was found on the back of the 1999 Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute loon poster. The text was credited to: Top 40 Questions and Answers About Loons - A Conversational Guide to Learning About Loons by Jeff Fair (The North American Loon Fund); and Threats to Loons from the North American Loon Fund web page (<http://facstaff.uww.edu/wentzl/nalo>).



The hauntingly beautiful call of the Common Loon evokes the spirit of the North. Yet it is more than a spiritual link between humans and wild lakes. The loon is a sentinel that reflects the health of lake ecosystems. Common Loons once nested throughout the Upper Midwest, but today, loons are absent from much of their former range.

In our increasingly crowded world, loons and people must share the same lakes. Often, human activities and behaviors threaten loon survival. These threats come in many forms — from careless disposal of fishing line to depletion of food resources due to acid rain. Any effort to reduce the impact of human activity on loons, however great or small, is rewarded by the sight and sound of loons that return each year to their lake homes.

## *Loons Need People — Loons Need You!*

Imagine a northern lake without the eerie, mournful calls and stately presence of the Common Loon. Human activities are largely responsible for the disappearance of loons from many lakes, but with the help of concerned people like you, we can protect our loons and build a sustainable future for northern lakes.

### **PROBLEM: SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT**

Loons need undisturbed shoreline areas and islands for nesting, feeding and raising their chicks. As lakes become surrounded by homes, campgrounds, resorts, marinas and beaches, loon habitat becomes scarce. Buildings and other development near a traditional loon nest site can cause loons to abandon the site, often forcing them to utilize marginal nesting locations, without protective cover or shelter from weather and waves.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

Keep a portion of your favorite lake wild and free of development (the area surrounding loon nesting sites and chick-raising areas, if you know where they are). Developers and town planners often recognize the economic value (as well as the spiritual one) in having loons and other wildlife living in the area. Stay off loon nesting islands and away from shoreline nest sites. Participate in local land use planning meetings to control shoreline development on loon lakes.

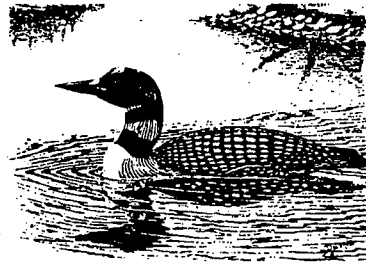
### **PROBLEM: DISTURBANCE**

Loons can coexist with some human recreational activities. However, direct harassment and heavy recreational use, especially near nests and chick-rearing areas, make the habitat less attractive to loons.

Nesting birds are easily disturbed by boat traffic, jet skis and even canoes. Because loons nest on the water's edge,

wakes from boats can wash eggs out of nests. Additionally, prolonged disturbance of slow-moving fishing boats or canoes that approach a nest and remain nearby for a long time may force an incubating loon off its nest. As a result, the developing loon chicks inside the eggs may die from exposure. Heavy boat traffic can cause some loons to abandon a nest permanently.

Thoughtless boaters have been known to chase and harass loons. Sometimes, loons are struck by boats and killed or injured. More often, loons will be disturbed while feeding, reducing their ability to meet their nutritional needs. Or, chicks may be separated from their parents, a situation which places the chicks at risk for predation or exposure.



#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Report intentional harassment of loons to your local conservation warden. Carefully document the actions
- involved including date, time, location and boat registration number.
- Educate your neighbors and visiting boaters and anglers about loons. Help-

ing others understand may be the most important thing you can do for loons.

- Help post "Loon Alert" signs at boat landings and other appropriate places on your lake. Contact your local Department of Natural Resources office or LoonWatch for more information.
- Do not approach loons while they feed in open water or are with their chicks! Watch them from a distance with binoculars or a spotting scope.
- Slow down when passing nests, but don't linger.
- If a loon is seen "dancing" upright or giving the tremolo call, stay away. These are signals of distress.

### **PROBLEM: FISHING LINE, HOOKS AND SINKERS**

Loons have been injured and killed from becoming tangled in fishing line or ingesting fish hooks. And, they are known to ingest lead sinkers and shotgun pellets, mistaking them for the pebbles they use to help grind food in their gizzards. This can result in lead poisoning which is a significant cause of loon mortality.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Don't litter. Retrieve all fishing line, hooks and sinkers you use or find.
- Attend fishing lines and stop fishing if loons are feeding in the area. This will reduce the chance of accidentally "catching" a loon on a lure or entangling them in fishing line.
- Educate others about the problem and encourage them to properly dispose of line, hooks and sinkers.
- Purchase lead-free fishing sinkers and lead-free shot for hunting.

### **PROBLEM: PREDATORS**

Predators are a natural part of any healthy ecosystem, but some loon

predators may benefit from their adaptability to human activities. Raccoons, gulls, crows and ravens are the major predators of loon eggs and chicks. These animals are also scavengers on human refuse, and their numbers have increased as a result of the abundance of garbage near human dwellings. And, since humans and loons often share the same habitats during the loons' breeding season, this increased predation puts pressure on vulnerable nests and eggs.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

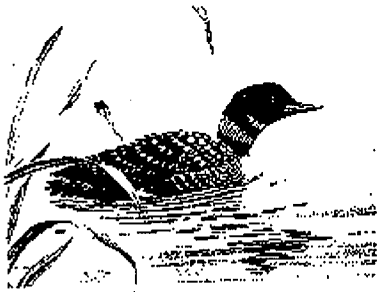
Limit food sources for scavengers. Clean up all litter, secure garbage cans and keep pet food stored securely.

### **PROBLEM: WATER POLLUTION**

Lake water quality is affected by shoreline development, agricultural runoff, logging activities, sewage and atmospheric pollution. Loons must be able to see underwater to catch fish. If lakes become cloudy or choked with vegetation as a result of excessive nutrient runoff, loons may no longer be able to fish. Acidified lakes are unable to support fish. In some of these lakes, loons attempt to raise their young but cannot find enough food for them.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Become involved in maintaining good water quality in your lake through your local lake association.
- Build responsibly — if you're thinking of building near a loon lake, plan septic service carefully and avoid clearing the lake front.
- Support legislation to protect wetlands, control acid rain-producing pollution and regulate the use of agricultural chemicals.



## LOONWATCH

Established in 1978 as Wisconsin Project LoonWatch, the program merged in 1988 with its sister organization, Minnesota Loon Preservation Project, to form what is known today as LoonWatch. As an outreach program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute (SOEI) of Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, LoonWatch works to protect the Common Loon and its aquatic habitat through education, population monitoring and research. LoonWatch focuses its activities in Wisconsin and Minnesota, but its broader regional scope includes activities in Michigan and Ontario. LoonWatch provides public education by serving as a clearinghouse for loon and lake information, giving educational talks to lake associations and other citizen and school groups, and working with state, county and local agencies and organizations on issues related to lakeshore protection. Our annual lake monitoring program involves the commitment of more than 200 Loon Rangers who live or vacation on northern lakes and can observe and record the activities of nesting loons there. Some Loon Rangers also conduct frog and toad surveys and collect water quality information. Research and management is also an important part of our work. LoonWatch promotes and assists sound

research and management efforts on lake environments and loon populations through the Sigurd T. Olson Common Loon Research Award and through original research conducted in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other agencies. As an affiliate member of the North American Loon Fund, LoonWatch is also involved in loon protection and education at the national level. LoonWatch helps people help loons. In today's increasingly crowded world, loons and people must coexist on the same lakes. Loons need clean, clear lakes and people who care about the quality of their environment.

Loon Appreciation Week is a festival for the Great Lakes region to celebrate and recognize the loon as a symbol of northern lakes and a beloved bird of many who live and vacation there. It is intended to be an annual event, with a unique commemorative poster being produced each year. If you have ideas for LAW activities in your area, please contact us!

*You can help keep loon music on north woods lakes by supporting LoonWatch with a tax-deductible financial contribution.*

*To obtain more information about LoonWatch and the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute:*

- *Visit the Web*  
*[www.northland.edu/soei/](http://www.northland.edu/soei/)*
- *E-mail*  
*[LoonWatch@northland.edu](mailto:LoonWatch@northland.edu)*
- *Phone (715) 682-1223*
- *Write*  
*SOEI*  
*Northland College*  
*Ashland, WI 54806*

## MONTHLY GUIDE FOR LOON OBSERVERS

### MAY

The male loon usually returns first, after ice out, with the female following shortly after. Courtship displays consist of subtle postures, bill dipping and shallow water diving. A nest is built near the water's edge where good cover is found. The parents alternate incubating the eggs for one month. While one parent tends the nest, the other fishes.

### JUNE

Parents will not leave the nest for long unless disturbed. Many loons may not have a partner or have a partner but do not nest. They may be seen fishing, socializing and wandering. The hatching date of the chicks is approaching. People must resist the temptation to get close to the nest. A boat wake can wash the eggs off the nest. Chicks hatch one or two days apart and are escorted by parents to the nursery in a shallow, calm, secluded cove 24 hours after hatching. Peace and quiet are essential. Fuzzy, black chicks often ride on their parent's back to stay warm, conserve energy, and stay away from predator fish.

### JULY

Parents fish constantly to feed themselves and their chicks. Any disturbance of this activity hinders the loon's ability to provide for its young. Chicks are now born to parents who re-nested if the first nest failed. Three-week-old chicks turn chocolate brown. Parents encourage chicks to catch their own food by dropping fish in shallow water for the young to capture. Chicks reach one-third of adult size. Chicks become adolescent, and gray contour feathers emerge around seven weeks of age. They are left alone for short periods while their parents fish and socialize.

### AUGUST

Chicks are two-thirds adult size and beginning to dive and fish for themselves, although they still beg for food. August is the best time for cautious loon watching from a distance. Some chicks mistake fishing bait for an easy meal and are injured by hook and line. Parents leave their chicks for extended periods. It's almost time for the youngsters to strike out on their own. Adults teach chicks to fly by practicing take-offs. To build up flight muscles chicks row with their wings and paddle with their feet back and forth across the lake.

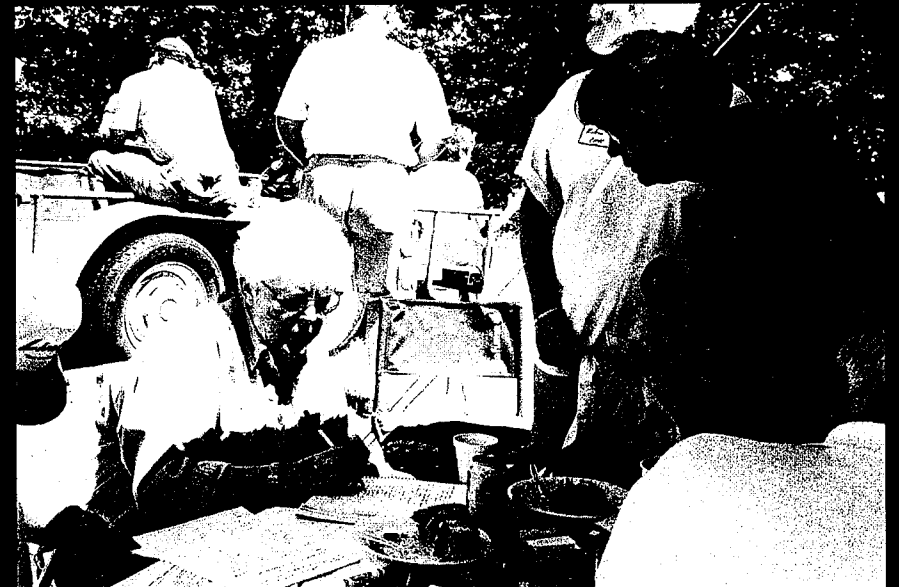
### SEPTEMBER

Parents leave their young and gather in social groups of three to 200 or more loons. They feed intensively and rest in preparation for migration. Young loons remain on the nest lake or fly to nearby lakes to find other juveniles. Loon chicks born early reach adult size. Chicks born late (mid-July through August) may not yet be strong enough to fly south before the lakes begin to ice up and will perish. Adults from the Great Lakes region begin to migrate south, flying at speeds of 60 to 100 m.p.h. Most will spend the winter in the south Atlantic Ocean off the east coast of the United States and in the Gulf of Mexico. Juveniles follow later and remain on the wintering grounds for three years before obtaining the black and white plumage of adults.

# SECOND ANNUAL



# GLA PICNIC







# Grindstone Trumpeter



Editor: Marilyn Buman

May 2000

## Fisheries biologist promotes natural fish cribs for spawning smallmouth

Senior Fisheries Biologist Frank Pratt would like to go back in time to the days of big woody cover along lakeshores. "Big trees grew, died and fell into the water," he says, "to provide cover and a robust system for fish."

Pratt is asking conscientious lakeshore owners to help him return to those days.

"I could just cry when a windstorm comes along and a big old white pine drops into the lake and people rush out to clean it up," he says, "to get back to a sand flat without a stitch of cover, a homogenous shore. We are all such neat freaks."

Big woody cover on undeveloped shore is common, but has been systematically removed on developed lakes. "With the lawn-

to-the-lake mentality, biology suffers," Pratt explains. "Ultimately, development reduces the entire biological community."

In fairness to lakeshore residents, the fact that a tree in the water is considered a fish crib and is encouraged by the DNR is not common knowledge to property owners.

"Because it is a *structure*, it does require a permit," Pratt states, "but it is a no-cost, one-page form. I can issue it." Also, the deadfall is required to be chained so it does not float out into the lake and create a

hazard.

The liability is no different than that of a dock, Pratt explains. The shoreland littoral area is a slow, no-wake zone. "People are supposed to be going slow. Civil liability is minimal. You would need gross negligence to prevail." Only under unusual circumstances where a tree completely obstructed a channel, for example, would the DNR claim the tree was interfering with navigation.

Pratt, who works out of the Wisconsin Department of *continued on page 2 ...*

## Burnett County gives tax break for protecting shoreland

Burnett County has created the first-ever program in Wisconsin that gives property owners a tax break if they protect their shorelands by not mowing or clearing away plants next to the water's edge.

A onetime \$250 payment and a \$50 annual tax credit thereafter is exchanged for a restrictive covenant requiring in perpetuity a 35-foot buffer next to the water's edge.

"We've had a tremendous response," says Myron Schuster, Burnett County administrator. "It shows people see the value in having a protective buffer along the shore."

"But even more than that, I think, it's successful because it's not a regulatory, forceful approach. People think 'if I get into it and my neighbors get into it, we're going to have a nice clean lake to recreate in and by golly, besides that, we'll receive a credit on our property taxes.'"

## Grindstone Assoc. annual meeting Saturday, July 1

The annual meeting of the Grindstone Lake Property Owners Association will be 9:30 to 11 am Saturday, July 1 at the Waterfront Restaurant. Coffee will be served at 9 am.



**PRATT** continued from page 1...

Natural Resources Upper Chippewa Basin Station in Hayward, points to "reams of data" supporting big woody cover in the water as beneficial to fish. "Smallmouth bass are at the top of the list in terms of being responsive to big woody cover. They spawn where the adults have big woody cover to hide under."

Some trees are better than others for woody cover. "Two of the best are cedar and white pine - the climax trees, that is, the ones which will eventually attain dominance in a community unperturbed by human influences, a virgin forest."

Mostly submerged trees will last a long time and provide a benefit. "If we let things happen - don't cut 'em up, winch 'em out, make everything neat as a pin," Pratt concludes.

## Did you know ...

The duff layer, made up of fallen leaves and pine needles, is an important component of the vegetative protection area within 35 feet of the shore. This layer covers soil, conserving moisture and preventing erosion.

*Wetlands and Waterways, a Property Owner's Guide*, will be mailed to all Grindstone Lake property owners in June, compliments of the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Grindstone Lake Association.

## Meet the Bass Lake Board ...

### Sanders acknowledges land use issues

Whether by design or circumstance, Bass Lake Town chairman Pete Sanders has followed a straight path to the present of which few people can boast. Arriving in Sawyer County at age nine as a YMCA camper on Lac Courte Oreilles, he eventually became a camp counselor, was promoted to camp program director, married the granddaughter of the founder of Brossard's Resort on Grindstone Lake, was named

We need to ask ourselves why people were attracted to our area in the first place.

Director of Human Services for Sawyer County, and elected nine years ago to the Bass Lake Town Board.

Sanders' wife, Wendy Hinrichs, is Director of Lake States Forestry Alliance, a nonprofit organization created by the governors of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, with a focus on tourism, forestry and the environment that dovetails

well with her husband's interest in the local community and how it develops. Together they restored and operate as a bed-and-breakfast the Lumberman's Mansion, former home of one of Hayward's founders.

"These are interesting times for us as citizens and board members," explains Sanders, "because of the increased interest of seasonal property owners, the conversion of mom-and-pop resorts and development of more and more marginal lands in Sawyer County. We need to recognize how fragile the environment is and to develop strategies and adequate controls to sustain it." "There is a statewide effort underway to look at land use planning," he asserts. "We plan to look at what kind of development is going on in our community, plus work with other agencies such as Northwest Regional Planning Commission to look at other communities where citizens have discussed priorities. We need to ask why people were attracted to our area in the first place." Developing public policy amid continued on pg. 9 ...

Trees make such great neighbors.  
They don't demand expensive services such as law enforcement, schools, sewer and roads.

Marilyn Buman

## Meet the Bass Lake Board ...

# Jones wanted things *to stay the way they were*

Bass Lake Township supervisor Steve Jones spent 30 years in middle management with General Motors, traveling in and out of the Twin Cities, before taking advantage in 1992 of the opportunity to retire early to his Courte Oreilles lake property.

"I couldn't do community service when I was working and on the road all the time," he says, explaining his decision to become active in township governance 3 years ago. "Now is the time to do it. It's fun, but if you want to do it well, it takes a lot of time. With variance petitions, for example, I go out and look at each situation. You need to weigh each one."

Jones is active, as well, in the Hayward Area Chapter of Muskies, Inc. A parttime musky guide, he often combines community work with fishing. "I take the opportunity whenever I can to educate city people about the Northwoods character," he says.

Steve's wife, Kathy, runs a freelance advertising and market research business. Because it is computer-related, much of her work was done at home, with a little travel, enabling her to also make the move to the lake. "More and more young people are moving in and earning a living telecommuting from rural areas," Steve notes.

The Hayward area is presently going through an intensive period of development. "When we bought here in 1984, I wanted things to stay the way they were," Jones admits. "As time goes on, I begin to realize things

have to change."

Development pushes taxes upward due to expensive items such as law enforcement and schools.

Townships are spared some of the upward tax pressure because they do not provide the most expensive services, but there are nevertheless unavoidable costs. "We try to hold the line," Jones asserts. "But we do have some things that need to be done."

The recent re-assessment, which cost \$55,000, was long overdue and required by law. Comprehensive land use planning will also be costly, but is

strongly encouraged by the state as more and more people move into the area. "We need to look 20 years ahead and we need to consider the needs and wants of a mix of fulltime and parttime lake residents, as well as those in Northwoods Beach and on the reservation," Jones explains. "A lot of citizen input will be needed, but comprehensive planning will require engineering studies and surveying as well." Funding from such sources as the DNR, NW Regional Planning Commission and Hayward Area

continued on page 9 ...

## Meixner a complainer - *and a doer*

Life seemed intent on moving Ralph Meixner south. When he ended up on the Iowa border, he called it quits and moved to Hayward to enjoy the north country he loves. The year was 1978. As if the cold climate were not enough, in 1982 he started his present business - RAM commercial refrigeration and air conditioning. Covering Hayward and the surrounding area, including Cable, Minong, Winter, Loretto and Draper, Meixner services primarily grocery businesses, plus any enterprise which relies on refrigeration or freezing. "With a nonprofit wing helping friends and neighbors," he adds with a grin.

Meixner is in his 2nd term as Bass Lake Town supervisor. A frequent writer of letters-to-the-editor, he says, "If you are going to complain, you need to try to do something about it."

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**Bass Lake is growing.  
Every mistake we make  
now is going to cost us  
forever.**

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Meixner is particularly concerned about rising property taxes. "It's a sad thing that taxes can drive people out of their homes. For example, 75-year-old Mrs. Jones lives on a fixed income, but her taxes are now more than she paid for her property in the first place. The government should never have the right to tax someone out of their home."

"I don't feel we can tax any more than we are. I feel we are at the top rate."

Development such as the Hayward area is currently undergoing increases the demand for better roads and law enforcement somewhat, Meixner acknowledges. He believes some savings are possible through cooperative city and county law enforcement.

continued on page 9 ...

## Tax relief seldom works, says official

"Radical Ralph" Meixner, as he was dubbed for writing letters to the editor and airing his tax views on radio for anyone who would listen, likes to recall the story his farmer grandfather used to tell about the state's original 3% sales tax. "The sales tax was sold to the populace with the promise to virtually do away with property tax," says Ralph. "Obviously, that didn't happen."

"Tax relief seldom works. In 1985, the one-half percent county sales tax was also supposed to be for property tax relief."

"It absolutely did not provide tax relief," he says. "It just allowed the county to spend more - it's like putting a beer in front of an alcoholic."

