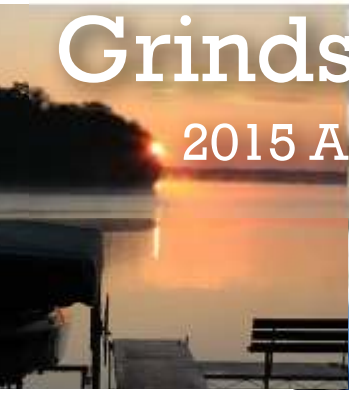


Grindstone Trumpeter

2015 A Gem of a Lake



GRINDSTONE LAKE ASSOCIATION

2015-2016 BOARD MEMBERS

Dag Sohlberg, President
dsohlberg@grindstonelake.org

Bruce Paulsen, Temporary Treasurer
btpaulsen@cheqnet.net

Rich Post, Secretary
rpost001@hotmail.com

Steve Boger, Clean Boats/Clean Waters
drsteve@minnetonkadental.com

Frank Cossetta, Membership
fcossetta@gmail.com

Karen Mumford, Environmental
mumforkg@uwec.edu

Dan Tyrolt, Advisor
ddtyrolt@cheqnet.net

Dee Hobbie, Trumpeter Publisher (*Volunteer*)

Photo credits in this issue, Steve Boger, Dee Hobbie, Trent Johnson, Tara Johnson-Kuhlow, David & Mary Kieffer, Dan Kieffer, Rich Post, Dag Sohlberg.

President's Message

Dear Grindstone Lake Association Members,

The articles of incorporation of Grindstone Lake Association, Inc., were signed June 10, 1994 for the purposes of studying, promoting, and improving the quality of the environment in and around Grindstone Lake. The first directors of the association were Eric Nilsson, Tom Gleason, and Lorna Gleason. They, and others, did an outstanding job of building a lake association which continues to meet the founding goals. **Grindstone Lake remains the ONLY major lake in Sawyer County free of aquatic invasive species (AIS)! This has not happened by accident, but only through the energetic work of GLA member volunteers.**

If Grindstone Lake is to remain AIS free and with a healthy water quality we need to build on this good work. We all come to Grindstone to relax, renew, and enjoy nature, but without effort, what we come here for will cease to exist. So please do your part – follow lake property ownership best practices and volunteer to serve on the GLA board! We will gladly welcome new volunteers at the **4th of July meeting** and picnic!

I look forward to seeing you there.

With best regards,
Dag Sohlberg, GLA President



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP GRINDSTONE LAKE? VOLUNTEER!

In addition to becoming a board member, there are many opportunities to become more involved in the association. Please reach out to a board member, or complete the volunteer form at www.grindstonelake.org and then click on **VOLUNTEER**.



GLA MEMBERS WANTED AND NEEDED

If you are reading this, you are likely already a Grindstone Lake Association Member. If you are not, please join! And encourage any neighbors who may not be members to join as well. Membership is not restricted to lakeshore owners. We encourage family members who enjoy our beautiful lake to join as well. Sign up on line or at our July 4th meeting and picnic at the Bass Lake Township Hall.





The 2015 Grindstone Lake Association Annual Business Meeting and Picnic

will be held at the Bass Lake Township pavilion on County Road K on Saturday, July 4th commencing at 10:00 AM. It is important that you attend and learn what is going on with our lake and also so that you can provide your own input.

Frank Pratt, retired after 35 years with the Hayward DNR office, will give a very informative presentation on the state of our lake and the watershed and we will again have door prize drawings. After the meeting we will have a catered picnic with plenty of good food and refreshments, including beer on tap!

There is no charge to attend, and feel free to bring any guests you may be hosting for the 4th. We should be finished by noon so there will be lots of time to enjoy the lake afterwards.



