

GETTING TO KNOW GRINDSTONE...



Grindstone Lake is a 3,117 acre Class One lake located in Sawyer County, Wisconsin in the Town of Bass Lake. It is a drainage lake with the main input from Grindstone Creek and outflows into Lac Court Oreilles through Little Grindstone Lake and Little Grindstone Creek.

Grindstone Creek is fed by a series of natural springs (Upper Grindstone, Grindstone, Graveyard, and Lower Grindstone Springs). Secchi depth readings in the lake averaged 23 feet from 1993 to 2005. The watershed area is approximately 9,675 acres. The maximum depth is 60 feet, with a mean depth of 30 feet.

The lake has 10.5 miles of shoreline and volume of 92,111 acre feet.

The eastern portion of the Grindstone Lake lies within the boundaries of the Lac Court Oreilles (LCO) band of Ojibwa Reservation. There are approximately 300 property owners on the lake, of which only 160 or so have joined the Grindstone Lake Association to date.

The GLA is a community of neighbors dedicated to promoting the conservation and enjoyment of our precious lake! We thank you for your membership and ask that you urge your neighbors to join as well.

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ANNUAL GLA MEETING & PICNIC

Plan to attend the annual GLA meeting, followed by the picnic, at the Bass Lake Town Hall on **Saturday, July 7th at 10am.**

There will be lots of good food served and plans are afoot to have a licensed bar tender provide beer service.

Frank Pratt has agreed to give a presentation on the Grindstone Lake fishery and lure making. He would like to do some hands-on directed primarily at kids, so bring along your kiddies to the picnic.

Frank was the fisheries biologist for waters in Rusk and Sawyer Counties and retired from the DNR last year after 37 year career working out of the Hayward DNR Service Center.



It will be a great afternoon and we look forward to seeing you all there

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear G.L.A Members and Friends,

Thank you for your support of the Association! Members, volunteers, board members, and friends all contribute to our success allowing the Association to provide value to its members and stakeholders.

2011 Grindstone Lake Association Accomplishments

- ▶ Implemented a Clean Boats Clean Waters program at the DNR Landing resulting in 598 boat inspections and the collection of valuable data on Grindstone boaters.
- ▶ Completed the Critical Habitat Assessment resulting in a formal report and an extensive series of informational maps on the shoreline features available for viewing at www.grindstonelake.org.
- ▶ Coordinated the first year of treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed infestation in Little Grindstone Lake, the body of water connecting Grindstone Lake to Lac Court Oreilles

Your annual membership dues are a key to supporting the Association's programs including current efforts to continue inspections at the DNR landing, make repairs to the boat ramp, and communicate with members on important issues affecting the Lake such as the DNR consideration of open water duck hunting, proposed dredging of the channel between Grindstone and Lac Court Oreilles, and changes in flood plain definitions.

Please renew or begin your membership online at www.grindstonelake.org, through the form that will be mailed to you in the coming weeks, or in person at the GLA annual meeting on Saturday July 7th at the Bass Lake Town Hall.

Sincerely,

Steve Buss
President, Grindstone Lake Association Board
steven.buss@grindstonelake.org



MEMBERS WANTED!!!

Grindstone Lake needs you! It is time to sign up or renew your Grindstone Lake Association membership. As a member, you empower the association to work on your behalf 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** — including a great picnic at our annual meeting.
- 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

The primary source of revenue for the Grindstone Lake Association is the annual membership fee. Significant annual expenditures include the Annual Picnic held over the July 4th weekend, mailing costs for the membership newsletter, fees for membership in larger lake organizations, and costs related to ongoing lake studies. From time to time the Association receives grant monies that are expended on specific projects and may have matching costs covered by the Association.

In order to maintain out tax exempt status, the GLA can no longer make a direct contribution to the annual 4th of July fireworks display put on by the Waterfront. You are encouraged to make a separate contribution for the fireworks, either with your membership renewal, or directly to our friends and fellow GLA members at the Waterfront.

BOAT RAMP USE ISSUES

By Brian Pabich

Some of you have noticed a significant drop off at the end of the concrete approach of the boat landing. This not only makes it more difficult to load your boat as the trailer falls into the drop off but harder to pull out of the water as well, especially for those without 4 wheel drive vehicles.



Unfortunately, this problem can be blamed on your fellow boaters and a poor practice that has developed over the year called power launching and power loading.

Power launching is the practice of using the boat motor in reverse to pull the boat off of the trailer. Power loading is just the opposite, using the motor to push the boat on to the trailer and is generally considered unsafe.