How can a mink  
frog, a wig, a  
small dose of  
Shakespeare  
and a banana  
cream pie help  
restore and  
preserve your  
lake shore?

To find out, plan to attend ***Balance and Swing***, a musical about a married couple's struggles as they learn to live with the wild neighbors they find already living on the lake property they want to develop.

Co-sponsored by Theatre in the Woods and Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, ***Balance and Swing*** will be presented at the Hunt Hill Sanctuary south of Stone Lake June 21- 25. Phone 715-635-6543 to reserve tickets for the June performances.

### Lake Fair 2000

A conference for seasonal & year-'round residents, community leaders and public officials.

June 29

Lakewoods Resort  
Cable, WI

Call 715-798-3163  
for information

## Wisconsin lakes under pressure

Northern Wisconsin is facing development problems encountered in the southern part of the state a half century ago. According to the *Northern Lakes and Shorelands* study, completed in 1995, since the 1960's approximately 60% of previously undeveloped lakes 10 acres and larger have been developed with one or more dwellings. Based on a conservative estimate, ignoring the rapid increase in development in recent years, all remaining undeveloped lakes 10 acres and larger will likely be developed in the next 20 years.

\* \* \*

A 1996 *Vilas County Lakeowner Survey* reported the negative impacts of perceived overdevelopment are of much greater consequence to waterfront owners than the negative impact of rising taxes. When asked "What would have to happen for you to no longer want to be on (your lake)?", only nineteen out of 117 mentioned rising taxes, while 74 out of 117 mentioned factors relating to "overdevelopment."

\* \* \*

A 1996 *Oneida County Survey of Lakefront Owners, Realtors and Contractors* concluded that by far the most important uses of lakefront property are the enjoyment of peace and quiet, as well as of natural beauty and wildlife. These uses ranked well above all other uses.

More development doesn't pay  
-- it costs. There is no place  
where the human population has  
gone up that the tax rate has  
gone down.

Frank Pratt, DNR Fisheries Biologist

# Food for thought, it taxes your mind!

Fifty percent of the respondents to the 1996 Sawyer County Survey of Lakeshore Property Owners were over 60 years of age; 41% were retired – all of which magnifies the problem of rising property taxes on fixed incomes.

\*\*\*

On property evaluations, the state of Wisconsin really calls the shots. Every sale of real estate is scrutinized by the state and used to set an "equalized" value for the township. The Bass Lake town assessor must come up with a value within 10% of the state's or else the town is deemed "out of compliance." Being out of compliance is no big deal for 4 years, but in the 5th year, the state forces the assessor to "go back to school", presumably because he has forgotten how to re-evaluate. In the sixth year, the state will do the re-evaluation for the township at triple the township's present cost of \$55,000. In a period of rapidly rising values, the township could be out of compliance again the year after next. Between re-evaluations, the township assessor does "maintenance" assessing; that is, he looks at all building permits and improvements to property and adjusts the affected property accordingly. But the properties are not re-evaluated upwards to match the current market value. That can be done only during a total re-evaluation such as we just had this past summer.

\*\*\*

What goes round, comes round. It's an invasion of sorts. As newcomers bid the property values up, some existing property owners are being forced to sell. But don't expect sympathy from oldtimers and locals. They claim to have been forced off the lakes long ago by present day lakefront owners. It's capitalism, folks, – combined with a system of government revenue procurement that taxes unrealized wealth, thus ignoring wherewithal to pay.

**Wisconsin's state-local tax burden is the fourth highest in the nation, ahead of ninth ranked Minnesota.**

\*\*\*

Sawyer County equalized values for property rose 15.3% from 1998 to 1999, the 4th highest rate in the state. Only 3 counties had a higher rate of increase in equalized value: Bayfield, Florence and Forest. Rising property values mean the state pays less of local government and school costs.

\*\*\*

Recent property tax increases have people asking: why are schools financed by property taxes anyway? The probable answer: because people historically wanted control over education. If state or federal taxes paid the entire education bill, all school districts could theoretically be created equal. Richer districts would not necessarily have better schools than poorer districts. Equality such as this is generally not popular with the public.

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For every dollar the average Wisconsin household earns in 2000, 35.4 cents will go to taxes. Put another way, the typical Wisconsin worker has to work 35.4% of the year – or until May 9 – to pay all federal, state and local taxes. That's why May 9 has been tabbed "Tax Freedom Day" by the Tax Foundation, a Washington-based research group.

\*\*\*

According to the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, the Tax Foundation estimates for 2000 put Wisconsin's state-local tax burden at 12.2% of income, fourth highest in the nation. Minnesota dropped from fifth to ninth place.

Marilyn Buman, Editor

## A Note of Farewell – from the editor

by Marilyn Buman

It has been a distinct pleasure serving as the Grindstone Trumpeter editor for the past five years. However, it is now time for a change. Anyone interested in the position of editor may contact Eric Nilsson at 651-646-8850 or 634-7145.

# President's Corner

## A Little Perspective

by Eric Nilsson

By now, it's old news: our petition for reassessment was rejected by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. And as things turned out, most tax increases around the lake were less than staggering. The Town Board is feeling bruised and abused, and though taxpayers around Grindstone are no longer panicked, many wonder how much longer they'll be able to afford a piece of paradise. With a few months now between us and the fight, I'd like to offer a little perspective.

First, the whole taxation issue has grown so complex, we are unlikely to straighten things out entirely. If every level of government, from the Town Board to Congress, bears responsibility for taxpayer grievances, then in truth, no single authority can by itself be held entirely accountable. This is the reality that many of us missed when we vented at the Bass Lake Town Hall last October and again in January. The "total solution" to our tax woes requires time and effort and votes! In Hayward, Madison and Washington.

Second, motivated by a fear of losing our homes to ever-higher tax burdens, we attacked the assessment process, made a scene and lost the fight. The members of the Town Board, I am sure, felt picked on unjustly. "We were just doing our job and following the law," they said. True . . . from a strictly legal standpoint. Better timing and more time than the law required would have done wonders for perceptions of fairness, particularly for the unenfranchised and for those unschooled in the arcana of assessment and taxation. I think we're all a little wiser now.

Third, Sawyer County is simply an hour (or more?) too close to major population centers to avoid the "culture of consumption." The harsh, over-arching reality is that demographics and economics have fueled an unprecedented demand for our properties and an insatiable appetite for bigger cars on our roads, bigger boats on our waters and bigger vacation homes on our shores. On top of that, many people are so addicted to constant entertainment and instant access, that they must have it even in "the northwoods." All of this is great for business and real estate values, but our culture will consume itself, unless we become better stewards of our resources.

A little perspective. With it, may we approach the issues of the day – taxation and conservation – more wisely and therefore, more effectively.

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Harry Moeller, Ray Moeller, John Buman and Skip Magowan tend the brats at the first annual Grindstone Lake Property Owners picnic last July. The second annual property owners picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2000.

## First GLA picnic a big success

by Ray Moeller, Picnic Coordinator

The first annual Grindstone Lake Association picnic was held on July 17, 1999 at the Grindstone Lake boat landing. We had about 125 people attend.

We feel that was a pretty good turnout for the first try. We had a lot of help to put this on and that was greatly appreciated.

The kids' drawing was won by Andy Priester.

It is the Grindstone Lake Association's plan to make the picnic an annual affair. To make it even better, we need your input. Please let us know what you want.

**Finger piers ( "T" 's or "L" 's )  
may be used  
to provide mooring slips or stabilize a pier.  
Larger decks or platforms  
( ie. wider than 6 feet )  
are prohibited,  
according to DNR publication WZ--017.**

## Cake is a favorite at GLA picnic by Marty Moeller

Here is Camille Venners' recipe for Texas Sheet Cake that she brought to the GLA picnic. The recipe was in a cookbook put out by the Humane Society (somewhere in city). Camille bought the book at her neighbor's garage sale and the recipe is credited to Barbara Mandrel. The Society had requested recipes from many celebrities.

### TEXAS SHEET CAKE

Bring to boil:

2 sticks margarine  
4 T cocoa  
1 cup water

Combine in bowl:

2 eggs  
2 cup each flour and sugar  
1/4 cup sour cream  
(or 1/2 cup buttermilk)  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. each vanilla and soda

Add boiled mixture and mix well.

Pour into greased 18 X 12 X 1 inch pan (batter will be thin)

Bake 20 min. at 375°

Prepare topping while cake bakes and spread on cake straight from the oven.

Bring to boil:

1 stick margarine  
6 T milk  
4 T cocoa

Remove from heat and add:

1 tsp vanilla  
4 cups sifted confectioners sugar  
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Blend well, spread on warm cake.

# ***Fish Tales***

**by Doyle Strong**

**Sept. 27, 1999**

The fall before last, I, along with many others around the lake, had to pry or drag the boat off the lift to get out fishing due to the water level being so low. This was the lowest level ever experienced in the fourteen years we have been on the lake. Last spring when putting the dock back into the lake it was at the highest level for that time of year. A lot of rain over the past summer kept the lake at a relatively high level so not being able to get the boat off the lift was not an excuse for not catching any fish.

Again this year the fishing was great and the catching was fairly normal. Walleyes were "hot and cold" with reports of some successful outings. Several people that spend a lot of time on the lake indicated good consistency over the previous summer. A lot of catches in 14 - 18 inch slot range, but also some nice Walleye over 20 inches. The Smallmouth Bass provided a lot of excitement. The summer of 1999 appears to have been a bonanza for these fighters. Latching onto a 14 - inch minimum length (or larger) Smallie provides a fight that pound for pound nothing else can match. I have heard of a lot of small Muskies in the 20 - 30 inch range. However, I learned that a 51-inch Muskie was caught and released during the first week of September. Expect to hear about some larger Muskies caught September through November, a prime time for the "big ones." In addition, a Northern Pike now and then, plus Perch and Panfish have provided some great time on the water.

In August last summer, 25 fish cribs were added to Grindstone. This effort, coordinated by Bruce Johnson along with around twenty volunteers, took place out of the Waterfront's landing. These latest 25 bring the total to 201 cribs that have been placed in the lake over the past three years. My personal experience, along with input from others, indicates that these cribs are attracting the fish and providing excellent habitat.

## **Wanted**

### **HOSTS AND HOSTESSES**

**to serve on Summer Welcoming Committee.**

**Door to door and/or telephone contact.**

**If interested, contact Membership**

**Chairperson Mary McJoynt at Grindstone Lake  
Association**

**PO Box 292, Hayward, WI  
or phone 634-5691**

## Meet the Bass Lake Board, continued...

**SANDERS** cont. from pg. 2 ...

diversity of opinion is difficult.

One person considers Northwoods character a high priority while affordability is much more important to others than aesthetics. At the town level, the consensus of the community is very important. "I try to get input from the community to guide me through the decision process. That's what it's all about. This is grassroots democracy at its best," Sanders says. "At the county and state level, there are more influences from outside sources." As a liaison with other taxing districts, Sanders attempts to bring the interests of the local community to those forums, too.

Bass Lake is unique in that approximately one-third of the township lies within the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation. Sanders estimates that one-half of the permanent fulltime residents are Native American. Cooperation between Tribal Government and the Bass Lake Town Board on mutual issues is a high priority.

Regarding the present concerns about rising property taxes, Sanders concludes, "I've seen oldtimers who've lived on the lake all their life forced off the lake by rising property values." Disturbed by such inequity, Sanders nevertheless admits he doesn't foresee any change. "The state put honest effort into changing, but reality is that the school formula does not take into account that the median income in Sawyer is \$30,000. Looking at property values, Sawyer County appears to be affluent." Neither local residents, who see the lakes increasingly controlled by absentee owners, nor the absentee owners, who see themselves increasingly footing the bill for local schools and government, are particularly happy with the situation.

As the town board chairman acknowledges, these are interesting times for citizens and board members alike.

*"Larry Froemel and the highway crew do a real good job."* Steve Jones

**JONES** continued from pg.3

Development Corporation will help allay the cost.

"And we need a new highway maintenance building," Jones adds. Highway maintenance is one topic the townboard members point to with pride. "I think we do a real good job. We try to redo 4 miles a year, and we stay within the budget."

Bass Lake has 88 miles of town road, 45 miles of which is improved. Jones is also

Highway maintenance is one topic the townboard members point to with pride. *"We try to redo four miles a year."*

encouraged by the willingness of the LCO Tribe and Bass Lake Highway Department to work jointly this past year on roads which serve the reservation but are a township responsibility.

**Reprinted from Lake Tides, a publication of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership ...**

Oneida County has passed an ordinance to regulate lighting on piers and is working on other regulations to deal with light pollution issues of trespass, glare and clutter, especially near county lakes. Outdoor light control ordinances are one tool being used to help keep skies dark, with the stars, which Americans knew so well several generations ago, once again visible.

**MEIXNER** cont, from pg.3

"But the school budget is historically 70% of the tax bill," he points out. The problem is finding a fair way to finance schools. Meixner believes gasoline taxes, for instance, are an example of a fair tax because they are tied to highway use and are used for highway maintenance.

The problem is the general public has to pay for schools, not just those who use them. "Years ago, I promoted a *diaper tax*," he jokes. "Unfortunately," he adds seriously, "the people using the school are in a time of life when they are least able to pay taxes."

Although Meixner has no children, he is philosophical about the school taxes he himself pays. "I always look at it as the price I pay for my own education 30 years ago."

"But I am against waste in school. The per pupil cost keeps going up. This is one thing we do have control over."

In addition to rising taxes, Meixner believes zoning and land use planning are an important concern for Bass Lake Township. On the one hand, he finds some zoning requirements too restrictive. "For example, I don't see a problem with replacing a deck. It is the nature of decks to fall apart before the house does. Taking it down and replacing it exactly like it was shouldn't even require a permit."

But zoning and land use as a whole needs close scrutiny, he believes. "Developing 40 acres with 40 wells and 40 septic systems can't be healthy," he says. "This type of development should be in the city where sewer and increased fire protection are available."

"Bass Lake is growing," he concludes. "And every mistake we make now is going to cost us forever."



# Ben Harrison is Bass Lake's town greeter

by Marilyn Buman

Ben Harrison has been consistently working his way to the top. Starting in the guided missile program at Hughes Aircraft, where he worked on The Surveyor, which landed on the moon, he later moved up to resort owner.

"And now I'm top dog at the local dump," he grins.

"I'm 76," he says. "I shouldn't be working."

"Tending the dump is just like being a bartender," adds Harrison, who was also, among other things, a bartender for 10 years.

"It will always be called a dump," he interjects, "even though it is now the Bass Lake Transfer Station."

"People love to talk," he goes on, "... medicine... fishing... taxes. The Dump is a social event."

And Harrison is currently high society, being one of the most familiar citizens of Bass Lake Township. It wasn't always that way. His wife preceded him to the northwoods, where she was elected secretary of the Courte Oreilles Lake Resort Association. Ben was simply "Dorothy's wife" in those days.

Dorothy and Ben Harrison took over Stonegate Resort off Highway K on Schoolhouse Lake in 1970, leaving behind Alabama and a good job with a

lot of perks, he adds.

"Dorothy's mom couldn't run the resort anymore and we didn't want to sell it," explains Ben. "And our boys loved it. One of them, Gary, still lives here."

Stonegate Resort was established in 1950 by Dorothy's mother, after a large log-and-stone lodge on the property was destroyed in a fire which took the lives of the lodge's two owners.

A second fire in 1991 consumed the old caretaker

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It was my hardware store, says Ben of the town dump.

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house which the Harrisons called home. Awakened at 3 am, they escaped barefoot in 15-below-zero weather.

"We didn't have a pencil left," recalls Dorothy. "A lifetime of pictures was gone and birth certificates, everything. It's never been the same since - you never get over that kind of trauma."

"It was a very sad day," adds Ben. "I liked that old house."

With reservations for spring and no records, the Harrisons had to rely on the memory of a lady in Chicago who was able to

tell them names of most of the people who frequented the resort and had planned to return.

In 1995, Stonegate was turned into a condo. Many of the cottages were sold to former regulars. The Harrisons still live in the house by the road beside the 1930's stone wall.

Summers, Harrison opens and supervises the dump on Wednesdays 10 am to 6 pm, Saturdays 8 am to 4 pm and Sundays 10 am to 4 pm. Winters, the dump is open Wednesday and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm.

According to Harrison, the dump has been in the same location for 25 years. "Too bad they had to change to a landfill," he muses. "When we used to put garbage out, the bears and raccoons would have it all cleaned up by morning. The four Harrison boys enjoyed watching the bears."

"It was our amuzement," adds Dorothy.

"It was my hardware store," jokes Ben. "I'd go down and get parts for broken refrigerators when we had the resort."

"This is a throw-away society," he goes on. "People redecorate and throw good stuff away just because it doesn't match anymore."

Occasionally, even today, Harrison's own sense of  
**continued on next page...**

# the town greeter, continued...

frugality gets the best of him and he brings something home and fixes it up.

Someone brought in a VCR one day. "I thought I'd just take a look inside," he smiles. "There was a cable in the way of a push button. I just moved it out of the way and it worked fine."

People often ask Harrison about the recycling program.

"I don't know any more than anyone else," he replies. "I've heard it goes to Ladysmith and is separated on conveyor belts using air and magnets and labor from handicapped folks."

Unsorted glass and # 2 and # 3 plastic food containers are accepted at the Bass Lake Transfer Station.

Also accepted are bagged newspapers, flattened cardboard and dry junk mail. Not accepted are wet paper towels, plastic pots and trays from greenhouses, any

container that had oil in it, car mufflers, construction debris or branches.

"We used to shred branches," Harrison explains, "but there wasn't enough demand for the chips."

Leaves and pine needles can still be deposited or picked up.

Donations to the Grindstone Lake Association in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Parks, 91, who died Sept. 6, will be dedicated to environmental education. Betty and her husband, Pete, who preceded her in death, devoted many years to running day camps and teaching classes in natural science. Their beloved cabin on Grindstone remains in the family.

## Fish Crib Donation

Make checks payable to Wisconsin DNR (include on memo line FM90-ADM-FM674

Send check to Bruce Johnson C/O Grindstone Lake Association

## Grindstone Lake Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$20 check payable to Grindstone Lake Association, PO Box 292, Hayward, WI

Thanks to Rick and Diane Kramer for offering their facility for the Grindstone Lake Association annual meeting.

**Grindstone Board of Directors**

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

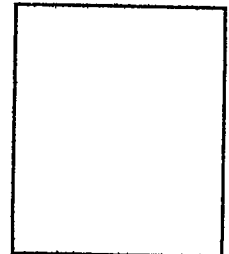
**Second Annual  
Grindstone Lake  
Property Owners Picnic**  
Saturday, July 22, 2000  
Noon to 3 p.m.

Public Boat Landing off County K  
(next to Skille Cranberry Marsh)

Grindstone Trumpeter  
Editor: Marilyn Buman

**Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843





# Grindstone Trumpeter



Volume 6, Issue 1

June 1999

## Water quality results to be presented

Results of Phases 1 and 2 of the Grindstone Lake Water Quality Study will be presented by LCO Environmental Engineer Dan Tyrolt at the annual Grindstone Lake Association meeting July 3 at the Waterfront..

Total cost of the project was \$27,616, with DNR grants of \$18,808 and LCO and Grindstone Lake Association contributions of time and labor amounting to \$8807.

The study was designed to evaluate the overall water quality of the lake and, specifically, phosphorus loading to the lake from its subwatersheds.

An extensive water quality study on Lac Courte Oreilles preceded the Grindstone Lake study by one year and showed trouble spots in 2 bays of the lake. The study reported that Musky Bay is getting 10 times the phosphorus per volume of water as the 3 major basins of the lake, with 47% of the phosphorus estimated to come from cranberry bogs. In Stukey Bay, agriculture contributes nearly 40% of the phosphorus. The impact of cranberry farming on the water quality of the western and central basins of Lac Courte Oreilles was deemed insignificant, however.

Although several residents expressed concern about water quality deterioration in Williams Bay on Grindstone Lake, Tyrolt explained that the bay is minor and not sufficiently isolated to warrant separate sampling in the Grindstone study.

Following data collection in phase 1 of the Grindstone study, phase 2 efforts concentrated on developing

hydrologic models to express the annual change in lake volume in terms of inflows from surface water, cranberry marshes, precipitation and ground water exchange, as well as outflows. Modeling was done by Barr Engineering of Minneapolis.

To measure daily volume change in the lake, staff gauges at the outlet and inlet were read daily by Grindstone Lake Association volunteers between ice-out and freeze-up last year.

The following GLA members volunteered to read staff gauges: Jim Ross, Stan Lokken, Ron Butterbaugh ; monitor precipitation gauges: Randy Rovelstaf, Jim Chevrier, Jim Queenan, Ron Butterbaugh, and take secchi disc readings: Bruce Johnson, Jim Rigotti.

To expand the data base and identify longterm trends, the LCO Conservation Dept. is continuing biweekly monitoring of 27 significant area lakes, including Grindstone. More frequent sampling by volunteers is welcomed.

The final draft of phase 1 and 2 of the Lac Courte Oreilles water quality study was completed in Sept. 98. At this time, Lac Courte Oreilles is one of the first lakes in the area to attempt a Phase 3 Lake Management Plan allowing modeling of second tier development to determine the maximum that can take place without damaging water quality.