MONITOR BACK AT BOAT LAUNCH

Our own Grindstone Lake is one of the most beautiful and highly regarded lakes in the state of Wisconsin. We have an extremely clear lake and one of the reasons for that is the absence of Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels, as do many similar lakes in Wisconsin and Minnesota. If they were to become established in Grindstone, the damage to water quality and the cost of eradication can be significant, if not overwhelming.

To that end, the Grindstone Lake Association has been working with the Wisconsin DNR the last several years to understand the issues and to obtain financial assistance in trying to be proactive in the prevention of AIS becoming established in Grindstone.

We have applied for and obtained grants from the DNR, through a program called Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW), to help defer the cost of having a trained monitor at the main boat landing on the SW corner of the lake on weekends and holidays. **Mr. Rich Patrick** is entering his third summer at this position (after completing DNR training) and he has done a great job of checking boats and props entering the lake and educating boaters. **If you get a chance say hi to Rich.**

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer! If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member of our lake association, please contact me. Steve Boger 612.817.1755 drsteve@bogerdental.com



At the time of this printing, we are working with Dianne Kramer, owner of the Waterfront Restaurant on Grindstone, to put on a **fireworks display on the evening of the 5th**. We have almost \$1,000 in reserve fireworks funds from past years, but the display costs about \$3,000. For those of you who have enjoyed them in past years, you know what a great ending to the holiday our own fireworks display over the lake has been. Feel free to **stop by the Waterfront and say hi to Dianne** and make a donation. Or you may include an extra amount with your membership renewal.





HELP MONITOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

ON GRINDSTONE LAKE

The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (WDNR) provides invasive species management assistance to lake associations and interested community members throughout the state. Invasive species, both aquatic and on land, harm the habitats of our native species and create conditions that make the enjoyment of our lakes and rivers difficult. According to the WDNR, some of the more common invasive species of concern in our area include Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife and Zebra Mussels.

In addition to providing grant funds to support boat landing monitors, the WDNR also provides training and educational information to help groups such as the Grindstone Lake Association track, and if necessary, manage and remove invasive species. Each year residents on Grindstone Lake sample areas along the drop off. So far, our monitoring teams have not observed aquatic invasive species in the lake. However, several years ago, Curly-Leaf Pondweed was spotted in an area of Little Grindstone. The WDNR assisted with the removal of this aquatic invasive plant through spot treatments with herbicides early in the season. Last year, the cool weather prevented treatment but monitoring of this area is on going.

We will be contacting GLA members to help conduct our annual aquatic invasive species monitoring and assessment effort on Grindstone Lake. Each volunteer will collect plants in a specific zone along the drop off. The assessment technique is easy and serves as a fun and educational opportunity to share with family and friends! More information and training materials will be shared at the annual picnic!



Grindstone's Walleyes

A member of the GLA recently inquired about the number of walleyes in Grindstone and received the following reply from Max Wolter, Hayward DNR Fisheries Biologist:

Lakefront Management Best Practices

As members of the Grindstone Lake Community, we all share a common bond in our love of the Lake. In order to ensure Grindstone Lake's quality for generations to come, it is important that we follow a few common sense Waterfront Management Best Practices and become stewards of our Lake's future. Below you'll find a few shoreline tips that can help protect your investment, as well as the overall quality and health of Grindstone Lake.

Landscaping

- Maintain a natural landscape; keep native vegetation in place
- Maintain a buffer zone of natural vegetation along your shoreline
- Limit paving of sidewalks and driveways

Lawn Care

- Consider smaller lawns with shrub borders or native plantings
- Avoid using fertilizers and broadleaf herbicides
- Water infrequently and mow only when necessary

Shoreline and Aquatic Plant Protection

- Maintain a natural shoreline
- Preserve aquatic plants. Fallen trees provide habitat and shelter for fish
- Ensure adequate shoreline vegetation

General

- Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of washing
- Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the water
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste immediately



Lastly, please consider supporting the **Grindstone Lake Association** where annual membership dues fund a variety of programs aimed at helping preserve and improve the quality of Grindstone Lake. Membership is open to all so please consider serving and supporting our beautiful Lake's future.