Neither method is recommended by any boat manufacture. Both of these practices often use high power settings which cause the prop wash that blows out the lake bed area at the end of the ramp resulting in what we now have a large drop off.

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BOAT RAMP USE ISSUES

By Brian Pabich

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Power launching and loading are considered the "lazy way" to do it as you just have someone in the boat and no one needs to get wet.

However, most trailers are designed with rollers, carpeted, or synthetic beds to assist in launching the boat and winches to assist loading the boat.

Simply backing your boat into the water and pushing, or floating it off the trailer is recommended.

As for loading, the winch was designed to pull your boat safely onto the trailer. These recommended procedures

may require a few extra steps, getting a little wet, or wearing some hip waders, but will help to preserve our boat ramp area for years to come.

As for the current drop off, the GLA is working with the DNR to address the issue. Simply filling in the area with rock can be done but defeats the purpose of the dredging that was done a few years back. If the power loading and launching practice continues a hole will develop again and we will be right back where we started.



**Please help us by
not power loading
or launching!**

GLA “CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS” PROGRAM

By Steven Buss

2011 marked Grindstone Lake's first year of formal boat inspections under the **Clean Boats Clean Waters** program. Inspections were conducted at the Wisconsin DNR landing located on County Road K.



The program took place during the fishing opener in May, summer weekends, and the October musky tournament.

The GLA participated in the program to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into Grindstone Lake and to educate boaters on the best practices to lower the risk of spreading AIS between lakes.

The 2011 inspections were conducted by a paid inspection service provider that was partially funded by a Wisconsin DNR grant that is part of a larger Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program in place for Grindstone Lake. A 2012 paid inspection program will require additional grants, or funding from general GLA funds.

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GLA "CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS" PROGRAM

By Steven Buss

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598 = Individual Watercraft Inspected

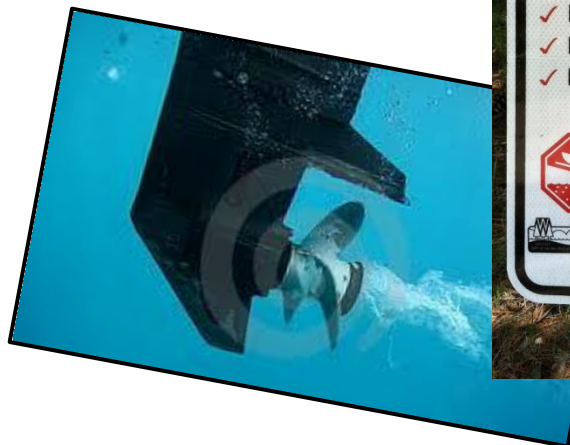
1,384 = Boaters Contacted

390 = Inspection Hours

None of the 598 watercraft and trailers inspected showed evidence of attached plants.

2011 Grindstone Lake Boater Survey Responses:

- ▶ 100% of boaters aware of invasive species law
- ▶ 100% of boaters inspect & remove plants
- ▶ 97% of boaters dispose of bait
- ▶ 100% of boaters drain boat/equipment
- ▶ 99% of boaters drain fish/live well