In addition, the Courte Oreilles Lake Association Board has engaged an attorney to evaluate legal options with regard to the apparent degradation of Musky Bay.

## County encourages shore buffer

Property owners willing to volunteer their lakefront as a natural shoreline buffer demonstration site are being sought by the Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department.

County Conservationist Dale Olson recently announced the receipt of grant funding for shoreline restoration and has requested the assistance of the Grindstone Lake Association in identifying a demonstration site on Grindstone Lake.

"We'd like to have approximately 15 sites planted in the county by August, with an additional 25-30 designed," Olson stated. "We hope to eventually establish one site per lake.

"It is widely acknowledged that natural shorelines in Northern Wisconsin are rapidly becoming extinct. The significance of this is far reaching. A shoreline with a natural buffer area is vital to habitats along the shore and prevents sediment and nutrients from reaching the water."

"Unfortunately, in many instances shorelines have been cleared and now have manicured lawn to the water's edge. These shorelines are the ones that concern us."

The landowner will assist with planting but be responsible for only a small portion of the cost.. Anyone interested in participating in the shoreline buffer project may call Olson at 634-6463.

# The cranberry year never ends

Cranberry growers Gene and Doris Skille are used to misconceptions about their livelihood.

"How's your cranberry orchard doing?" a friend once asked Doris. In fact, cranberries are produced on neither trees nor bushes but on low woody evergreen vines that grow in peat.

And comments about the cranberry marsh drawing down the level of Grindstone Lake prompted Gene to calculate the actual effect of periodic required floodings of the marsh. "If I pump water into the marsh to a height of 6 inches," he says, "it would lower the level of Grindstone Lake approximately 1/16th of an inch, with most of that being returned to the lake."

Also, contrary to popular belief, cranberries do not grow in water. "They are a comparatively dry culture, growing in peat or sand, occasionally clay," explains Gene. "If they are in water over a week, the vines will be damaged." The vines do, however, like a water table approximately a foot below the surface of the bed. And because cranberries float, the marshes are temporarily flooded during harvest. And then again in December to encase the dormant vines in a protective layer of ice over winter.

There is one misconception that the Skilles are determined to keep a misconception: any negative impact the cranberry marsh might have on Grindstone Lake water quality. Raised on a farm, Gene is aware that any kind of agriculture can adversely affect water quality and that care is required to prevent it.

Among the first property owners to join the Grindstone Lake Association when it formed in the early 1990's, the Skilles are supportive of the Grindstone Lake Water Quality Study currently underway. One of the test sites for

water sampling is just offshore from their marsh.

"We fish and swim in the lake and wish to keep the water quality high," says Gene.

Gene and Doris purchased the cranberry marsh off Highway K at the southwest corner of Grindstone Lake in 1971 and moved to the premises in 1976. The marsh was established in 1938 and the original beds, built before World War II, are still being harvested today. The marsh has been expanded over the years from 18 acres to the present 35 acres.

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## Original beds built before World War II are still being harvested today.

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Native to Wisconsin, cranberries are one of only 3 major fruits native to North America, the others being the blueberry and the Concord grape. Early marshes were developed by simply digging ditches around native vines and encouraging their growth. Cultivated cranberries today have been hybridized.

According to the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association, the cranberry gets its name from Dutch and German settlers, who called it "crane berry". When the vines bloom in late spring and the flowers' light-pink petals twist back, they resemble the head and bill of a crane. Over time, the name was shortened to cranberry.

During the days of wooden ships, American vessels carried cranberries because their generous supply of vitamin C

prevented scurvy. In today's health conscious world, cranberries are rated very highly.

Cranberry growers are quick to point out that the land surrounding cranberry beds, ie. the ditches and dikes necessary to maintain proper water control, also provide ideal refuge and habitat for wildlife and plants, including rare and endangered species in Wisconsin.

"A cranberry bed in a wetland is still considered a wetland," explains Gene. "The peat is still there. It operates as one gigantic water filter." The Skille marsh represents 3000 feet of essentially undeveloped shoreline with trees lining the shore.

Mother Nature protects the cranberry crop by holding off blossoming until the last week of June after the threat of frost in the low ground. There is no shortage of chores necessary to protect the vines from other threats, however. The cranberry year never ends, says Gene.

In spring, irrigation pipes, taken out during the fall harvest, must be put back. After that, the crew picks up trash from the winter flood and makes sure the ditches are open. Then comes nights sitting up watching for frost. Alarms which are set for different temperatures at different times of the year will warn if the temperature drops too low or a pump fails. When the temperature drops, sprinklers are turned on. The fruit will not freeze as long as liquid water is present on the plants.

The crop is also particularly susceptible to weather conditions in August. Cold cloudy weather in August of 1997 when buds were setting resulted in a disappointing harvest the fall of 1998. Buds set in August of 1998 looked good, however, forecasting an excellent harvest in 1999, if no other disasters occur.

In addition to weather, vigilance is also required against insects and weeds. Insects, which include fireworm, fruitworm, spanworm and tipworm, are the major threat to growers. "If we couldn't use insecticides, we couldn't grow a crop," Gene says simply. Great care must be exercised, however, Continued on next page. . .

## Continued from page 2

not only to protect the environment, but to safe guard the consumer. Research is ongoing into biological control methods and natural insect enemies. Currently, insecticides are used 3 times a season. Outlets to the lake are blocked. "I hold the water back during and after application for the prescribed amount of time," explains Gene. "And we use minimal amounts of water when we put it on."

Last year, because of favorable weather conditions, the Skilles were able to use zero herbicide. Weeds can be managed chemically or mechanically. A healthy vine cover shades out weeds, reducing germination of weed seeds. "If you fight weeds too aggressively," explains Gene, "you will harm the vines."

All herbicides and insecticides must be specially formulated for use on food crops. In addition, no pesticide may be used within specified weeks before harvest.

"Ocean Spray inspectors are very strict," says Gene. "They will reject the crop if improper procedures have been followed." Not surprisingly, cranberry growers are held to some stricter standards than are other lake property owners. "For instance, we cannot use granular Diazan for pests," Gene points out, "but homeowners can still buy it and use it in lawns around the lake."

The impact of fertilizer is another concern people worry about, Gene explains. The peat in which cranberries grow is naturally heavy in nitrogen, making it ideal for the crop. A small amount of additional fertilizer is added, but no phosphorus is needed at all. Due to the filter effect of the cranberry bog itself, Gene believes the water is as clean going back into the lake as it is coming out.

Aside from pest control, summer is spent on maintenance and repair. The Skilles' grandson, Eric Florke, lives on the property and works fulltime with the cranberry operation, along with fulltime employee Truit Campbell. "Eric has been coming up here since he was

6 years old," says Gene. "He is part owner and will eventually take over the operation." An emergency medical technician and volunteer fireman, Eric is also a familiar volunteer on behalf of the Grindstone Lake Association.

Preparing for harvest at the end of summer often involves modifying equipment in an ongoing effort to find the easiest way, explains Gene. "We now harvest with 4 or 5 guys where we used to use 12," he says.

Around the 28th of September, the marsh is flooded. Mechanized beaters go through and knock off the cranberries, which float to the surface. All mechanized equipment operates with food grade oil. Regular oil is not allowed in case of a spill.

A wind now is very helpful. What we like is a Grindforce III.

"A wind now is very helpful," says Gene, "because it blows the cranberries into a corner. What we like is a *Grindforce III*," he adds with a smile. If the weather is still, the crew must go in with float boards to corral the berries. "This is no easy job with a big marsh and cranberries floating all over."

"Cranberries are tough little guys," adds Doris. "It is amazing they don't get crushed loading 40-50,000 pounds in a semi!" Because they are acidic, cranberries are also very resistant to spoilage.

Once the berries are *degrassed*, round the clock trucking begins, with an average of 12 to 14 truckloads a year going to the Ocean Spray Cooperative's receiving plant in Tomah, WI. Truck beds are completely enclosed so no highway fumes or other pollutants can affect the berries. A

minority of the cranberry harvest is marketed fresh; the majority is washed, screened, sorted and frozen for sauces and juice. Craisons, which include seeds and skins, have recently gained popularity as a healthy source of fiber and nutrients.

After the first frosts in the fall, the plants go dormant; the buds tighten up to survive the winter. In December, the winter flood will be put on, with water drawn from the lake. "We want 6 to 10 inches of ice to protect the beds. Without protection, at 15 to 20° below zero, wind will burn the vines and buds," Gene states. "And if snow gets too deep on the ice, it must be packed with a tractor and roller because it will act as insulation, trapping the heat from the earth and providing under the ice warmth."

In the spring, the water drains off naturally, the vines come out of dormancy around the third week of May and the cranberry year begins all over again.

## Tax increase one of highest in state

A 20.9% increase in Sawyer County property taxes payable in 1999 has been blamed on a 14% rise in property values which resulted in lost dollars of state aid to the county. Also significant was the past use of proceeds from the sale of county land, which kept the county government portion of the tax bill artificially low in recent years.

Rising property taxes are of particular concern to retirees living on fixed income.

"The philosophy of property taxes is to force people to use property or lose it," explains County Clerk Kris Mayberry. "But it can have tragic consequences."

Increased development fosters requests for increased services such as faster response time for crime and quicker snowplowing. "We need to take a close look," Mayberry adds. "Maybe people don't want more services - maybe they want to use increased evaluation to lower taxes instead."

# President's Corner

## Take it easy: Grindstone is Y2K Complacent!

by Eric Nilsson

The supreme irony of our age is that our apparent vulnerability has become directly proportional to our technological dependence. Just when we're within sight of the 'paperless office', we're told to store 'hardcopies' of all our bank statements, investment reports and any other information that might go 'poof!' at 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2000. Just as we approach the threshold of a 'cashless society', in which 'smart cards' take the place of cash and checks, we're warned to stash large sums of cash in coffee cans. And my personal favorite - within three years after having built a cabin with a 'high efficiency, high tech' furnace, I'm advised to buy a gas-powered generator and stock up on firewood. Yet, as is so often the case with stampedes, we are most vulnerable when we fear most our vulnerability. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt cautioned America two generations ago, "What we have to fear most is fear itself."

What all this suggests to me is that the more distant we stray from nature, the more vulnerable we become, psychologically, if not in reality. I'm not talking so much about being 'one with nature' in the 'Hippy of the Sixties' sense of the phrase as I am about taking time to fish your favorite spot on Grindstone while the sun slips behind the trees, to hike through the woods on a misty morning and to curl up with a good book by the fire when the wind blows cold. I'm talking about hopping off the frenetic track of life and trying a slower, more observant pace, which allows us to see and hear how the world *really* works, not as cyber-communications have manipulated the way we think it does. Without that evening fishing trip, without the woodland walks, without contemplative time before the fireplace, we become far too susceptible to the dire warnings to stash the cash (and cause a run on the banks), to buy up generators (and store gallons of flammable fuel), to stock up on food (and crowd out the pantry with baked beans), to forget the fact that without so much as a single silicon chip, humankind has weathered all kind of plights and blights over the last 5,000 years.

I work for a large bank, in which thousands of computers, systems, programs and applications need to be tested, corrected, if necessary, and certified for Y2K compliance. You can't imagine the time and money that have been devoted to this effort over the past couple of years. And yet, even after all is said and done, it's not sufficient, we're told. We need to develop *contingency* plans in case all the months of testing, correcting and certifying weren't enough. 'What if we don't have power?' the doomsdayers ask, despite NSP's unqualified assurances that the lights will shine as brightly on January 1, 2000 as on any other winter day. 'What if our employees can't get to work because their cars won't work or because their children's daycare centers don't open?' they persist, with fingernails to the teeth, having forgotten that a recent blizzard left lots of cars in the garage and shuttered many a place of daycare, not to mention countless schools and businesses. The fear of Y2K feeds on itself.

My boss (a transplant to the Upper Midwest, who doesn't understand 'this thing people have about 'going up to the lake', recently suggested that all managers should be at their posts throughout next New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. 'To do what?' I thought. 'Make sure the toilets flush?' But one of my overly citified colleagues protested aloud in a panic. 'Not me! I'm staying home to make sure my family stays warm and my pipes don't freeze.' Others joined in the chorus of fear-mongering. When they had worked themselves into a frenzy, I announced I'd be spending the so-called Doomsday 'up at my cabin in the northwoods of Wisconsin.' Whereupon, the city person said, 'That's probably the best place to be on January 1, 2000.' 'Exactly,' I said, 'because it's the best place to be no matter what the date.'

In short, take heart and take it easy. Enjoy the fishing, the hike and the book by the fire. Next New Year's, go up to the lake and look at the sky. It won't fall, and the stars over Grindstone will dazzle you as they will on any clear night.

# Snowmobiling is important addition to Grindstone area winter economy

While most people are enjoying peak of the summer water sports, some local residents are already laying plans for next winter's snowmobile season, an important part of the local economy.

So significant is this contribution, in fact, that local businesses, in partnership with the county and state, operate over \$1/2 million worth of grooming equipment round the clock to keep Sawyer County's 520 miles of snowmobile trails in peak condition.

The average snowmobile travels 150 miles a day on a sled costing \$5500. And contributes significantly to the wintertime economy of the Wisconsin northwoods, which boasts the best all around trail riding in the nation.

"Before snowmobiles, lots of businesses closed up in winter," explains Rick Kramer of Waterfront Restaurant on Grindstone Lake. "It has a trickle down effect. A lot of people depend on it. Christmas week is the 4th of July of the snowmobile business. Trails are groomed, lakes are safe and people have time off."

"This winter was better than last year - not optimal, but better. There were lots of sleds. Three years ago was awesome. Last year was very hard on area businesses, not just those who serve snowmobiles directly. Between Christmas and New Year last year, the Hayward area lost \$4 million in income because of lack of snow."

Area restaurants, bars, resorts, hotels, motels and gas stations for the most part comprise the membership of the five snowmobile clubs in Sawyer County. These clubs make up the Sawyer County Snowmobile Alliance formed in 1982 to maintain the county trail system. In the Grindstone Lake area, 136 miles of trail are maintained and groomed by Sno-Trails, a local club formed in 1971.

Tony Valtendest of Tony's Fireside, Art Moe of Thor's Kitchen, "Beechmoor Bob" Dorskosil of Whitefish Lake and Gene Skille of Skille Cranberry Marsh were the area's pioneers in the days before the local SnoTrails club formed, grooming trails with bedsprings towed behind snowmobiles.

Today's SnoTrail volunteers average 75 hours a week grooming trails with a \$9500 drag and one of 3 John Deere Four Wheel Drive Assist tractors owned by the Alliance. Other clubs use the 5 LMC's, tracked vehicles costing

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**By March this year, the ice was 24 to 30 inches thick, but of uncertain quality.**

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\$100,000 each. All grooming equipment is owned by the Snowmobile Alliance but operated and maintained by one of the five local clubs.

The area maintained by SnoTrails runs from Hayward south to Sissabagama Lake, around Courte Oreilles and Grindstone Lakes to the Flowage and Little and Big Round Lakes, past the casino on B and back to Hayward. Trails are groomed a minimum of 3 times per week, requiring 26 to 28 hours to complete the loop. "At 6 to 8 hours per shift, it's a lonely job," says Kramer. "Ninety-percent is volunteer. We do hire several people to keep the trails groomed on weekends, but weekdays are all volunteer." The Skille Cranberry Marsh opens its maintenance shop to the SnoTrail Club and donates the time necessary to service the tractor.

According to Grindstone snowmobile enthusiast Bruce Johnson, when the trail across Grindstone Lake is staked at the beginning of the season, the ice is tested at intervals using a chainsaw. The thickness must be a minimum of 10 inches. "By March of this year, the ice was still 24 to 30 inches thick, but of uncertain quality due to the warm winter weather. The past two seasons, the groomer has not been out on the lake at all. Twenty-eight inches of ice is required to support the weight of the tractor and groomer, according to Johnson.

Although a percentage of the trails are funded by state or county money, nonfunded trails are maintained with the help of raffles, fund raisers and picnics. The actual trails are not easements. "We depend upon goodwill, which is very much appreciated," explains Kramer. "Most of these trails go way back—some are county, some are private. There are a lot of very nice people who have allowed a trail across their property. Without these people, we'd be hurtin'. They receive no payment. Snowmobiles only are allowed on the trails, which are prominently marked December through March, and sleds are expected to stay on the trails. "This is a very important part," says Kramer. "It is crucial to respect the rights of people who've donated the use of their property. The majority of snowmobilers are very responsible law abiding citizens."

Most state funded trails run from population center to population center, such as Hayward to Stone Lake, and are inspected by state inspector John MacIntosh, who rides with the groomers.

"Governor Tommy Thompson works very hard to support the tourism industry in Wisconsin," Kramer concludes.

**Grindstone Trumpeter**  
Editor: Marilyn Buman



## Local group raises funds for habitat

The Grindstone Lake Association received \$1000 for fish habitat and walleye promotion from Walleyes of NW Wisconsin (WFWW) in Sept. 98, according to GLA Fish Habitat Chairman Bruce Johnson.

Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin was formed in 1994 by a local group of anglers to enhance water quality, improve habitat and promote walleye sport fishing.

Early emphasis was on promoting the raising and stocking of extended growth walleyes into local lakes, according to Bob Degen, President. "This effort, guided by the DNR, was very successful," he says. "More recently the emphasis has changed somewhat to provide for the support and development of improved habitat."

NFWW funds are raised primarily through sponsorship of ice fishing contests. Anyone interested in joining NFWW may contact Degen at 634-3336.

## Committee formed to look at shoreline restoration issues

Eighteen county residents have been named to the newly formed Sawyer County Shoreland Protection Committee. The objective of the group is to address shoreland protection issues and propose methodology that will lead to revised shoreland ordinances, public education and enforcement.

"More land use permits are being issued each year, many of them for lakeshore," explained Bill Christman, Zoning Administrator. "This is putting great pressure on the water resources in our county."

Committee members represent diverse backgrounds and interests, but share a common goal of protecting the lakes, rivers and streams of Sawyer County.

Grindstone Trumpeter editor Marilyn Buman has been named to the committee as representative of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum.

Renaissance, an all natural organic nitrogen soybean-based fertilizer formulated especially for lake homeowners concerned about the effects of phosphorus run-off, is available at Hayward Evergreens, Northern Lakes Coop and Logger's Cove in Hayward.

## Household chemical disposal slated for 7/19 and 8/14

CLEANSWEEP Collections have been scheduled for Sawyer County on July 19 at Stone Lake Town Hall from 3 pm to 5 pm and on August 14 at the County Highway Shop on Cty B from 10 am to 2 pm.

"We are interested in things like used antifreeze, furniture polish, drain cleaner, etc. that end up under the sink or in the back of the closet," says Dave Berard.

Not accepted are waste oil, automotive batteries, latex paint and pressurized containers. Questions about disposal of unacceptable materials may be addressed to Berard at 634-4839.

Jim Burgess, state legislator and President of WAL, urged Sawyer County Lakes Forum members Friday June 18 to use foresight in discussing zoning issues.

"There is no shortage of creative people trying to bring the city to the woods," he said. "Take a trip to Lake Geneva and see some of the magnificent new ideas on how to avoid a northwoods experience. It starts with 2 or 3 people sharing a dock and escalates to 400 slips."

Grindstone Lake Association dues for 1999 are payable at the annual meeting July 3 or by mail.

## Clean Water Fund seeks equal rules for all players

The Grindstone Lake Association, along with other area associations, has been asked to contribute to the Courte Oreilles Lake Association Clean Water Fund, a statewide lobbying effort to insure that all users of water play by the same rules, whether they be cabin owners, industrial operations, farmers or cranberry growers.

The Courte Oreilles Lake Association (COLA), in conjunction with the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), has established the COLA Clean Water Fund to support water quality legislation. Of particular concern is the protected status of cranberry operations. Owing to a 1867 Civil War era statute, Sawyer County Conservationist Dale Olson can legally test discharge on any property except a cranberry operation.

"In encouraging the establishment of the cranberry industry, our forefathers passed a law stating in essence that no can interfere with construction of ditches to supply the water for cranberry bogs," explained Jim Burgess, president of WAL. "Cranberries are an important industry and most cranberry growers are responsible. But they should play by the same rules as others," he stated.

For information, call Carol Causar at 634-4031.

## Notice given for GLA annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Grindstone Lake Association will be from 9:30 to 11:00 Saturday, July 3 at the Waterfront Restaurant. Coffee will be served at 9 a.m.

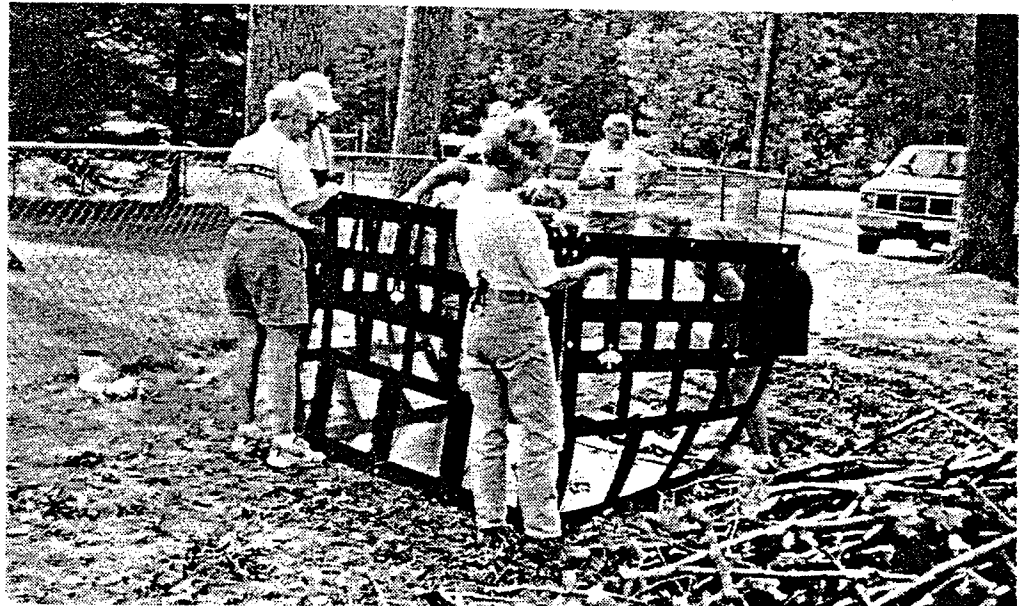
## 911 coming soon - hopefully!

Sawyer County's 911 system is expected to go into operation by summer's end, hopefully as early as mid-July, according to the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Phone-fire number conversion by GTE is now 75% complete. The system will be activated when conversion is 90% complete.

The process has been complicated by the high percentage of summer residents, many of whom do not receive mail at their lake addresses, making verification of phone/ fire number more difficult.

**FIREWORKS! Sat, July 3, at dusk, Waterfront**  
Rain date July 4



Forty to 50 volunteers deployed 150 fish cribs on Grindstone Lake the first Wednesday in August last summer. To date, 175 cribs have been placed out of a projected total of 500 to be deployed over a five year period, according to Fishing Habitat Chairman Bruce Johnson. Cost of the project, paid for by contributions and DNR funding, is expected to be \$50,000. In addition to the cribs, 100 spawning logs will be put in place, providing locations for fish to hide.

### FISH CRIB DONATION

Make checks  
payable to  
**Wisconsin DNR**  
(on memo  
line, please  
write acct.#  
FM90-ADM-FM674)

Send check to  
Bruce Johnson  
Grindstone Lake Assoc.  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843

### Grindstone Lake Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$20 check payable to Grindstone Lake Association,  
P.O. Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843-0292

Thanks  
to  
Diane and Rick  
Kramer  
for continuing  
to support  
the Grindstone  
Lake  
Association  
by providing  
facilities for  
the annual  
meeting at  
the Waterfront  
Restaurant.

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612-646-2857

**Water Quality**

Jim Rigotti 715-634-2562  
507-288-1403

**Fishing Habitat**

Bruce Johnson 715-634-3358  
715-723-8731

**Newsletter Editor**

Marilyn Buman 715-634-8265  
612-476-1268

Tom Gleason 715-634-5166  
612-922-5379

Don't even think about attending  
the first annual

**Grindstone Lake Picnic**

unless

you want to meet fellow lake property owners or  
you want fellow lake property owners to meet you or  
you just love brats and saurkraut or  
you don't feel like making lunch at home or  
your kids love games and prizes..

**Public Boat Landing off Cty K**

**starting at noon**

**Saturday, July 17**

**Rain or shine**

**No charge • Bring chair if you prefer**

**Sponsored by the Grindstone Lake Association**

**Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843

Place  
stamp  
here

# Grindstone Trumpeter

Volume 5, Issue 1

July 1998

## Water Quality Study is underway on Grindstone Lake

Phase one of a comprehensive study of water quality and nutrient loading in Grindstone Lake began May 28.

A \$10,000 Water Quality Planning Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been approved for the first phase, with additional \$5000-\$6000 contribution of in-kind labor donated by the LCO Conservation Department and the Grindstone Lake Home Owners Association. The Planning Grant application was filed by BARR Engineering of Minneapolis. Completion of the project is the first step in development of a lake management plan to protect the water quality of the lake.

The first phase consists of data collection along with the completion of an annualized phosphorus budget. Phosphorus is the main nutrient which causes algae blooms.

The Grindstone Lake Association portion, donated by volunteers, includes reading precipitation gauges at four points around the lake as well as staff gauges at the inlet from Grindstone Springs Creek and outlet channel to Big Courte Oreilles every day. Secchi disk readings are also taken at four locations on the lake. A special thanks to volunteers Ron Butterbaugh, Jim and Helen Chevrier, Bruce Johnson, Stan Lokken, Jim Queenan, Randy Rovelstad and Jim and Nancy Ross. Jim Rigotti, Water Quality Chairman, is overseeing the Lake Association contribution to the study.

In addition, the LCO Department will collect water samples monthly from four locations on the lake to determine dissolved oxygen, dissolved solids, temperature, acidity-alkalinity, chlorophyll and nitrogen at every one meter (3.3 feet) of depth.

Phase two of the study, if approved, will include an evaluation of water quality impacts from differing land uses in the lake's watershed.

A similar study was begun on Big Lac Courte Oreilles in 1996. Phase three of the Lac Courte Oreilles study has been approved by the DNR and will consist of development of a lake management plan to preserve the existing water

quality of the lake. Among other goals, the plan will help Sawyer County develop zoning ordinances for future residential development in forested areas around the lake.

A self-assessment survey for shoreline home and property owners was distributed at the Grindstone Lake Association meeting July 4 by Dan Tyrolt and Bret McConnell from the LCO Conservation Department. The survey covers such topics as chemical use in the home, best lawn and shore practices and safe refueling of boats. Questions about the presentation as well as requests for materials may be addressed to Dan or Bret at 865-2329.

## Crib Day II is Wednesday, Aug. 5

Seventy-five fish cribs will be placed in Grindstone Lake Wednesday, August 5, according to Grindstone Lake Association Fishing Habitat Chairman Bruce Johnson.

Additional volunteers are needed, either part-day or full-day. This year's deployment is triple the number of cribs that were installed last August. "And we had our hands full that day," says Johnson.

The August 5 installation will bring to 100 the total fish cribs placed in Grindstone Lake at an overall cost of \$10000 (each crib is \$100).

Deployment will again take place at Kramers' **Waterfront Restaurant**. Starting time will be around 9 am,

but Johnson suggests that volunteers check with him regarding the exact time. Volunteers are also asked to sign up with Johnson at 634-3358.

The cribs will be placed in the same area of the lake as last year's cribs. Over the winter, fishermen already reported an increase in fish in the vicinity of the cribs, Johnson states.

Last August, 19 volunteers assisted in installing the 25 cribs placed on the south shore of Grindstone Lake. Frank Pratt of the DNR was impressed by the enthusiasm of the group and the amount of support, says Johnson. Lake association members are urged to continue their contributions to the Fish Crib Fund (see information on pg. 7).

# Irwin Jacobs says PWCs give boating a bad name

**Note:** *Irwin L. Jacobs, founder and chairman of Genmar Holdings, Inc., the largest independent manufacturer of powerboats in the world, recently shocked the marine industry by announcing that his companies were resigning from the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) over the issue of personal watercraft (PWC). Genmar's boat brands are Aquasport, Carver, Crestliner, Glastron, Larson, Lund, Hatteras, Ranger, Trojan and Wellcraft.*

Following are excerpts from Jacob's views presented in The Forum, National Parks Magazine, March/April 1998.

"Unfortunately, the controversial growth of personal watercraft, and the many users who operate them irresponsibly, has caused a negative backlash among boaters. . . .

When something negates our efforts to portray boating as the world's best family recreation, I have to stand up and take action.

Consequently, last fall I announced the resignation of Genmar's ten boat lines from National Marine Manufacturers Association, a national trade organization. . . .

Genmar strongly disagrees with NMMA's policy of offering membership to personal watercraft (PWC) companies, in part, because inclusion helps to promote legislative

and public acceptance of these controversial products. Genmar no longer wants a part, even indirectly, of promoting a product the company believes is making our waterways - including those in national parks - less enjoyable. . . .

PWC's are advertised extensively as thrill-seeking, high-speed vehicles, which

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When something negates our efforts to portray boating as the world's best family recreation, I have stand up and take action.

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further promotes their misuse. . . . They are capable of making rapid speed surges and sharp high speed turns. They also become airborne when crossing wakes, which increases their noise. Since sound travels more readily over water than land, this characteristic is particularly annoying to others using our water resources. . . .

I believe the unregulated proliferation of these devices is in large part the cause of the {boating} industry downturn in sales. There can be little question that the estimated 1,000,000 PWC's on U.S. waters and 200,000

units sold last year came at the expense of boats. The careless operation of PWC's has diminished the enjoyment of our waters for many and further pushed people away from boating.

## No-wake zone now within 200 ft of shoreline

Beginning August 1, personal watercraft (PWC) must travel at slow, no-wake speed within 200 feet of any dock, raft, pier or restricted area or *within 200 feet of any lake's shore.*

The DNR suggests using binoculars to identify the registration number of any craft in violation. Video taping with a zoom lens is also suggested.

Bombardier Marine Products Division has announced the installation of a new muffler noise suppression system to dampen engine noise levels up to 50% in all models of SEA-DOO watercraft and jet boats by model year 1990. Division president Henry Lonski states, "We're listening to the public's concerns and are committed to finding solutions."

# Stop for pedestrians

Hayward police are citing motorists who fail to stop for pedestrians at intersections and in crosswalks.

Vehicles must yield to pedestrians at all intersections, explains Hayward Chief of Police Justin Hall. In the middle of a block, pedestrians must yield to vehicles.

Pedestrians must signal their intent to cross to the driver by stepping off the curb.

Pedestrians who cross in the middle of the block should do so at a 90° angle to the traffic, not diagonally across the street.

The vehicle may proceed once the pedestrian has passed safely in front of the vehicle. It is not necessary to

wait until the pedestrian has reached the opposite curb.

For further information, contact Hayward police at 634-8961.

## Reassessment this fall

Bass Lake assessors will begin visiting all properties in the township starting this fall. The reassessment, which is mandated by state law and expected to cost \$55,000, will raise township property evaluations from the current 50% of market value to the required 100%. Taxes, however, are not expected to increase significantly, according to Assessor Bob Irwin.

## Quotes...

*Born To Be Wild*, a new exhibit scheduled to open last May 30 at the Cable Natural History Museum, highlights a gallery of art, poetry and music inspired by quotes from Aldo Leopold, John Muir and Sigurd Olson.

"We need to combine the unique and wonderful characteristics of lake acoustics with common courtesy. The joyous sound of kids playing on the beach may be music to your ears, but maybe not to your neighbors'. We have two simple rules for kids swimming at our house: 1. Talking while swimming is fine, but anyone shouting or screaming has to take a 10-minute time out. 2. The only time we shout "help" is when we really need help.

*reprinted from The Lake Connection, newsletter of WAL, 1997*

Last year's record mild winter makes us think twice about the possibility of global warming. One obvious outcome of climate change is the warming of lake waters. Not only could we see a replacement of cold-water fish by warm-water fish, we may also see an increased incidence of invasions by exotic species, now kept in check by our severe Wisconsin winters.

*reprinted from Laketides, newsletter of WI Lakes Partnership*

A special  
thank you  
to  
Tom Gleason

who, until very recently, served as Grindstone Lake Association treasurer, secretary, membership chairman and newsletter editor. With the expanding role of the association, Tom's duties have been assumed by Gerry Donovan, treas., Joanna Rovelstad, secy., Billie Gray, membership chair, and Marilyn Buman, editor. One of the association founders, Gleason will continue to serve on the board.

## Law affects nonconforming structures

A recent legislative change prohibits the DNR and counties from bringing enforcement actions against structures located within the 75 foot setback if the structure has been in place for more than 10 years. The law now also allows nonconforming structures to be rebuilt on the original footprint if the damage is the result of wind, flood, vandalism or fire, according to *Laketides*, the newsletter of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, Stevens Point.

# President's Corner

## Grindforce Five

by Eric Nilsson

Like a large, untrained dog on a leash, our sailboat splashes through the waves of Grindstone, as I shout commands to my twelve-year-old son and helmsman-in-training. "Upwind! Upwind!" I yell. Across the choppy water, telltale ripples reveal a sudden gust just off the port bow. *Poof!* The boat heels sharply, but the budding helmsman reacts quickly. We're wet, but we're upright. Charged with adrenaline, we plunge ahead. From the windswept shore, I imagine, we look Winslow Homeresque.

Just as a skier seeks snow, the sailor wants wind, and on Grindstone, there's often a good breeze. Yet, sailing or not, I love wind. I love that it chases the bugs away and puts me to sleep on a hot, summer night. I love its susurrations in the pine above the hammock. I love the way the wind sculpts the lake and dashes sunbeams and moonbeams into a thousand diamonds on the waves. I love the way the wind and waves make Grindstone such a wild and woolly place and push the opposite shore away - much farther than it appears on a calm, sunny day, when nary a poplar leaf twirls on its stem.

The wind I love can blow till it howls, and then it's time to batten the hatches. Such a time came last April, when the wind blew at "Grindforce Five". A meteorologist measures the wind with an anemometer, but I measure it with our dock and Skille cranberries. Waves hitting the dock frame means a "Grindforce One". Water washes the decking in a "Grindforce Two", and waves break over the decking when the wind blows at "Grindforce Three". At "Grindforce Four", the *dock* breaks up. But alas! When cranberries appear from the Skille bog *two miles across the lake*, a "Grindforce Five" wind blows.

If "Grindforce Two" is a sailor's delight, "Grindforce Five" is a sailor's fright. On that April day, I braced myself on shore and watched the dock turn to flotsam. "Grindforce Four!" Then, as the wind snapped a tree behind me and waves smashed over a shoreline berm, I staggered closer to the surging waters. I feared for my boat, as it rocked on the lift. To save it, I ventured into the angry seas and tied it down - just in time. Around me bobbed a bumper crop of . . . *Skille cranberries!* "Grindforce Five!!" After a blast like that, I love the way the howling wind and crashing waves . . . lessen . . . pass . . . and leave air and water still.

---

# Zoning ordinance finds no common ground

A zoning regulation most people didn't even know existed has been the center of spirited debate by zoning officials and town board members the past month.

Known as the camping ordinance, the regulation, which has been on the books since 1971, requires travel trailers, campers and tents to be located in federal, state, town, county or private campsites approved by the County Zoning Committee and appropriate state agency.

At the time Sawyer County adopted comprehensive zoning in 1971, a model ordinance which limited camping on private land to no longer than one month was rejected by the county in favor of a stricter ordinance prohibiting all camping outside designated camp grounds. At that time, complaints regarding camp fires left smoldering on lots next to permanent buildings and sanitation and refuse problems — some of them involving trespass on small lots as well — convinced officials that limiting camping to properly equipped campgrounds would protect the safety of the public in general and property owners in particular.

Citations have been issued only 4 or 5 times since the ordinance was adopted, according to Bill Christman, Zoning Administrator. "As usual, 10% of the people cause 90% of the problem," he explains. "The ordinance is there if we need it." The citation process is entirely complaint driven, he adds. "We don't go searching for tents."

One exception to the ordinance is construction trailers, which are allowed on building sites for up to one year following issuance of the building permit.

The recent debate over whether to scuttle the ordinance altogether arose after the issuing of a citation following a forest fire. DNR officials reported a camping trailer being used as a residence at the site.

There is no common ground on this issue, Christman states. Some people think a property owner should be able to use his property as he wants; others want the ordinance left intact.

At a County Zoning Committee hearing July 22, a move to delete

## Ten percent of the people cause ninety percent of the problem.

the camping ordinance failed by a narrow margin to receive sufficient support from the 16 townships in the county. The zoning committee has requested formation of an ad hoc committee to study the issue. A representative from each township will serve on the committee.

Bass Lake Township has voted to retain the ordinance as is. Citizens may voice their opinion to townboard members Pete Sanders at 634-8909 or Steven Jones at 634-5170.

Plastic jugs used to mark underwater hazards are technically illegal, according to Sue Miller of the DNR. However it is not likely the DNR will complain, she says, unless they result in clutter.

## Correction to 'Lil Bit of History Aug. 1997

Larry Downer of Blueberry Lake writes that the buildings on what is now the Greely/Rhine property were actually constructed by his grandfather George Downer and later sold to the Greely family.

## Citations issued on Grindstone

Two citations for zoning violations were issued on Grindstone Lake this spring — one for removal of shoreline vegetation, the other for setback infringement.

The fine for removal of shoreline vegetation in the 35 foot buffer zone at the water's edge is \$701, according to Bill Christman, zoning administrator. In addition, the property owner must bear the cost of restoring native vegetation as determined by the Sawyer County Conservation Department.

Shoreline vegetation is not restricted to removal of trees, Christman explains. Property owners can also be cited for removal of vegetation beneath trees in the buffer zone.

Land disturbing activities and vegetation removal are prohibited within the vegetation protection area between the ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK and a line 35 feet from the OHWM. A 30 foot view corridor is presently allowed within the buffer zone.



# Grindstone Fishing Update

by Doyle Strong

It's mid July and we seem to be enjoying a typical fishing season on Grindstone. Some days the reports are "fishing's good", some days a lot of "fishing's slow" comments, and you can hear a lot of "fishing's really slow" reports. However, there were some nice fish caught through the ice last winter. Since walleye opener on May 2nd, I have heard a number of success stories with some 20 - inch plus fish and numerous fish in the 14 - 18 inch slot. During June there have been some nice Muskies taken in the 35 - 45 inch range. There was a 51 - inch release and I heard someone kept a 50 - inch fish. Smallmouth season opened June 20 and I have heard of a couple of good catches.

Grindstone fish are quite healthy with a high weight - to - length ratio, but . . . the catching is not always that easy. You don't pound the shoreline and expect to

catch fish. You need to find the sparse weed growth, deep water humps and bars, and work the deep water suspended fish. Shallow bars can be productive at times after dark. The fish cribs that are being placed in the lake are adding another

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During June there have been some nice Muskies taken in the 35 - 45 inch range.

dimension to the formula - shallower water habitat.

There is an abundant supply of forage and bait fish in Grindstone for the game fish to feast on. Maybe that's a reason they are not waiting around to gobble up our baits. Several years ago, during a discussion with

a DNR employee, he said they had netted a good number of Northern Pike in the 20 - 35 lb. range. He also felt that there was so much food available in the deep water that this is where they stay and get big by scavenging off the bottom. No need to come out of their sanctuary into the shallower water — that's what he said!

Just remember the best fishing is always somewhere between the shoreline and the deepest water in the lake. Also, "fishing" is always great every day on Grindstone, it's just that some days, the "catching" ain't so hot.

Good fishing and I'll see you on the water.

## Directory

Dan Tyrolt-LCO Conservation  
865-2329  
Dale Olson-Sawyer County  
Conservation Department  
634-6463  
Bill Christman-Zoning Dept.  
634-8288

# Two referendums to increase local taxes

Voters passed a \$16.5 million Hayward school district referendum on May 19, 1998.

According to Superintendent Bill Traut, the funds will be used to acquire additional land and construct a new middle school, to remodel the high

school, and to remodel and add onto the existing middle school, which will then be converted into a grades 3-5 elementary building. In addition, plans call for demolition of the old high school attached to the current middle school. Passing of the referendum is expected to add approximately 50 cents per

\$1000 evaluation to taxpayers bills.

A second referendum is scheduled for September 13 to determine if the public wants a new jail in Sawyer County. County Clerk Kris Mayberry states the county has retained financial consultants Springsted, Incorporated to prepare information so taxpayers will have a good idea of the impact on taxes per dollar of evaluation. The jail is anticipated to cost \$5 to \$6 million.

## FISH CRIB DONATION

**Attention!**  
**Please make checks payable to Wisconsin DNR**  
On memo line, please write  
Acct. # FM90-ADM-FM674

Send check to  
**Bruce Johnson**  
**Fishing Habitat**  
Grindstone Lake Assoc.  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54842

Thanks to **Rick and Diane Kramer** for continuing to support the Grindstone Lake Association by providing space for the annual meeting at the **Waterfront Restaurant.**

### Grindstone Lake Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

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Lake address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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Send \$20 check payable to Grindstone Lake Association,  
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715-723-8731

**Newsletter Editor**

Marilyn Buman 715-634-8265  
612-476-1268  
Tom Gleason 715-634-5166  
612-922-5379

## Sawyer County 911 not yet in operation

The Sawyer County 911 emergency system is not expected to be operational until January 1999, according to the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Phone and power companies are currently in the process of verifying fire numbers and updating computer data.

Citizens will be notified in the newspaper when the 911 system is operational. In the meantime, residents are requested not to call 911 in Sawyer County as such calls may be routed to Russ or Washburn Counties before being relayed to Sawyer County.