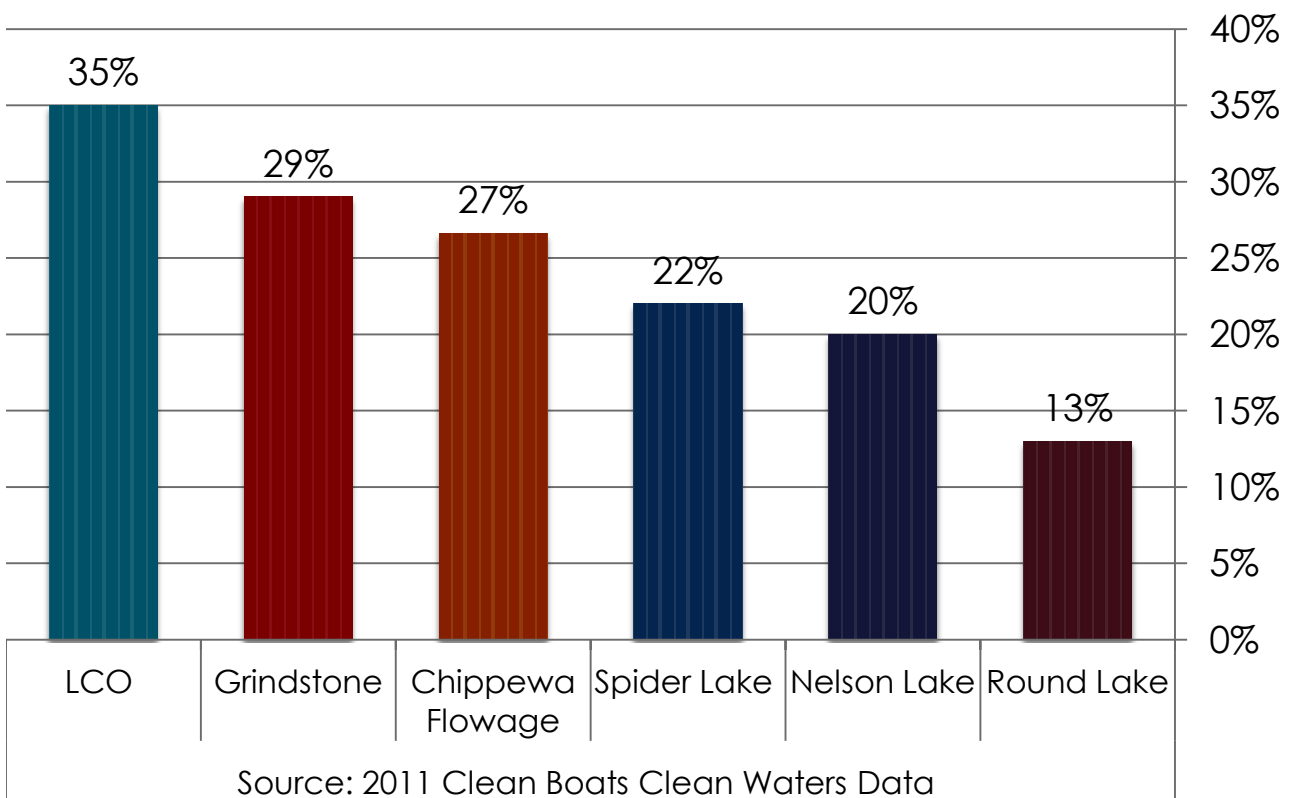
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GLA “CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS” PROGRAM

By Steven Buss

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Boaters Using Another Body of Water in Previous 5 Days



29% of Grindstone Lake boaters used their watercraft on another lake in the previous 5 days – the second highest rate in Sawyer County and substantially higher than the 18% State of Wisconsin average.

CHANNEL DREDGING?

By Brian Pabich

There has been discussion on whether the channel between Grindstone Lake and Lac Court Oreilles should be dredged in order to provide improved boat access between the lakes. This was done in the past, but as with most dredging it only lasts so long.

Times have changed since the previous dredging and there are many new issues that should be addressed. Bigger boats, live wells, invasive species and critical habitat areas are just a few of the issues. This article is for neither for or against dredging, but simply provides a basic list of Pros and Cons to the dredging issue.



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CHANNEL DREDGING?

By Brian Pabich

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The Pros

The pros can best be summed up in a simple statement. The dredging will add the convenience of accessing both lakes for more boats* without tailoring and boat ramp use. (*NOTE - The depth of the proposed dredging is limited, in addition, the area under the County K bridge cannot be dredged as the bridge foundation could be adversely effected. Varying water levels and the bottom topography under the bridge will limit the height, width, and draft of boats that can pass under the bridge and through the proposed dredged areas.)

The Cons

- Dredging may adversely affect lake levels
- Dredging may adversely affect Grindstone outflow water rates
- Some dredging would occur in a Critical Habitat Area
- Dredging will destroy some aquatic plants and animals
- Dredging will increase the risk of invasive species to Grindstone Lake
- Additional boat traffic and wave action will occur in Critical Habitat Areas
- Boats will traverse between lakes without inspection
- Boats transfer of live well water between lakes, including invasive species seed/spores, can occur
- Dredging will only help some boats, tall, deep and wider boats may not benefit
- Dredging may adversely affect lake nutrient outflow/inflow
- Additional boat traffic may affect wildlife currently established in the area
- Dredging may have liability issues
- Additional close in boat traffic for some residences
- Once dredged, not easily undone if desired
- Duration or effectiveness of dredging unknown and not guaranteed
- Unrestricted lake access to both lakes is currently available to **all** boats via boat ramps located relatively close to each other

Again, this represents a basic list of things to consider when weighing in the on the dredging issue. There is no current formal proposal to dredge at this time, just discussion.