Emergency calls in Sawyer County should be directed to:

Sheriff 634-4858  
Ambulance 634-4222

## Grindstone Trumpeter

Grindstone Lake Association  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843

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stamp  
here



## Local Pilot is Frequent Sight on Grindstone Lake

by Marilyn Buman

Grindstone Lake resident Allan Lund has a flying beaver, a cub bobbing in his lagoon and a war bird on display. Sound fantastic? Not if you realize that's airplanes we're talking about.

An aero-enthusiast, Lund began flying at age 19 and bought his first airplane at age 21. He now owns six - count them - six airplanes.

Two of the six are currently on floats so that Lund can land on Grindstone and taxi to his home at the end of Beckwith Road.

Twelve years ago, when his wife, Lois, began looking for a cabin to enjoy with family, which includes five children, Lund's primary specification was that it have a lagoon for a float plane. The home of former banker Tom Beckwith, on the southwest shore of Grindstone, was perfect.

"Allan was working seven days a week," explains Lois. "The kids and I wanted a place to relax. Every weekend, we watched the neighbors go off to the lake." The Lunds are now fulltime residents on Grindstone.

Ask Lund why he bought a particular plane and his typical answer is "it was such a good buy, I couldn't refuse." It is obvious they are investments—a portfolio of planes, so to speak. (He has owned five Howards over time.) But the pleasure he takes in owning

them is unlike any derived from stocks and bonds. He proudly shares colored photos of his favorites. "Some people like boats," he says. "I like airplanes."

Of his current planes, number one is a 1961 DeHavilland Beaver DHC-2. Built as a bush plane in Canada, it was used until eight years ago by the English army. Fitted with amphibious floats by Lund, the plane will carry seven people, yet still get in and out of small places, landing on water or land with its retractable wheels in the floats. Lund describes the Beaver as stable, reliable and safe.

The number two plane, a Super Cub on floats, is currently based in Minneapolis, where his daughter is working toward her pilot's license.

Number three is a 1944 DGA 15 P Howard, which Lund has owned two years. The showy red and yellow five-place, single engine model was used by the military for training instrument pilots and for ambulance service. Not on floats, the plane can often be seen circling the Lund home before landing at the airport in Hayward, where Lund maintains a hangar.

"The Howard was the executive airplane of its day - quite fast," he says. However, that does not mean fast by today's standards. "It takes one hour to go from Minneapolis to Hayward," he explains. "These are slow airplanes now, flying at 1000 to 1500 feet. **continued on page 2...**

## Feeders Attract Birds and Bears to Lakeshore Lots

Local residents are urged to takedown bird feeders for the summer, according to Jim Miller, Animal Damage Specialist with the Cooperative Wildlife Damage Control Program of the US Dept. of Agriculture and the Wisc. DNR.

Birdsfeeders are highly attractive to bears, and birds can find an ample food supply in the wild, the DNR argues. "Even feeders out of reach of the bear can attract them with spilled seed on the ground," Miller explains. "It is DNR policy not to trap and move a nuisance bear as long as the food source continues to be provided."

Wisconsin has a healthy black bear population of about 7000 animals. The largest wild animal found in Wisconsin, adult bears generally weigh between 100 and 400 pounds. Despite their large size, however, bears are generally non-aggressive and prefer to keep a low profile whenever possible. Bears are most active at night or in early morning, although occasionally they make their rounds during the day.

Although bears eat mostly vegetative matter, they are opportunistic and will raid garbage cans or dumpsters, visit backyard bird feeders or dine on agricultural crops to obtain an easy food supply. Intelligent and highly curious animals, they quickly learn that it is easier to obtain food from a garbage dumpster than from the woods. Electric fencing can sometimes be used to deter bears. ■

continued from pg. 1

"We can still see the deer in the woods," Lois says. "But holiday weekends when we fly over and look down at cars bumper to bumper, I really like it."

Lund's number four plane is modern - a high-wing, four-passenger Cessna 182, a wheel plane he has owned one year. Plane number five is an Aviat Husky, also a land plane, two-place like a Piper Cub. When Grindstone Lake freezes over, Lund uses the wheel planes to land at the airport in Hayward.

"One year, I put skis on the Beaver," he says, "but it was too much work to convert it and the ice has to be right." If weather turns bad, cars are kept at the lake and at a second residence in Minneapolis so the Lunds can drive instead of flying.

Plane number six is what Lois calls the "War Bird", a Douglas Skyraider, built for the US Navy and Marines during the Korean and Viet Nam war era. A huge single engine airplane, it can carry a larger payload of bombs than a B17, Lund says. Thousands of them were built, but there are only three still flying in the world, one of which is Lunds. The others were either cut up for scrap or given to other governments, he explains. "They're probably sitting in a tropical jungle somewhere." A carrier-based ground support plane, the Skyraider has wings that fold up. It is

## Lake Residents Host Monday Bible Study

Beginning June 2, 11 a.m. at the home of Joanne and Randy Rovelstad, north-shore of Grindstone Lake.

Study: the Gospel of Matthew.

Reference: The Daily Study Bible Series, the Gospel of Matthew, vol. 2, (chs 11-28) by William Barclay, \$9.00

Please call 634-3384 to sign up.

They're probably sitting in a tropical jungle somewhere.

currently kept in a museum in Anoka County, MN. Allan does not fly it himself. "It takes special approval from the FAA," he says. "I'm not qualified yet."

In addition to flying between Minneapolis and Grindstone or wherever else they would like to go, Allan and Lois attend a lot of fly-ins. "The Beaver, the Howard and the War Bird - those are planes people don't get to see much, so we like to share them," he says.

Lund is board chairman of Lund Industries, a truck accessories business.

## A Trashy Idea?

Anyone interested in helping to plan/participate in a roadside cleanup around Grindstone this summer can write P.O. Box 292 or speak up at the annual meeting July 5.

## No Wake Zone Established

Four No Wake buoys, donated by the Grindstone and Court Oreilles lake associations are being installed in the passage between the two lakes. In addition, warning signs will be posted on the bridge within the next three weeks by the highway department road crews..

## Board Considers Water Quality Study

by Jim Rigotti

The Grindstone Lake Association Board of Directors is in the process of taking the next step in understanding and preserving the water quality in Grindstone Lake. We are presently engaged in the Self Help Lake Monitoring which involves tests for water clarity and chemistry. The Department of Natural Resources and the LCO Tribe have encouraged us to take the next step which is called a Lake Management Planning Grant. The basis of this project would entail monitoring and understanding how pollutants enter our lake, ie. Grindstone Creek, septic tanks, etc. This project would be divided into 3 phases. Data collection spring through fall, data analysis, and a management plan. The cost would be shared (if our application is accepted) as follows: 75 % DNR and 25 % local, which the LCO Tribe has expressed interest in sharing with the Grindstone Lake Association. The total cost of the study would be approximately \$30,000. The DNR and LCO Tribe both view Grindstone Lake as a premier body of water in northern Wisconsin and are very interested in maintaining its high quality level.

Two representatives from each of the county's lake associations, as well as appropriate officials, will attend the Sawyer County Lakes Forum meeting June 4 at 9 a.m. in the Committee Room of the Courthouse.

Special thanks to Rick Kramer and Al Butterbaugh for continuing support of GLA activities!

# President's Corner

## It Takes a Village to Grow a Tree

by Eric Nilsson

In April, as my family and I hiked through our woods, I wondered - as I always do - how this area must have appeared before the sawyers harvested the mighty, majestic white pine. Here and there, we observed their progeny - a clump of saplings basking in the sunlight that will soon be eclipsed by a canopy of oak, maple, poplar and birch leaves; a group of seedlings poking up through the ground cover; and a stately descendant, rising in majesty above the rest of the woods to serve as an eagle's perch. How magnificent this place must have been in the days before the lumberjacks!

Pollen fossils tell us that this specie of pine, *pinus strobus*, migrated into northern Wisconsin and Minnesota - the western part of its range - about 7000 years ago. Over time, it became the dominant tree and reached a diameter of over 4 feet and height of 150 feet. Every 150 to 300 years, a high-intensity crown fire would burn everything down to the mineral soil and create an ideal seedbed for white pine seedlings. Every 20 to 40 years, a lower intensity fire would burn off the competing trees and brush. The thick bark of the large white pine would protect them from these understory fires.

If we're inclined to indict our forebears for their rapacious harvest, condemnation will not undo their deeds. As their cultural and historical heirs, we must also bear in mind that it was white pine lumber that built tens of thousands of homes and buildings in an ever-expanding nation as millions of European immigrants poured onto our shores. The past is what it was, and our response should be to envision and ensure a grand revival of this regal arbor, the white pine.

As I have witnessed in our woods, the experts tell us that unlike the Norway (red) pine, the white pine is very prolix. In the vicinity of large, cone-bearing white pine, one will see in some years, dozens of seedlings. The survivors will join boughs, so to speak, and compete with brush and hardwoods for space and light. Eventually, the weaker trees can be cut out and so the stronger specimens will become the forest royalty. However, they must avoid the blister rust, a fungus which kills white pine unless an affected bough is pruned before the fungus reaches the trunk. Also, the white pine that are not thinned out must survive browsing deer as well as the tip weevil, which destroys the leader and deforms the trunk. Once it reaches the deciduous canopy, the persistent pine will needle its way through oaks, maples, aspen and birch, and after it pushes through to unobstructed sunlight, the white pine will grow by enormous leaps and fan out over the surrounding woods. Then the white pine assumes a mantle of wild royalty.

As a lakeside community, we together can bring a white pine resurgence to the shores of Grindstone. Foster seedlings and nurture saplings (watch out for deer, weevils and blister rust. Except on the immediate shoreline, trim back brush and lesser trees.) Next time you walk your property, notice the white pine. Next time you're on the lake, look for the wild white pine that tower above the lower canopy. Give the white pine some care and you'll give the future a regal legacy.

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## Bass Lake Property Evaluations to Double

The bad news is that property evaluations in Bass Lake Township are likely to double in time for the 1998 tax bill.

The good news is that the actual change in taxes should be minimal.

That's the word from Bass Lake assessor Bob Irwin.

The State of Wisconsin requires that local properties be assessed at what the state considers 90% of Fair Market Value. As of May this year, Bass Lake Township properties are assessed at only 60% of Fair Market Value. The township is allowed to be out of compliance for four years and then things start to happen. This is the fourth year Bass Lake has been out of compliance.

If the township does nothing about reassessing, in the seventh year the state takes over. Irwin and Bass Lake Township Chairman Pete Sanders agree that won't happen. For one thing, it would be very expensive to have the state do the re-evaluation and charge Bass Lake taxpayers for the bill. "And the state will be more critical," says Sanders.

Sanders expects the process of re-evaluations, conducted by the Bass Lake assessor, to begin this summer and be completed in time for the tax bills mailed December 1998.

But why will the tax change be minimal? Through a complicated formula, the Bass Lake property evaluations have been "equalized" before taxes are assessed. Although the property evaluations are only 60% of Fair Market Value, Bass Lake taxpayers have been paying their fair share all along through adjustments to the mill rate.

"People are going to panic in 98 when they see their Fair Market Value has doubled," predicts Irwin. "But, no, their taxes won't double. Fair Market Value will change, but the mill rate changes, too, and the tax change should be minimal."

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This is the fourth year Bass Lake has been out of compliance.

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## Property Owners Favor Larger Lake Lot Minimum

Ninety-one percent of respondents to a survey conducted for the Sawyer County Zoning Administration support considering a lake's capacity for development when making decisions on how lakefront property is zoned and developed.

Other findings of the survey reported by the Sawyer County Record in January are as follows:

- a majority of lake property owners support increased minimum lot widths, with 53% favoring 150 feet and 36% favoring 200 feet.
- the main recreational use problem cited was high-powered boats and personal watercraft,
- a majority favor shoreline restoration, including replanting of trees and shrubs,
- on large lakes like Grindstone, there is a structure every 200 feet with an address attached to it.

The study was conducted by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

## New Bag Limit is Two Fish

A new 'slot' size limit for walleyes harvested on Grindstone Lake was put into effect Saturday, May 3. Walleyes between 14 and 18 inches long must be returned to the water, explains Bruce Johnson, Grindstone Lake Association Fishing Habitat Chairman. "In addition to this change, the daily bag limit has been reduced to two fish, of which one fish only may exceed 18 inches. There is no minimum length requirement. The purpose of the regulation is to increase the plus-18-inch walleye population in the next two to three years.

# First Set of Fish Cribs to be Placed in Lake

by Bruce Johnson

Crib day, August 6, 1997, is a reality! This date has been marked for the first installation of the long awaited "space age" fish cribs.

Through the winter, communication was established with the DNR's Frank Pratt, Senior Fish Biologist. The commitment was made to purchase a minimum of 50 cribs from the fund dedicated to our fish crib project.

Once the 50 cribs were earmarked for Grindstone, a five year plan (6/1/97 through 9/30/2002) was drafted and a permit allowing the Grindstone Lake Association to assist with installation of fish habitat structure was issued and signed. The permit identifies three areas chosen by the DNR for artificial structure, with 500 total cribs and 100 spawning logs to be installed eventually if the funds continue to be raised.

Our association responsibilities include collecting/providing brush (hardwood preferred), 3 concrete blocks per crib, on-shore assembly and providing a staging area.

Rick and Diane Kramer from the Waterfront have offered their premises for the staging area. Work boats and the actual installation will be

The long awaited "space age" fish cribs are a reality!

provided by DNR personnel.

If you would like to help with any of the work or materials needed, contact Bruce Johnson at 634-3358 or 715-723-8731 or any board member.

REMEMBER AUG 6, 1997!

## Lake Association Puts in Dock at Landing

The Grindstone Lake Association has signed a twenty year maintenance contract with the DNR allowing the association to install the dock at the public landing on the southwest shore of Grindstone Lake prior to opening day of fishing and to remove it prior to ice-on.

"With the budget reductions for the state, manpower was not always available for timely maintenance of the dock prior to opening fishing and late season musky/walleye angling," states Bruce Johnson, Grindstone Lake Association Fishing Habitat Chairman.

Special thanks is extended to Al Butterbaugh from LAKEVIEW and to Rick Kramer from WATERFRONT for organizing and rounding up the volunteers to do the installation. Thanks, too, for Eric Florke and the front end loader from Gene Skille's CRANBERRY MARSH which made the job much easier.

### FISH CRIB DONATIONS

Make checks payable to Wisconsin DNR. On memo line, please write Acct. # FM90-ADM-FM674

Send check to:

Tom Gleason, Treasurer  
Grindstone Lake Association  
Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843



## Things to do and places to go...

Bass Lake Women's Club, third Tuesday of month except July, Aug., at Bass Lake Town Hall, Beverly Williams, 634-2136.

Piece-Makers Quilting Guild, second Monday of month at Senior Citizens Community Center, 10 a.m., Betty Augustine, 462-9093.

Party Bridge, Tuesday nights at Hardies and Duplicate Bridge (ACBL sanctioned) Thursday nights 7 p.m. at Senior Citizens Community Center, must have a partner, notify Mary Jo Collins 634-5345 ahead of time.

Friends of the Library, third Saturday of month, 9 a.m. at Library, Betty Augustine 462-9030.

Hayward Area Garden Club, second Tuesday of month at 1 p.m. in Courthouse Assembly Room except Jan., Feb., Betty Blake 634-8611.

Hayward Area Lioness Club, third Thursday of month, dinner meeting at area restaurants, service work, active in all community events, Secy. Nancy Grothe 634-8548.

Hayward Senior Citizens Community Center, 634-3000 for newsletter

Cable Natural History Museum, extensive schedule of events and lectures, 798-3890

Northwoods Humane Society 634-5394, needs volunteers.

Sound familiar? Everyone's dream cabin...simple, rustic, with a stone fireplace, a screen porch. "And there's that smell," writes Bonnie Blodgett in *Mpls. St. Paul* August 1966, "kind of musty...and maybe one of those Hamm's beer clocks, with the bear in the canoe and the 'Land of Sky Blue Waters' along the bottom." So if that's everyone's dream, what are we doing with cabins that look more like houses. It's because lakeshore property is so expensive, explains northwest Wisconsin realtor and developer Gary Johnson. "How many people are going to spend that kind of money so they can live in a shack?" Blodgett quotes Johnson as saying. "No, they end up building something that seems more appropriate for an expensive piece of property."

## ONE, TWO, THREE...KICK

Dreading that first fitness class in the fall? That day of reckoning after a relaxing summer at the lake?

This summer you can stay in shape right here in Hayward.

Silvia Swor, fitness and dance instructor, has agreed to lead a special aerobics class, morning or evening, if enough Grindstone Lake summer residents are interested.

Classes would begin the Monday after the 4th of July. For more information or to indicate interest in attending, write Marilyn Buman at Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843 or phone Marty Moeller at 634-4911.

## Saturday, July 19 A Full Moon Hike at Forest Lodge Nature Trail. . .

Meet at the Trail parking lot on Garmisch Road at 8:45 p.m. and return by 10:30 p.m. Free. Sponsored by Cable Natural History Museum.

Sound interesting? But the long drive back to Grindstone by moon light is not as romantic. Perhaps we could organize a "Cable Car" or van-pool if several lake residents are interested. Contact Marilyn Buman at Box 292, Hayward, WI or phone Marty Moeller at 634-4911.

# A 'Lil' Bit of History

by Anne Fitzsimmons

*Way back in 1926, an Illinois National Guard Major, W.A. Radzinski of Chicago, started a private boys camp on the south shore of Grindstone Lake between Valhalla (now the Waterfront) and the Greely/Rhine property and from Grindstone Lake to Johnson Lake. Recently, his son, Wilmer Radzinski "Bill" reminisced and shared with me some history of Camp Big Chief, earlier known as Camp Court O'Reilles.*

## FIRST INSTALLMENT

The "Major", as he was known both in the town of Hayward and at the Camp, visited Hayward in 1925 and bought the property owned by the "Dawn" sisters, who lived there year-round. He then arranged for Frank Hamblin to be the carpenter to build the camp. Frank would send pictures of his building progress to Chicago and the Major would then mail him some money.

Camp opened in 1926 when Bill was 4 years old. The youngest campers were about 8 or 9 and the oldest 16 years. It accommodated approximately 60 boys except during World War II when everyone in Chicago wanted to send their kids away for the summer so both parents could hold jobs. In addition, there were 15-18 counselors.

Because Major Radzinski went by the name "Major", the older counselors were called "Captain" and the under ones either "Sergeant" or "Lieutenant" depending on their capabilities. There also was a doctor and of course a cook and 4 local girl helpers until 1940 or so when the Major changed to Indian girls from the Reservation. The camp got along great with the Indian population and many of them came over during each session to put on

dances, etc. for the young campers.

When the camp opened, the only black-topped road was Hwy. 27 between Spooner and Hayward. All other roads were gravel including County K, B to town and E to Reserve. Also, there were many curves, dangerous sharp curves that have since been removed. Mullally's Hill on K was so steep that many cars couldn't negotiate it. They started up, rolled back down, tried a lesser gear and roared up with motor racing. Those were

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They started up, rolled back down, tried a lesser gear and roared up.

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real fun days. Until 1936, County K wasn't even there, just a road we called "Old Road", that went right through the center of camp and the boys would have to watch out for local traffic when going to the athletic field. But remember, there was only a fraction of the people that are here now.

When Bill was just a little boy, he remembers that all the campers carried two rocks up from the beach every day after swimming until there was quite a stack of them. Then with some cement, the older counselors built 2 stone pillars that are still there in front of what is now the property of Guy Vena. The pillars had tall pipes from each of them and a cross piece from which hung a large sign that read "Camp Court O'Reilles for Boys". This was between the years 1926 and 1930.

But in Chicago, most of the campers couldn't even spell Court O'Reilles, much less pronounce it, so in 1930 the Major changed the name to a simple "Camp Big Chief". Actually, the local Chippewas indoctrinated him into their tribe and called him Chief Happy Times.

Also in 1930 the new GHQ "Headquarters" building was constructed and this building is now the residence of Guy Vena. It had a stage, piano, library and game room. It also housed the camp office and the only telephone was there. The number was: 3 long rings and a short and there were 16 others on the party line.

To be continued.

## Grindstone Lake Association Board of Directors

**President**  
Eric Nilsson 715-634-7145  
612-646-8850

**Treasurer**  
Tom Gleason 715-634-5166  
612-922-5379

**Secretary**  
Joanne Rovelstad 715-634-3384

**Quality Water**  
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708-288-1403

**Fishing Habitat**  
Bruce Johnson 715-634-3358  
715-723-8731

**Newsletter Editor**  
Marilyn Buman 715-634-8265  
612-476-1268

Ray Moeller 715-634-4911

Doug Hare 715-634-1581

Gerald Donovan 715-634-5993

# Annual Meeting July 5 at Waterfront

The annual meeting of the Grindstone Lake Association will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday July 5 at Kramer's WATERFRONT .

A Board Meeting will precede the annual meeting, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Treasurer Tom Gleason reminds members that dues for 1997 are payable during July and August. To date 143 have joined, with 109 paid up through 1996.

Joanne Rovelstad has been appointed by the board to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Tom Schofield. Election of board members will be held at the late summer meeting in August.

## GRINDSTONE LAKE ASSOCIATION Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$10 check payable to Grindstone Lake Association, P.O. Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843-0292

## Grindstone Trumpeter

Grindstone Lake Association  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843-0292

Place stamp here.

# Grindstone Trumpeter

Volume 4, Issue 2

August, 1997

## Sawyer County zoning regulations extend all the way to water's edge

Lakeshore owners are allowed only a 30-foot view corridor on their shore, Sawyer County Zoning Administrator Chuck Froseth told Grindstone property owners at the annual association meeting July 5. Removal of lakeshore vegetation outside that corridor is prohibited, he explained.

Speaking before Grindstone Lake Association members assembled at the Waterfront Restaurant, Froseth called on them to educate their neighbors regarding the inappropriateness of suburban-style lakeshore lawns, pruning of healthy tree branches and removal of

lakeside vegetation. Although fines may be levied and violators required to restore vegetation, Froseth emphasized that education is more effective than enforcement.

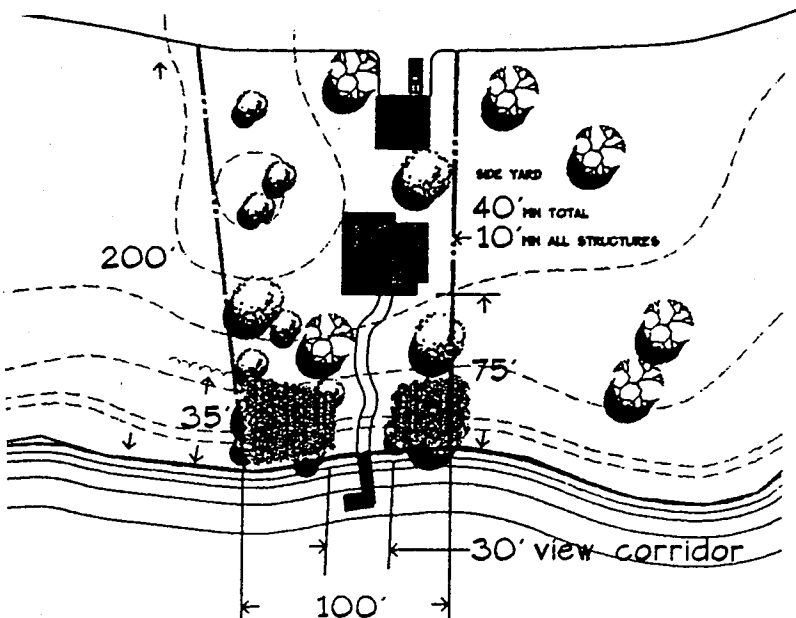
What property owners can and cannot do in front of their cabins perhaps came as a surprise to many. Laws regarding clear cutting on the shore have been in effect for twenty years, Froseth explained. However, the county has only begun enforcement within the last three or four years. Blatant violations, such as the cutting of vegetation across an entire 100-foot lakeshore lot, have already

been prosecuted in several instances. "We are trying to encourage people to go back to having a natural lake shoreline," he said.

The first 35 feet back from the water's edge, or ordinary high water mark, is reserved for the vegetation needed to preserve a healthy lake. Only removal of dead and diseased vegetation is allowed, except within the 30-foot view corridor permitted each lakeshore owner. Mowing of native vegetation, as well as the removal of healthy tree branches, is prohibited. "Cutting of low branches eliminates birds that prefer to roost on low branches," Froseth stated. "It also increases the temperature of the ground beneath the tree." Property owners may remove - in fact, are encouraged to remove - gooseberry or current bushes, however, because they serve as a host plant in the blister rust disease affecting white pines.

Asked what one could do to restore a property on which the 35-foot vegetative buffer zone is presently being mowed, Froseth replied, "Mark where you want the 30-foot view corridor, then quit mowing outside it. Let the vegetation work back in."

The county also has strict laws regarding wetlands, according to Froseth. There is no minimum size or designation required; all wetlands, often referred to as swamps by local residents, are



Lakeshore property owners must maintain the first 35 feet back from the water's edge as a vegetative buffer zone. On a 100-foot lake lot, the property owner is allowed a 30-foot wide view corridor within this zone.

continued on pg. 2

## Continued from page 1

included. "You can't touch them," Froseth said. "You can't drain, dredge, fill or dig through them."

Many property owners think dumping in wetlands is approved if it involves vegetative matter such as tree branches, grass clippings or pine needles. "It is illegal," Froseth continued. "It does not belong there. It destroys the wetland vegetation."

Sawyer County is taking a leading role in encouraging environmentally responsible lakeshore development. The county was the first in the state of Wisconsin to adopt lake classification, Froseth pointed out. The new lake classification rules are part of a trend toward flexible zoning which emphasizes performance standards more than uniformity. Under the new lake

classification plan, minimum lake lot size is determined by the lake's vulnerability in terms of water quality and other environmental factors. Grindstone Lake is a class 1 lake with a minimum 100-foot lake lot requirement. The new classification plan allows for zero tolerance; ie. a lake lot that is just

### You can't drain, dredge, fill or dig through them.

inches short of being 100 feet wide will not qualify for establishment. Many smaller lakes, class 2 and 3 lakes, now require a minimum of 150 or 200 feet to establish a new lake lot.

## Citizens' preferences on zoning issues run the gamut

Following is a sampling of comments from respondents to the 1996 Sawyer County Shoreland Survey conducted by the county zoning administration in conjunction with the county extension office and Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

- *Go for it! Don't let the turkeys get you down. Dare to be different and tell the realtors and other money-hungry entities to jump in the lake and watch the bubbles come up.*
- *I would hate to see the "environmental holy rollers" given more authority. Too much already.*
- *Fines for shoreline destruction are too small--more enforcement is necessary.*
- *Since we own the property, I don't think county should dictate how many trees are removed.*
- *Cannot give opinion on 11, 12, 13 & 14 as we use the lake only occasionally for swimming as we are in our 80's.*
- *Jet skiis have ruined many peaceful days!*

## Clear cutting contested

Grindstone Lake resident Hal Meeker appeared before association members at the July 5 meeting to request adoption of a resolution asking that "clear cut maintenance of the powerline right-of-way not be permitted unless explicitly approved and directed by the effected homeowner." The resolution was approved by a voice vote of those present.

Dave Voight, Jump River line superintendent for the Hayward area, acknowledges that many homeowners object to the cutting of trees. "I understand the concern people have," he said. "I myself love trees."

"Unfortunately, we get it from both sides. People complain about blinking lights and power outages. One person's trees affect more than their own service, they also affect their neighbors' service."

"It is essential that we mow and maintain the 30-foot right-of-way to improve service and cut down on outages," he explained. "When brush gets to be 15 feet tall, it causes blinking lights." Full scale trimming and cutting of trees is undertaken every 10 to 15 years on powerline easements, with brushing and mowing every 7 or 8 years. "I agree when you first brush, it looks scarred. But the ferns come back quickly," he said.

According to Voight, 400 or 500 postcards were mailed to the billing addresses of effected property owners in March informing them that right-of-ways would be cut beginning in June. The cards requested that anyone with a concern call the Jump River telephone number provided.

"We would have met with the owner at the property and allowed them to voice their concerns and possibly made some concessions," he said. Meeker was unaware cards had been mailed, Voight said.

# Lake not what it used to be, reader complains

Dear Editor,

*I am very concerned with the water quality of the lake as I was unable to swim or water ski during my recent (June 97) vacation due to swimmer's itch. Having been "born and raised" swimming in (and water skiing on) Grindstone Lake, it really concerns me not to be able to go in the water. Please advise as to any initiative to break the cycle that produces the itch.*

*Howard C. Brossard, Jr.*

Swimmers' itch is caused by flat worms that penetrate the skin. The microscopic fork-tailed, free-swimming schistosome larva, called cercariae, die shortly after penetrating the skin, but can cause allergic reactions in some people.

Only about one-third of the people who contact the schistosome parasite develop swimmers' itch. In fact, a person's first exposure to infested water may not result in the itchy rash. Repeated exposure increases a person's allergic sensitivity to the parasite and increases the likelihood of rash development.

Is swimmers' itch more prevalent today? Yes, says Sam Moore of the Hayward DNR office.

"The higher the lakeshore development, the higher the incidence of swimmers' itch," he says, "because people feed the ducks."

Ducks carry the adult schistosome parasite in their blood vessels. The parasite's eggs hatch when they're expelled into water and grow into free-swimming larva that take up residence in snails. Using the snails as hosts, these larva develop into cercaria larva. It's these

cercaria that cause swimmers' itch when they look for a new host to complete the parasite's life cycle. "Years ago, people worried about feeding themselves," Moore says. "It never occurred to them to feed wildlife."

The overall duck population remains stable, Moore explains. However, ducks would move around more, over a larger area, from lake to a pond to a bay. "Feeding the ducks concentrates their activity in an area. It changes their behavior. They rely on the feeding."

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The hen comes back to nest where she got her flight feathers, that is, to where she was raised.

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"The hen comes back to nest where she got her flight feathers, that is to where she was raised. Feeding tends to colonize the population."

There is no effective way for people to eliminate the problems on their beach, according to Moore. Any attempts at treatment to kill either the cercariae or their snail hosts are ineffective because the cercariae are capable of swimming or drifting long distances from nontreated areas. It makes no difference if your beach area is sandy, rocky or weedy. Host snails will live on all sites and one species which commonly harbors swimmers' itch actually prefers sandy bottom areas.

In recent years, there have been experimental attempts at treating

the host waterfowl with veterinary medicines. The theory is to rid the birds of the adult parasite before they can infect the snail population. Depending on the different kinds and numbers of adult host, success at this method will be limited to very specific situations. The procedure has not yet been evaluated in Wisconsin, but may hold some promise in the future.

The first outbreaks of swimmers' itch usually occur in late May or early June. Lakes in the northern half of Wisconsin usually have a swimmers' itch season of about two weeks; lakes in the southern half of the state may have a season lasting one month. However, there's no way to predict how long an outbreak may last. In some lakes it may last an entire summer.

There are some precautions swimmers can take to protect themselves. The cercariae normally don't penetrate the skin until after the bather leaves the water, at which time the person may feel a slight tingling sensation. The cercariae are soon killed by the body's natural defense mechanism, but will continue to cause irritation. Small children playing in shallow water are most susceptible because of the alternate wetting and drying with the arms, legs and waist area most prone to infection.

If swimmers' itch is known to be present, avoid swimming when winds are likely to be carrying cercariae into the beach. Brisk and vigorous toweling immediately after leaving the water will crush the cercariae before they penetrate the skin. It has also been noted that some sunscreens and lotions reduce the infections, however, nothing has been found to be completely effective. Once the irritation has developed, various soothing lotions or ointments may be applied to relieve the itching. For severe cases, prescription antihistamines and topical steroid creams may be prescribed by a physician.

## President's Corner

### The Lake Taken Slowly

by Eric Nilsson

Once upon a time, while I was a small guest at my grandparents' cabin, I badgered Grandpa to "take me out in the boat *with the motor*." A modest request, but only after two or three days did Grandpa assent. In his opinion, the quietude of the lake was not to be disturbed except now and again, and he certainly favored the law back then, which prohibited motorized trolling. One of his "now and agains" came after dinner one evening when he hauled his old four-horse Blue Ribbon Champion down to his 12 foot Alumacraft, helped my grandmother and me aboard and took us for a ride to the islands and back. A simple outing, the trip formed a memory I shall savor always. It seemed like an expedition, an adventure to some uncharted part of the world, and when my young eyes surveyed my grandparents' Shangri-La from a distance, their land assumed an almost mystical quality. I fell in love with it then and have been in love with it since.

Recently, my two young sons asked, "Can we go out in the boat *with the motor*?" I resisted at first, but then I recalled the memory of that boat ride nearly four decades ago. Without another word, I dragged Grandpa's old boat out from under the trees and launched it into the quiet waters he loved so much. I pulled from storage our old eight-horse Mariner, and when my boys complained it was "only an eight," I recounted my story about their great-grandfather and how lucky they were to have a motor *twice* the horsepower of the antique Blue Ribbon Champion. We loaded up the boys' fishing gear and headed for the waters a ways out from my grandparents' cabin, which is now the cabin of my sons' grandparents. In the day's golden hour, my sons fished quietly and observed the world around them -- a loon gliding nearby, regal pines guarding the shore and calm waters reflecting a Maxfield Parrish sky towering above.

In those peaceful moments, I said little and hoped a lot; hoped my sons understood that however fast the world might turn, the lake taken slowly brings contentment. I suppose Grandpa's old Alumacraft will be retired someday, and my old eight-horse will join his four-horse in the antique display, but will Grandpa's love for Grindstone -- and the *way* he loved it -- live on? I think so.

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# When the weather turns cold outdoors

by George Gorbatenko

If you are the type of cabin owner that drains the water and turns the heat off at the outset of our winter and again reverses the process in the spring, don't bother to read further. However, if you leave the cabin open either periodically or all the time ... read on!

After one year of shutting the heat off completely (and paying for it in cracked furniture and cement floor), we now keep the house constantly at about 43 degrees... above freezing but not enough so that the heating bill gets out of control. The problem with this arrangement is the house is uncomfortably cold when you first arrive for a weekend stay. Furthermore, it leaves little room for error when the power goes out, you run out of fuel, or the furnace malfunctions.

A solution to all these potential problems is to install a relatively inexpensive control system (less than \$300) that will not only phone you when an out-of-range condition is detected, but will entertain your calls just to check up on things. The real plus is that you can phone the device and ask it to crank up the heat to say 65 or 70 degrees so that when you arrive, the cabin is toasty warm ... without having to bother the neighbors.

At a minimum, this device will save money on the heating bill and give you peace of mind that all is well. At best, it will avert a costly emergency due to frozen pipes and the subsequent water damage. Such an emergency can be precipitated by an electrical power outage, a seemingly clogged furnace filter, frozen LP gas valve ... or just simply running out of LP gas.

Last winter, at a time when the predicted overnight low was around

minus 35 degrees, our unit phoned us at midnight to inform us of a "temperature emergency" ... the temp was 38 degrees and falling. A remote diagnosis indicated that either the heater was not working or we ran out of fuel. I had phoned the power company that night leaving a message to the same effect. The following morning, nice neighbor and friend, Don MacIntosh, confirmed that, yes, we were indeed out of fuel. (Though we were on a keep-full program, I believe the program the vendor used underestimated the fuel

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The following morning, a nice neighbor and friend confirmed that, yes, we were indeed out of fuel.

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consumption under severely cold conditions ... we were not due for a fill for several weeks). Fortunately, we were back on the air by 10 AM the same day. Big problem solved.

About the size of a small answering machine, our unit is made by Control Products. A newer unit monitors temperature, power status, security or external contact, and offers remote control capability. Upon alarm condition, the unit dials one of three numbers with a voice message. Current temperature and alarm conditions can be remotely checked as well. Options allow personalizing the unit to exactly meet an individual homeowner's need. In addition to the cost of the unit, approximately \$30 will be needed for an extra thermostat (if you don't already have one) and some wire.

To install the unit, access is

required to 1) telephone jack, 2) 110 AC wall plug, and 3) access to existing thermostat wires (or heater). The basement utility room typically has access to all three and is an ideal location. A dedicated touch tone phone (to program device) is convenient but not required. The existing phone line is used and the device is "answer machine friendly."

I have some additional literature and would be happy to answer any questions. Also, depending upon interest, we might get a better break on the cost by pooling an order. My recollection is that the unit normally "retails" for about \$400-500.

Enjoy your cabin this winter!

(715) 634-3752  
(612) 653-4699

## Sawyer County on NE edge of maple moth outbreak

DNR forester Pete Wisdom confirmed the department has been receiving complaints and questions about plump green caterpillars that drop from trees. And about their droppings, which are raining down like sleet from silver and red maple trees. "We are on the NE edge of a rosy maple moth outbreak that extends from Sawyer County to St. Croix County," he explained. "The caterpillars are defoliating maple trees from the bottom up, but the damage is mainly aesthetic. The outbreak usually lasts only one year." The caterpillars will form a cocoon in the soil and hatch into somewhat attractive feathery pink and yellow moths next spring, he said.



# A 'Lil' More History

by Anne Fitzsimmons

*Back in 1926, an Illinois National Guard Major, W.A. Radzinski of Chicago, started a private boys camp on the south shore of Grindstone Lake. Recently, his son, Wilmer Radzinski "Bill" reminisced and shared some history of Camp Big Chief, earlier known as Camp Court O'Reilles.*

## SECOND INSTALLMENT

Major loved the camp and he loved kids. And he loved what he had to share with them- every sport known to man. Especially those that kids from the city would never have had without the camp. There were 15 horses and every Thursday (after the half season of eight weeks was completed) was trip day and the better riders could have a lovely ride to any place within 8 miles of the camp.

The camp had a "Hospital" building with a Red Cross painted on the door. A fulltime doctor from Chicago lived on the camp property (generally someone who wanted a summer vacation) and slept there and had a little extra room in case some kid needed to be isolated. Never happened! This building still stands and is used as a storage shed on the Joe Pavleje property.

There was also an athletic field with tennis courts, a corral and a golf course and a flag pole that still stands. The camp had a flag raising every morning before breakfast and a flag lowering every evening before supper.

Two piers extended several feet out and in 8 feet of water, there was a large raft with a "laughing loon" diving board.

The Major and the campers were friendly with Mrs. Williams of Williams Bay Resort who on occasion would have them over for

supper. In 1940, this resort was sold to Ray Shields and Eleanor Johnson who operated it for many years and were still adding buildings in 1975. The resort was well known all over Chicago and Bill says he can't imagine why it closed. He felt the buildings were prettier than many of the summer resorts still operating around the country.

Bill also remembers that in the 30's, there used to be a small hotel on the beach which could have been called "Northwoods Beach Hotel" - not to be confused with the

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## Let me tell you - I was one happy Chicago-born kid!

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"Northwoods Inn." At any rate, it burned and Mr. Greely used much of the wood from it to build his place right next door to the camp. This property is still owned by the Greely/Rhine family.

He also remembers the garage (Eby's Corner) being built about 1946-47. At night, some of the counselors would walk to the Northwoods Inn for ice cream. Bill and a friend would hide in the garage and wait for them to return, then make ghostly noises as they passed by. The two boys would run back to camp via a short cut, jump into bed and pretend to be asleep before rounds were made to see if anyone was missing so they could identify the culprits. When Bill lived here, there was only one policeman in town. He was told there are now 16 and they need more.

Too bad!!

The 4th of July was also great fun for the campers. The camp was the only place within miles that had any fireworks and everyone on the lake would walk to their shore to watch them in the sky.

There was a rifle range and all the boys from 9 and up were taught the safe way to handle a gun and could earn medals for target shooting. Bill was their instructor for the last 6 years the camp operated and also the horseback riding instructor. Almost unbelievable was the fact that there were so few people around when he was a teen. In the 30's and 40's, he could and did take a .22 rifle and walk openly down the road shooting at anything that made a legitimate target. It didn't disturb anyone - Bill says "Let me tell you - I was one happy Chicago-born kid!"

In 1950, the Major sold the camp to Sam Fralick. While he owned it, some of the buildings burned down. Bill says old Sam didn't really like the kids. He just thought it was a money making business and would help his career as a Chicago football coach. But it backfired! He didn't like the town people and they knew it. He operated the place only a few years and went out of business.

The major died in 1963 at age 84 and Bill's mother lived to be 95. In 1965 Bill met Floyanne in Santa Barbara and they were married in 1968. They now reside in Tulsa, OK and have one daughter living in Baltimore, MD.

He has been back to visit the area three times, in 1975, 1985 and 1995. And he says he would have liked to have seen it remain just as he left it 40 years ago. This is the way he wants to file it away in his memory.

Thanks Bill for sharing with us all your wonderful memories.

# Native plants know their place - aliens invade

What can a responsible lake property owner do to encourage natural lakeshore? Cindy and Don MacIntosh decided to experiment with wildflowers when they built their new lakehome on Grindstone's west shore six years ago.

"When we retired, we never wanted to mow again," says Cindy. "So we seeded the lawn with rye grass, clover and wildflowers. We thought the clover might take over, but it has not. Every month there is a different crop. It is fun to see what comes up." Purple coneflower, columbine, yarrow and gloriosa daisy do especially well.

Arlene Temple of Round Lake recommends seeding in early spring and planting a mix suited for the region. "I made a mistake when I did mine," she says. "I bought a mix which included ox-eye daisies, which are not native. They overtook everything else and I had to start over."

Carol Alcoe, a master gardener who, with her husband, planted the dusty miller and creeping petunia which form the H (for Hayward) in the raised bed beneath the Birkebeiner sign at the intersection of Highways 63 and 27, recommends that persons interested in native wildflowers send for a free catalog from **Prairie Nursery, P.O. Box 306, Westfield, WI 53964**. The nursery sells both seed and started plants. Carol is also willing to answer questions from property owners wanting to plant wildflowers. She and garden club members are planning this month to establish an area of native prairie plants beside the Sawyer County Historical Society building on county road B in Hayward.

# These plants not to be confused

Wild bergamot--lovely shaggy, purple native wildflower resembles thistle, but stem is square, typical of mint family, and leaves are not prickly; related to red bee-balm grown in gardens. Also resembles spotted knapweed, an attractive but troublesome alien which is invading fields. Knapweed is much shorter and has a ferny, divided leaf unlike bergamot. Fireweed--so named because it grows on parched land following fire. An attractive native plant, it somewhat resembles purple loosestrife, an invasive alien that is illegal to sell, distribute or cultivate in Wisconsin. Learn the difference.

**FISH CRIB DONATION**

Make checks payable to Wisconsin DNR.

On memo line, please write  
Acct.# FM90-ADM-FM674

Send check to

Tom Gleason, Treasurer  
Grindstone Lake Association  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843-0292

**GRINDSTONE LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$10 check payable to Grindstone Lake Association, P.O. Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843-0292

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Doug Hare 715-634-1581

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**Grindstone Lake Association to consider water quality study Saturday, August 23**

The Grindstone Lake Association will launch its 1997-98 fiscal year at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 23 at the LCO Convention Center next to the LCO Casino on County B & K.

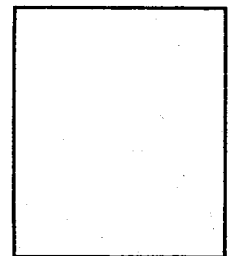
Featured speaker will be Dan Tyrolt, LCO Environmental Engineer, who will give a presentation and answer questions on the proposed water study grant for Grindstone Lake. The study, which is expected to cost \$15,000, would be financed jointly by the DNR, the Grindstone Lake Association and the LCO Tribe.

A social half-hour is planned from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Coffee and rolls will be available.

Election of directors for the 1997-98 year will be held in accordance with the GLA by-laws. Members are elected to one year terms, with no limitation on the number of terms they may serve. Each of the current directors has agreed to stand for re-election. No one else has been nominated or sought nomination. Anyone wishing to nominate someone or place his/her name in nomination may do so at the August 23 meeting.

**Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association  
P.O. Box 292  
Hayward, WI 54843-0292



# The Grindstone Trumpeter

Volume 2 Issue 1 May, 1996

## New Membership Fee Structure

At the July meeting, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presented a number of exciting mutual support options to the association. To qualify for the support for water quality research and potential grants for future studies, the association needs to meet certain qualification criteria.

One of these criteria is that membership fees need to be no more than \$10.00. Current fees are \$35 for an individual membership and \$50 for a family membership. To meet the qualification we are therefore changing the membership fees to \$10.00. Those who have paid more will be automatically credited with additional years of membership starting from the date of their gift, 3.5 years for individual contributors and 5 years for family contributors.

If you would rather have a refund for the additional years, please contact our treasurer, Tom Gleason 612-922-5379, FAX: 612-922-8529 and instruct him on how you would like to adjust your membership.

For those who have not joined, how can you pass up such a bargain? Being a member adds weight to requests to the DNR by demonstrating the size of the interest in protecting and enhancing the Grindstone Lake environment for wildlife, fishing and boating. It also helps to fund our communication and action team efforts. If you enjoy the lake, please consider sending in a \$10 check along with the membership form from the back page. All of us who love the lake will appreciate it.

## Annual Meeting July 6, 9:30 AM

The annual meeting of the Grindstone Lake Association will be held on Saturday, July 6, 1996 starting at 9:30 AM and finishing by 11:00 AM. Once again, The Waterfront Restaurant on Grindstone Lake has agreed to host the event. All persons interested in Grindstone Lake are welcome to attend.

## Water Quality Tests Yield Excellent Readings

During our July meeting, the Wisconsin DNR presented an intriguing variety of water quality testing and action programs. They concluded with the presentation of the initial water quality baseline "Secchi Disc Testing" kit to the association.

One of our members, Bill Hannaford, volunteered to collect the initial testing data by using the kit at different points on the lake on a regular basis and recording the results. This test determines the amount of particles in the water and gives an initial indication of any problems with algae growth or other components in the water that effect visibility.

The weekly readings of the "Secchi Disk" were 21', 25', 26', 23', 25' and 20'. This is *exceptionally* clear water. The DNR was impressed. Water clarity generally is better  
Water Testing (cont. on pg. 2 col. 1)

**Join The Alert Team!** Call Captains are needed make calls when information needs to be disseminated quickly to the members. See back page to volunteer!

Continued from page 1 column 2

when little algae is present, and thus, Grindstone appeared quite healthy in 1995!

In addition, Bill conducted a water sampling test called, "Tropic Status Indicators (TSI). This is a chemical test for phosphorus and chlorophyll that is done 5 times a year (ice out, June, July, August, ice on). We started in July and also did the August reading. Bad weather, (wind, rain) prevented the pre-ice on reading from being taken.

TSI results are shipped to the Wisconsin State Department of Hygiene lab in Madison for analysis. To date, no results of our TSI testing have been reported by the DNR. We hope to share the results at the July meeting.

By collecting regular visual samples and providing the data to the DNR, we have begun to establish a baseline from which the water quality improvement or decline can be monitored.

After our baseline is established, we will become eligible for additional, more comprehensive testing programs conducted by the DNR in conjunction with qualifying lake associations. Some of these tests will be funded by the state, others may require association financial support. The baseline results will provide the indications of which testing is needed.

The association thanks Bill for this critical volunteer effort. We appreciate it!

### **Conservationist Hired for Sawyer County**

The hiring of a Conservationist for Sawyer County was approved by the County Board of Supervisors last fall. The County is now in the

search process with the goal to have the job filled by March 1, 1996.

The conservationists position focuses a variety of activities for managing and coordinating the natural resources for the county. One of the duties is to provide assistance to lake property owners and lake associations to protect water quality. We thank Shirley Suhsen (Chair) and her Land Conservation Committee in their efforts to get this funded by the County.

### **Fish Crib Program Gets A Boost!**

Walleyes Forever has made an excellent offer to help boost the Fish Crib Fund Drive for Grindstone Lake. Walleyes Forever is conducting a "Catch and Release" Walleye Tournament on Grindstone Lake this fall. They have offered to make a generous donation to the Fish Crib Fund in return for volunteer labor to help them conduct their tournament. The volunteers will weigh the catch on the lake to allow for quick release of the walleyes and will assist with record keeping for the tournament.

During the meeting the offer was discussed. It was determined that since the tournament was going to be held with or without our assistance. Furthermore, an ample pool of volunteers will help return fish to the water more quickly, reducing potential damage to the fish populations. For these reasons, it is in our interest to try and coordinate a Grindstone Lake Association volunteer team. By voice vote, the resolution to coordinate volunteers and use the donation from Walleyes Forever to boost the Fish Crib Fund was passed.

### **Fish Crib Fund Drive Continues**

The Fish Crib Fund is another example of the Grindstone Lake Association working in cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR. The fund aims to raise sufficient money to finance the DNR in the placement of high tech, quality fish structures into Grindstone Lake in critical areas. The cribs increase the populations of

many beneficial species and thereby increase the feed and populations of the popular walleye and muskie. Currently, the fund has gathered donations totaling over \$500. Donation boxes have been placed in restraints and bars. A proposal to conduct a fund raising raffle was passed during the July meeting. If you would care to donate, send a check and the form from the back page of this newsletter.

### **Water Safety Buoy's Funded**

The Water Safety Action Team has recommended a small number of regulation water hazard buoys be placed in the lake where underwater obstructions are near the surface and could threaten props, keels and centerboards. During the July meeting, the team proposed that the Association use some of the general funds from membership dues to fund the purchase of the buoy's. Action team members volunteered to handle placement in the spring and removal in the fall. This proposal passed on a voice vote.

The team needs your help in locating the buoys on the proper sites. Please contact Carl Christensen of the Water Safety Action Team to tell him of obstructions you think should be buoyed.

### **Water Safety Classes Proposed**

The Water Safety Action team has offered to sponsor a Wisconsin Boaters License course for Grindstone Lake Association members. The course is for teens to obtain an operator's license prior to receiving a driver's license and for all people interested in learning better boating safety.

We need a minimum of 10 to conduct the course. If you are interested, please contact Carl Christensen to register.

### **New Zoning Rules Passed!**

A critical determinant in the amount of traffic and stress experienced by Grindstone Lake is the number of "keyhole" access developments that are allowed access to the lake. Currently, Grindstone remains relatively free of days where boat traffic crowds the lake. This is largely because much of the land is held privately with few developments that have no lake frontage but have access rights to the lake.

Sawyer County has recently passed reasonable legislation establishing rules for "keyhole" access to the lake. Members of the Grindstone Lake Association were a useful part of the discussion of what the rules should be. In particular, Don MacIntosh spent a number of hours researching the potential rules and helping share information with Grindstone Lake Association members so that they could make informed contributions to the discussion that eventually shaped the new rules.

In summary, the new rules are:

1. There must be 100 feet of frontage on the lake to provide easements for lake access to property that has no lake frontage.
2. No more than 5 single dwelling properties may use one frontage easement for lake access.

This is a good example of the kind of information that our Alert Team would like to share with all members through our calling chain. When events affecting Grindstone Lake are pending, the Alert Team will place calls to their 8 - 12 number, pass on the information and allow the GLA member to decide what action to take and what position to take in respect to the issue at hand. Please volunteer to be a call captain on our Alert Team.

## **Grindstone Lake Board Expanded**

In an effort to provide more effective guidance of the association, a resolution was presented and passed during the July meeting to expand the Board of Directors to include the head of all of the action teams. Now the wisdom and time of five more association members will help to direct the operations of the association.

### **Volunteers Needed**

As always, the accomplishments of the association are dependent upon the volunteer actions of its members. We need each one of you that has interest to step forward and help in what ever way best fits your interests and abilities. If you would like to help with anything from preparation of the newsletter to water quality testing, please call a member of the Board or the Action team that best represents your interest area and volunteer to help out! We will all appreciate your contributions.

### **Special Thanks!**

The Association would like to extend a special thank you to Rick at the Waterfront Restaurant and Bar for his hospitality. Rick contributed the use of his entire facility for free to allow us to conduct our meeting. This generous contribution is appreciated by all.

PS. for a great piece of Walleye, plan a dinner at The Waterfront!

**Join The Alert Team!** Call Captains are needed. Each captain is given 8 - 12 phone numbers to call when information needs to be disseminated quickly to the members.

To Volunteer:  
Call 612-922-5379 or fax this form to Tom Gleason 612-922-8529:

**YES! Sign me up as an Alert Team Call Captain!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax (not required): \_\_\_\_\_

GLA Member? Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

**The Grindstone Lake Association Membership Form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hm Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check out to:  
The Grindstone Lake Association  
Membership Fee: \$10.00**

Send your check and this form to:  
Tom Gleason  
4444 Fondell Drive  
Edina, MN. 55435

Questions? Call Tom at 612-922-5379

**The Grindstone Lake Association Fish Crib Fund Donation Form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hm Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check out to:  
The Wisconsin DNR**

Send your check and this form to:  
Tom Gleason  
4444 Fondell Drive  
Edina, MN. 55435

Questions? Call Brent Wernlund at:



**The Grindstone Lake Association Board of Directors**

President - Eric Nilsson : 612-646-8850 or 715-634-2393

Treasurer - Tom Gleason: 612-922-5379 or 715-634-5166

Government Issues Team - Don MacIntosh: 715-634-2338

Environment Action Team - Bill Hannaford: 715-834-6362 or 715-634-8676

Land Use Action Team- Bruce Miller: 715-634-5733

Water Safety Action Team- Carl Christensen: 612-434-6410

Fishing Habitat Action Team- Brent Wernlund: 715-386-1611 or 715-386-8236

Communications Action Team - Don MacIntosh: 715-634-2338

# The Grindstone Trumpeter

Volume 3 Issue 2 August, 1996

## Slate of Nine Board Members to be Presented

At the annual meeting of the Grindstone Lake Association on July 6, it was announced that a nominating committee would be formed to identify candidates for election to the board of directors. This committee met during the month of July to propose a slate of directors for election at the next assembly meeting on August 31 at 9 a.m. at The Waterfront on Grindstone Lake.

Criteria for selection of prospective board members included location on lake in order to give broader representation around Grindstone, commitment to environment/water quality and willingness to serve. In addition, an effort was made to achieve a mix of fulltime and seasonal residents to foster greater year around participation.

The nine members selected by the nominating committee are:

- A • Eric Nilsson  
incumbent president  
(634-7145)
- A • Tom Gleason  
incumbent secy/treasurer  
(634-5166)
- Tom Schofield  
(634-8920)
- Gerald Donovan  
(634-5993)
- Doug Hare  
(634-1581)
- A • Marilyn Buman  
(634-8265)
- Ray Moeller  
(634-4911)
- Jim Rigotti  
(634-2562)

- Bruce Johnson  
(634-3358)

If you have any questions of these candidates, you may call them at the above telephone numbers.

Leaders of the action teams, who have been serving informally as directors during the organizational start-up period, will be asked to continue meeting with the board of directors. However, action team leaders have not been included on the new slate of directors unless they indicated an interest in serving a dual post as director and action team leader. Anyone interested in serving on any of the action teams may contact any of the members whose names appear in this newsletter.

### Fish Crib Fund Continues to Grow

Brent Wernlund, Fishing Habitat Action Team Leader, reports that \$675 has been contributed to the Grindstone Fish Crib Fund as of July 6. Donations have continued to come in during July and August, so that amount could be significantly higher when reported at the August 31 meeting.

## Grindstone Lake Association Joins Forces with Other Lake Advocates

At the July 6 meeting, the Grindstone Lake Association board voted to contribute to the local share of the Lake Classification Grant approved June 1, 1996 and jointly sponsored by Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Sawyer County Zoning and area lake associations. The grant will be used to assess the environmental vulnerability of lakes in Sawyer County, identifying sensitive

eco-systems that might benefit from such measures as less development and restriction of vegetation removal. The board also voted to join the Sawyer County Lakes Forum and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

*Special Thanks to Rick Kramer, owner of the Waterfront Restaurant, for continuing to support the association with meeting facilities.*

## Grindstone Water Quality: Excellent for Now, More Effort Needed!

Bill Hannaford, Water Quality Team Leader, conducted the first round of water quality tests on Grindstone Lake during July and August of 1995. The second round of testing began in June of this year and will continue throughout the summer, with the final measurement to occur just before the lake freezes up in the fall.

Working with the DNR's Self Help Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Program, Bill takes weekly Secchi disk readings for water clarity and collects monthly data on temperature, chlorophyll, and phosphorus. These monthly data are sent to the State Lab of Hygiene for analysis and comparison with other area lakes. The comparative results of the July and August 1995 tests, returned in July of 1996, were outstanding: Grindstone matched up with lakes in the "best" category for clarity, chlorophyll, and phosphorus. (Dissolved oxygen levels, another measure of water quality, were not monitored in 1995 or 1996 due to DNR funding limitations.)

Bill noted Secchi disk readings that were consistently in the 23 to 26 foot range during the summer of 1995. While the best reading for clarity (since measuring began) was an amazing 35 feet on June 11 of this year, Bill reports that since then, readings have dropped considerably

--July 1 was 21 feet, and August 1 was 19 feet, reflecting higher concentrations of algae in the water than last year. (These clarity readings, though less impres-

sive than those of 1995, would still place Grindstone in the top category, which includes lakes with average readings greater than 19.5 feet).

## Green is Beautiful -- Or is it?

While wind, rainfall, temperatures and other natural phenomena can cause Secchi disk readings to vary from year to year, it's important for all of us to remember that in general, on clear water lakes like Grindstone, it is algae growth that has the most deleterious effect on clarity. Algae is stimulated to grow by the presence of phosphorus in the lake. While all lakes contain some phosphorus due to the natural decaying of organic matter, probably the greatest damage occurs when more phosphorus is added by fertilizing lawns, leaking septic systems, and agricultural waste/runoff. When really abundant, algae blooms are not just unsightly, they can result in fish kills as the decaying organic matter consumes dissolved oxygen in the water.

We still have relatively good water quality in Grindstone Lake. But as the region continues to develop, this could change rapidly. It will be up to us as property owners and people who care about the lake to find ways to keep it clear. For starters, your lake association has asked the DNR to provide us with equipment for monitoring dissolved oxygen in the lake commencing with the 1997 round. When combined with the testing already underway, a total picture of Grindstone's water quality will emerge over time. And each of us, as property owners, can do our part by realizing that the green lawns of suburbia are not very compatible with high water quality. If we all work together, Grindstone can stay as beautiful in the future as it is today.

# Committee Meets to Plan Social Agenda

Everyone agrees we go to the lake to get away from it all. But what we go for means different things to different folk. At the July 6 meeting of the Grindstone Lake Association, several members expressed an interest in greater opportunities for social interaction.

One couple had recently achieved their dream of retiring to the lake only to find they missed friends back home and did not know how to begin making new ones here. Another had moved from a small lake where everyone knew everyone and had discovered a large lake like

Grindstone or Lac Courte Oreilles presents a unique situation with regard to meeting neighbors other than those on either side of you. Teenagers in particular find it very difficult to meet fellow teens.

With these needs in mind, the following residents met as an adhoc committee July 27 to discuss ways the Grindstone Lake Association might foster social contacts around the lake: Mark Waters, Rita Sirota, Marilyn Buman, Bill and Jody Hannaford, all of Grindstone and Doris Nelson of Lac Courte Oreilles.

Among the ideas presented were a pig roast complete with big top tent and band (anyone interested in helping can call Mark Waters at 634-8286), a diving buddies program for SCUBA enthusiasts (call Bill Hannaford at 634-8676), a fishing contest open only to lake residents, and a breakfast book club, maybe Monday morning to jump start the week after guests leave and the laundry pile beckons (call Jody Hannaford at 634-8676). Anyone with experience in running an open class sailing regatta can call any of the members listed above.

## JOIN THE ALERT TEAM!

Call captains are needed. Each captain will be given phone numbers to call when information needs to be disseminated quickly to members.

To volunteer, call 612-922-5379 or fax this form to Tom Gleason 612-922-8529.

YES! Sign me up as an Alert Team Call Captain.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (not required) \_\_\_\_\_

## Things to Do and Places to Go...

- Bass Lake Women's Club, 3rd Tues. of month except July, Aug. at Bass Lake Town Hall, Peggy Welch 634-6417
- Piece-Makers Quilting Guild, 2nd Mon. of month at Senior Citizens Community Center, 10 a.m., Betty Augustine, 462-9030
- Party Bridge, Tues. nights at Hardies, and Duplicate Bridge (ACBL sanctioned), Thur. nights, 7 p.m. at Senior Citizens Community Center, notify Mary Jo Collins 634-5345 ahead of time.
- Friends of the Library, 2nd Sat. of month, 9 a.m. at Library, Lorraine Whyte 634-4488
- Hayward Area Garden Club, 2nd Tues. afternoon of month, except Jan. Feb., Noreen Doering, 462-9013
- Hayward Area Lioness Club, 3rd Thur. of month, dinner meeting at area restaurants, service work, active in all community events, Lorraine Wick, 462-3851
- Hayward Senior Citizens Community Center, 634-3000 for newsletter
- Cable Natural History Museum, extensive schedule of events, 798-3890
- Northwoods Humane Society, 634-5394

# Northshore Reflections

By now, you're probably used to the red signs on green poles that sprouted throughout the county as part of the 911 Office of Emergency Planning. But be advised--now is not the time to order new stationery or hundreds of check blanks with your current address. The changeover to addresses based on the new 911 grid is expected to come as early as this winter. Just trying to recall all the people who will need to be notified of your new address is mind boggling. For starters, the entire Grindstone Lake Association mailing list must be redone.



If you read the insert on the gravel pit controversy, you may be amused (?) to note that taxpayers, ironically, are presently paying for both sides--your donations are helping to fight the permit while your tax dollars are going for the appeal of the circuit court ruling that reversed the county decision to grant the permit that was denied by the Town Board of Bass Lake (sounds like The House That Jack Built, no?)



The enthusiastic response to the Grindstone Lake Association nominating committee's search for board members was heart-warming. There is no shortage of willing hands to both govern and help in other ways. One thing I've noticed--talented peo-

ple seldom volunteer. They get volunteered by someone else!



Who is the nuisance--the bear on our lake premises? Or the person who attracts the bear with bird seed and garbage? Trapping requests to the US Fish and Wildlife Dept. may soon exceed the willingness of the government to provide this service free of charge. It is up to each of us to put our feeders out of reach (this will test your wits!) and to keep smelly (ie. meat and dairy) garbage from detection. Freezing scraps and grease in empty ice cream containers, kitty litter bags and paper cups until time for removal works well. In the many years that I have composted non-meat scraps, the bear has never bothered the pile.



**WANTED:** Observers willing to forego one night of television sitcoms in exchange for observing your county government in action. It just might be fun and think how democratic you'd feel the next morning.



Personally, I think one of the very first tasks the new association board of directors should undertake is replacement of the term "action team." Suggestions, anyone?

MB

GLA OFFICERS AND ACTION TEAM LEADERS	
<b>President</b>	
Eric Nilsson	612-646-8850 715-634-7145
<b>Secy/Treasurer</b>	
Tom Gleason	612-922-5379 715-634-5166
<b>Government Issues Team</b>	
Don MacIntosh	715-634-2338
<b>Water Quality Action Team</b>	
Bill Hannaford	715-834-6362 715-634-8676
<b>Land Preservation Team</b>	
Bruce Miller	715-634-5733
<b>Water Safety Action Team</b>	
Carl Christensen	612-434-6410
<b>Fishing Habitat Team</b>	
Brent Wernlund	715-386-1611 715-386-8236
<b>Communications Team</b>	
Marilyn Buman	612-476-1268 715-634-8265

FISH CRIB DONATIONS
Make checks payable to Wisconsin DNR and on memo line, write Acct.# FM90-ADM-FM674
Send your check to: Tom Gleason 4444 Fondell Drive Edina, MN 55435
Questions? Call Brent Wernlund at 715-386-1611 or 715-386-8236

## President's Corner

A trend is afoot affecting the term "locals". The trend has implications for our common treasure--Grindstone Lake. Consider, for example, the following observations: 1) Over the past year, my family and I have watched eagerly as a local contractor and his workmen have constructed our new lake home. With a keen interest in their work, I've made a point of getting to know them. My standard question is, "How long have you lived up here?" Each of them, it turns out, is a transplant from somewhere else. None is a "local" in the sense of growing up in the Hayward area. 2) Last winter, while out skiing on the ice one night, I was impressed by how many lights marked the shoreline of Grindstone. On a similar outing 20 years ago, I was struck by the absence of lights. Add to my observations the well-publicized and immutable facts that older baby-boomers soon will swell the ranks of the retired and that telecommuting has become accepted practice, and you can see the trend: More newcomers are likely to move "to the lake"--our lake--and more seasonal residents will become permanent residents. The term "locals" will have to be redefined.

Personally, I have mixed feelings about this trend. On one hand, I think it's wonderful that people appreciate the beauty of Grindstone and its natural environs. On the other, I worry that with the many people who appreciate our neck of the woods will come forces that threaten it, either deliberately for short-term and short-sighted gain, or inadvertently, through neglect and lack of awareness. The formation of our association has been one small step in raising peoples' awareness of what helps and what harms our common treasure. The appointment of Dale Olson as the Sawyer County Conservationist is another step. But these are only steps in a process, and each of us needs to participate. Each of us, whether an old-timer or a newcomer, a permanent resident or a seasonal/weekender, is responsible for preserving what is and can remain an enduring jewel--Grindstone Lake and its surroundings.

A Smile and a Handshake,

Eric Nilsson  
President

*If all of us buy a place "up north" to get away from it all, we won't be getting away from anything.*

*Laketides 8/96*

*Most of the best decisions about lake use will probably be made over a kitchen table and a cup of coffee--people building trust and respect and trying to make choices that are best for the lake and acceptable for its people.*

*reprinted from  
Laketides, Wisconsin  
Lakes Partnership, 8/96*

# Property Tax Assessments...Going Up

Don MacIntosh reported at the July 6 association meeting that the school district has proposed a reduction in property tax assessment of 3 mils as a result of the new formula passed by the state legislature to eventually fund 60% of school budgets through alternate means. That's the good news.

The bad news is that Bass Lake property owners can look for substantial re-assessments next year. According to assessor Bob Irwin, the average Bass Lake property assessment is now 71%

of fair market value as determined by the state of Wisconsin, and the percentage will probably be down to 65% this year. The state expects assessments to be 100% of fair market value. If a township is out of compliance (ie. below 90%) for four years, the state forces re-assessment. Bass Lake has been out of compliance for three years, Irwin stated.

"If the average drops to 50%, it would really be a shock to bring it into compliance," he added. What can concerned citizens do?

"Not much," he said. "The only way to stop what's happening is to convince your neighbor not to sell. It's your neighbors that sell who are creating the problem." Of course, keeping an eye on those elected to spend your money will help.

Your assessment only determines how big your proportion of the total tax load will be. Elected officials determine how big that total tax load will be. As county clerk Chris Mayberry says, "We must spend wisely."

## **\$15,000 in Prizes Pledged for Walleye Bonanza Sept. 7 & 8**

Volunteers are still needed to assist with the Walleye Bonanza catch-and-release fishing contest Saturday September 7 (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Sunday September 8 (7 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Interested association members are asked to help weigh and measure and to assist contest officials. A portion of contest proceeds will be donated to the fish crib fund in return for volunteers' assistance.

The tournament, to be held on Grindstone and Lac Courte Oreilles, is sponsored by Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin, with prizes donated by area businesses. Proceeds will benefit walleye projects. Awards will be presented at 4 p.m. Sunday. To volunteer, contact Lon Franson at 634-6274.

## **Update... Gravel Pit on County K**

Don MacIntosh, Government Affairs Action Team Leader, reports that the Sawyer County zoning board is appealing the circuit court ruling which overturned the county board's decision to grant a permit to Vaughn Skille to open a gravel pit on K. The board's decision was overturned due to irregularities in the approval process.

Citizens vs. Gravel Pit, headed by Jean Logsdon of Lac Courte Oreilles and Alex Cameron, attorney and resident of Lac Courte Oreilles, opposes the establishment of the gravel pit. The Bass Lake Township Board also opposed the granting of a conditional use permit for the gravel pit, but was subsequently overruled by the county board

of supervisors.

Neither the Courte Oreilles Lake Association nor the Grindstone Lake Association has taken an official stance on the gravel pit, but both associations will continue to inform members as part of their mission to keep members abreast of matters impacting the lake environment.

Residents interested in helping to defeat the granting of the permit may send donations to:

Citizens vs. Gravel Pit  
c/o Jean Logsdon  
Route 2, Box 2161  
Hayward, WI 54843



# Local Government Affairs

## New County Jail Could Be Expensive Proposition

Proposals which could ultimately result in a Sawyer County jail costing taxpayers \$10 million are currently under review, according to Chris Mayberry, County Clerk.

"Now is the time for anyone concerned about the extent of the project to get involved," says Mayberry. "Once you get a train rolling down the track, you don't stop it. We are already very far along in the discussions."

The Criminal Justice Planning Committee has engaged an architect to propose solutions ranging from simple renovation to a new facility that could cost \$10 million and raise the county's share of property taxes 30%, according to Elgin Gunderson, member of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors.

"State jail inspectors cite us for overcrowding," states Mayberry,

"but they don't bring their checkbook! Dollars don't always solve problems," he adds. "We need to spend wisely. The community that foots the bill needs to be involved. This thing could go to the top if there is no input."

The search for solutions to current overcrowding in the county jail is being spearheaded by sheriff's department employees in conjunction with the Public Safety Committee of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors. Sawyer County has a higher rate of criminal activity than surrounding counties, in part because the population doubles, or more, in the summer months, Mayberry contends.

Unfortunately, criminal activity is proportionate to population. Anyone interested in attending meetings of the Criminal Justice Planning Committee in

September or October can contact the Grindstone area's county supervisor and member of the Criminal Justice Planning Committee Shirley Suhsen, 634-4522, with regard to time and place or Chris Mayberry, 634-4866. Other officials involved in the planning process are Hal Helwig, chair of the Public Safety Committee, Lt. Robert Ornberg, jail supervisor, and Donald Sheehan, sheriff.

## New Fishing Regulation for Grindstone - January 1, 1997

Grindstone Lake will fall under a newly passed fishing regulation limiting the size of walleyes taken from the lake beginning Jan.1, 1997, according to Frank Pratt, Wisconsin DNR. One of a relatively small number of lakes slated for slot regulation, Grindstone was included because it possesses a crop of young walleyes which need special protection now in order to

benefit walleye fishing two or three years from now, Pratt says.

The slot regulation, which will affect the tail end of ice fishing this winter, protects walleyes larger than 14 inches and smaller than 18 inches in an attempt to build up the population.

WANT TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN? CLIP AND MAIL THE COUPON BELOW:

to SAWYER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Keep the lid on. Taxes are already too high.
- Go for it. We need a first rate jail facility.
- Other (print politely please)

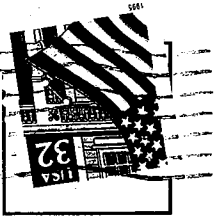
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Concerned Citizen Communique  
Route 2, Box 2425A  
Hayward, WI 54843



Randy & Joanna  
Kovelstad  
Rt 2 Box 2421  
Hayward, WI 54843



c/o Tom Gleason  
4444 Fondell Drive  
Edina, MN 55435

**Grindstone Lake Association**



**GRINDSTONE LAKE ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out to The Grindstone Lake Association  
Membership Fee \$10

Send your check and this form to  
Tom Gleason  
4444 Fondell Drive  
Edina, MN 55435

Dues may also be paid to: Al Butterbaugh @ Lakeview

**Meeting Scheduled  
Labor Day Weekend**

A special election meeting has been called to elect additional Grindstone Lake Association board members to assist in the running of the association. The meeting will be held Saturday August 31 at 9 a.m. at The Waterfront Restaurant. Officers and action team leaders will meet at 8:30 a.m. Coffee will be served. This is your chance for an end of summer get-together with fellow lake residents.



## Board Calls for Active Volunteers

Recently the board members met to review the gains of the Association in 1994 and to determine what accomplishments can be anticipated for 1995. It was clear that 1995 needs to leverage the structure established last year by including more members in active volunteer work if we are to accomplish the goals of the Association.

All members have the ability to contribute. With some it may be with funding, others with their skills, others with their time, others with their voice speaking up on an issue. The progress we made in building an association last year has provided the infrastructure to support and leverage your desire to contribute. Now we need you to speak-up and let us know where you would like to help.

## **Association Members Voice Too Weak on Zoning Decisions**

Over the winter, the Association; spear-headed by Don MacIntosh, made members living in the Hayward area aware of two issues effecting the use of the land on and around Grindstone Lake. Interested people then attended hearings and stated their own personal views.

The first issue, spoken in favor of by the majority of Association Members attending, has resulted in the Shoreland Amendments proposal (see related article).

The outcome of the second issue, the sand and gravel pulverizing factory, went against the views expressed by the majority of the Grindstone Lake Association members that attended the meetings and made statements. (Continued on page 2 column 1)

## Grindstone Lake Association

### Meeting Scheduled for July 2, 1995

The next meeting of the Grindstone Lake Association will be on Saturday, July 1, 1995 from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. We will meet at the Waterfront restaurant located off of County Road K at the Southwest corner of the lake, just east of the cranberry fields. All members and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

#### Agenda:

- Review of progress to date
- Action Team Update Reports
- Affirmation of Initiatives and Goals
- Expenses Report

Please join us for this meeting so we can hear your views and ideas for the lake.

#### **Join an Action Team!**

The Association would like YOUR input. Please feel free to contact the action team leader to inform, raise questions or volunteer to help secure Grindstone's future. Action teams and Action Leaders are:

- ♦ Water Quality -- (open position need a volunteer!)
- ♦ Land Use -- Lorna Gleason, 612-922-5379
- ♦ Fishing Habitat -- Brent Wernlund, 715-386-1611
- ♦ Water Safety -- Carl Christensen, 612-434-6410
- ♦ Communications & Government Relations -- Don MacIntosh, 715-634-2338

VOLUNTEERS: from PG. 1 Column 1

The proposal was initially turned down, but later reversed when the factory owner who was requesting the zoning variance presented 300 "letters" from residents that wanted the factory built.

It is clear that a coordinated voice of concerned property owners can make a difference, but currently Grindstone Lake Association members are not participating in the decision process early enough, often enough or with enough voices. We need you to all get involved in the issues that matter to you. It is no longer sufficient to rely upon year round residents to be the only lake property owners voices heard by the governing bodies. We need all members to call, write, or attend hearings.

The Association has committed to providing you with information about issues of concern to lake property owners so that you can decide if, on what side and how, you will become involved in the issues. Currently, we need to expand the number of members that actively volunteer to work on our association action team initiatives and to help with phone chains to keep the membership informed in a timely manner.

To help with this, the board will propose to expand it's membership to include the action team leaders on the board of directors at the July meeting. Further, we will publish the dates of board meetings so that any member of the Association may attend.

If you care about the lake, it's environmental quality, the land and how it is used, what is planned by the governing bodies in and around the lake, or about communicating, educating or socializing with other Grindstone Lake Association members, than we need you

The Grindstone Lake Association

**Our Mission is:**

To preserve and enhance the habitat of Grindstone Lake and the value of lake property ownership.

**Our Means are:**

1. Monitoring lake water quality and shoreline use and developing appropriate action plans.
2. Dissemination of information about matters affecting Grindstone.
3. Activities that enhance the quality of lake ownership and association membership.

We cannot stop change, nor deny newcomers the pleasures enjoyed for many years at Grindstone Lake. However, *we can manage* wisely the environment in and around the lake. Accordingly, we would like to invite you to join with us to form the Grindstone Lake Association.

**YES! I would like to join!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lake Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Family Membership \$50
- Individual Membership \$35
- Keep me on your mailing list
- Remove me from your mailing list

Membership checks should be The Grindstone Lake Association.

Mail to: Tom Gleason  
4444 Fondell Dr.  
Edina, MN. 55435

Fax Inquiries or changes to Tom Gleason at 612-922-8529 or call 612-922-5379

to join an action team as an active volunteer! We need you to recruit your friends that have not become members or become active in the Association to join and help out! Call an action team leader to volunteer.

### **Action Team Meeting Scheduled**

The Grindstone Lake Association Board will meet to review action team initiatives and plan the July meeting on June 10, 1995 at 11:00 AM at the Waterfront Restaurant. If you are interested, please feel free to join us at the meeting.

### **Shoreland Amendments**

At its April 21 meeting, the Sawyer County Zoning Committee recommended for adoption some important amendments to the county zoning ordinance. If adopted by the Sawyer County Board, these amendments would protect lakes against unlimited access by high-density developments on "backlots" or "off shore" property. The salient features are: (a) access for backlots would have to be a minimum of 100 feet wide and 200 feet deep, excluding wetlands; (b) "buffer zones" 25 feet wide inside each side of the access lot would have to left completely undisturbed; (c) only 4 single family lots would be permitted to use the access lot; (d) only one accessory building (NOT boat storage or a pressurized water system) would be allowed on the access lot, and (e) creation of an access lot would be by conditional use permit only. Association members are encouraged to express their support for these amendments by writing to:

Clarence Liddicoat, Chairman  
Sawyer County Zoning Committee  
Sawyer County Courthouse  
Hayward, WI. 54843

All you need to say is that you "support the shoreland amendments as recommended by the zoning committee."

### **Land Use and Zoning**

#### What Can I do? What Can My Neighbor Do?

Can they really put in a new sand mine? Can I build or remodel a boat house? Can I put an outdoor privy on my own land? What kind of permit do I need to build or remodel? What are the setbacks for cabins, wells, septic, systems, or for that matter, what are "setbacks" anyway? Land use and zoning issues, particularly in lake areas, often seem complex and confusing to most people.

For people on Grindstone Lake, almost everything you may want to do on, or to, your property will necessitate obtaining a Land Use Permit or Land Use Variance from Sawyer County. This includes both new construction, and most remodeling, as well as changes in zoning, private waste disposal systems, setbacks, lot size.

Like many rural counties, the Sawyer County Board or Commissioners has adopted Land Use and Zoning Regulations. It also has a professional staff in the Sawyer County Zoning Administration office, located in the County Courthouse, 406 Main Street, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843 (715) 634-8288.

The County Zoning Administrator is David Heath. The Deputy Zoning Administrator is Robyn Thake. The Assistant Sanitarian is Morton Maki and William Christman is the Code Enforcement Officer. Cindy Kruczenski is the Secretary for Soil and Sanitation and Karen Ray is the Zoning Secretary.

There are two terms that are frequently used in land use law. "Setbacks" are the distances from lot lines and physical features required for placement of buildings, wells, and septic systems. (see LAND USE: page 4 column 2)

### Fish Cribs Drive Launched! Aims to Increase Fish Populations

The Fishing Habitat Action Team has launched the drive to improve the fish populations in Grindstone Lake. In meetings with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, a variety of alternatives to improve fish populations were discussed. The DNR made it clear that the most effective way to increase fish populations was to install artificial reefs, known as fish cribs. While stocking is useful, proper habitat is essential to protect and increase fish populations. Experience with fish cribs in other lakes has shown exciting results!

"Grindstone Lake is one of those waters that seems to scream "habitat", says Frank B. Pratt, Senior Fisheries Biologist for the Wisconsin DNR. "It also has a fish community (walleye/smallmouth) well suited and responsive to habitat management. For Grindstone Lake, I would recommend a long term (5 - 10 yr.) hyper-habitat program of 500 Space Age structures... with an equal number of smallmouth bass spawning half-logs" Mr. Pratt concludes.

### **Contribution Jars Installed in Bars!**

Since government funding for fish habitat development is no longer available, the Association will lead the drive to get donations for the purchase of fish cribs. The team has placed contribution collection jars at local businesses and bars. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 cribs for the 1995 season and eventually raise sufficient funds for 300 of the cribs.

See the insert for additional information on the fish habitat in Grindstone Lake and the fish cribs.

### Fish Crib Donations Tax Deductible

If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, send a check made payable to: Wisconsin DNR Acnt# FM 90-ADM-FM674. You must make it to the DNR for it to be tax deductible. **DO NOT send it to the DNR directly.** Send checks to Tom Gleason, 4444 Fondell Drive//Edina, MN. 55435. They will be pooled together, then remitted to the DNR to purchase cribs for use in Grindstone Lake.

### LAND USE: from page 3 column 2

"Variance" is simply official permission to go beyond what is called for in the Zoning ordinance, for example, to build a deck closer to the lake than is permitted, or to replace a garage on a sub-standard lot, or for any other matter that does not fit the ordinance. One applies, for a variance at the county, and a hearing is held to determine whether to allow the property owner to proceed.

A Land Use Permit is required before any building or structure is erected, moved, or structurally altered. Permits are required for: dwellings, additions, garages, accessory buildings, farm structures, mobile homes, signs and satellite dishes.

There is no permit required for buildings of less than 100 square feet in size, but they must still meet setback requirements. Land Use Permits are also required for some grading projects.

To obtain a Land Use Permit, call or visit the Sawyer County Zoning Administration office. For any work, it is the responsibility of both the owner and any contractors to obtain all the necessary permits. No work on any structure or private sewage system can start until a proper permit has been issued. Any work (See LAND USE: page 5 column 1)

## Water Safety Course Planned

The Water Safety Action Team has announced that the DNR will be conducting a two day Water and Boating safety classes at the Hayward Armory on June 28, 1995 and June 29, 1995 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM each day. You should be at least 12 years old and interested in learning safety skills to attend.

The Association will then conduct an on-water supplementary class at the Waterfront Restaurant at a day and time to be announced. If you have questions about either class, contact Karl Christensen 612-343-6410 for more information.

(LAND USE: From page 4 column 2) done without these permits makes the violator subject to a "Citation" and possible fine.

To build in Sawyer County, the lot size in the Residential (R-1) and Residential/Recreational 1 & 2 (RR-1 & RR-2) zoning districts, the minimum lot size has to be at least 20,000 square feet in size and at least 100 feet wide. In addition, some smaller lots created prior to the adoption of a county zoning program may be "grandparented in" and are likely buildable under the sub-standard lot provision of the ordinance.

On Grindstone Lake, except in the Northwoods Beach Area, all cabins homes, and decks must be, by ordinance, 75 feet from the normal high-water elevation of the lake, and no less than 40 feet from the rear lot line of the property. They must also be at least 10 feet from one side line of the lot, and at least 30 feet from the other side line.

Accessory buildings, such as garages, must be set back 63 feet from the counter line of town roads, and 75 feet from County roads. Septic tanks must be 25 feet from a well, 5 feet from

a building, 2 feet from a lot line, and 25 feet away from the high-water mark of the lake.

On a older, established lake, like Grindstone, many cabins were build on sub-standard lots, and do not meet current setback requirements. In such a situation, prior to making any changes, it is advisable to contact the Zoning Office for information on how to obtain a Variance.

There is an exception in the zoning regulations for property owners in the Northwoods Beach sub-division on Grindstone Lake. When this sub-division was originally plotted out, the developers wanted the shoreline owned by the public. Thus, up to today Northwoods Beach property owners do not own all the property between their cabins and Grindstone Lake. Technically, it is "owned" by Bass Lake Township, and will be until the Town turns it over to property owners in some manner. Check with the County Zoning office on the specific setbacks.

Zoning issues which are now up for discussion include increasing the size of lots which can be built upon, questions about lake access when people build dwellings (single family or multiple-family) off-lake and the impact on lakes by uses of land near the lakes.

For more information on zoning, or for a copy of the regulations (and those now up for review), please contact the Zoning Office, or bring up zoning and land use concerns that you would like help on at the Memorial Day meeting.

*If you have information for the newsletter, please send it to Tom Gleason, 4444 Fondell Dr.// Edina, MN. 55435 or fax it to Tom at 612-922-8529.*