Thank you for the inquiry. Your timing couldn't be better to be asking about Grindstone, we've been doing a fair amount of work there this spring so we have fresh information. In general, Grindstone is one of the best-studied walleye lakes in northern WI. I'll start by giving you a rundown of what our surveys have been showing and then we'll move into discussion of options for GLA.

Grindstone consistently has some of the best walleye reproduction, not just in the area, but in Wisconsin. Grindstone has great spawning habitat, good egg survival, and consistently has enough food for these little guys early in life. As a result, the average number of young walleye produced annually over the last decade is about 2.5x higher than the average for other lakes in northern WI. For this reason we have not done any stocking in recent years, as you noticed, and I'll be recommending you also consider other options to help the lake.

Grindstone Walleyes continued on page 4

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In Memoriam

Remember in the charity of your prayers

BRUCE JOHNSON

(Feb. 21, 1947 – Nov. 16-2014)

who was a friend to so many of us on Grindstone and the surrounding area. He was active in the GLA and headed up the project that placed fish cribs in the lake.

Bruce enjoyed all types of outdoor activities including camping, fishing, boating, trapshooting, hunting, and snowmobiling. He liked to keep busy volunteering for the Salvation Army, grooming snowmobile trails, helping out anyone who needed it (asking nothing in return), being a social butterfly, and traveling. He loved his family, texting his grandchildren, a good steak, cold beer, blues music, and Jeff Gordon. Bruce was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, and friend, and was greatly loved by all who met him. He is sorely missed.



Walleyes continued from page 3

So at this point you may be wondering, if Grindstone produces all these new young every year, how come I don't see/catch more? The reason for that is relatively simple: there is a tremendous amount of annual harvest between sport anglers and tribal harvesters. Because of the regulations we have and the way the tribal treaty fishery operates, fish don't stay in Grindstone as long as they would in another lake, so the total number of adult walleye stays at a fairly consistent moderate level (supported by new young fish each year replacing those that were harvested). If you are familiar with Sand Lake (south of LCO) we can use that as an example of how

regulations make a difference. Sand has an 18-inch minimum length limit and about 98% of the population is less than 18 inches. Like, Grindstone we get a steady supply of young fish each year. But with very few adults being harvested the adult population continues to grow steadily. Now, that might sound great, but there we have a situation where people catch 40-50 fish some days and rarely catch a keeper, which is really frustrating to many anglers. We are considering changing that regulation. The current slot limit on Grindstone allows quite a bit more harvest but as a result the population density stays lower. So you can see, we can kind of push this in one direction or the other with the regulations, but there are definite pro's and con's. The good news here is that our most recent work on Grindstone (2015) indicates that the population density has increased considerably since 2012.

So, I am not going to recommend you pursue any stocking. It would be a very expensive proposition with an expected minimal return. If mother nature is willing to do that work we need to let her. We could look at changing the regulation, we have considered that at different times in the past, but that would need to be a very detailed discussion and an action that would have some pro's (may catch more fish on an average day) and con's (can't keep many of the fish you catch) as mentioned above. Tribal harvest is a fact of life; nothing will change that. Habitat work could be a good option for the lake association. We have a solid forage base for walleye and other predators with the perch and suckers in the lake but there may be room for improvement. Currently, we have all the perch spawning in the same little area around the islands. Getting more wood (not cribs) into the near shore area would give them other places to spawn. Perhaps you have heard about fish sticks? If not give this site a glance: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishsticks.html>

I know this may not be quite the response you were looking for/expecting, but hopefully this is gives you some insight into what's going on in the lake. Let me know if this raises additional questions or if the lake association becomes interested in one of these other types of projects. My general opinion, as someone who covers about 80 lakes in the area, is that you guys have a quite a gem in Grindstone. Not perfect, but there is a lot to be happy about when looking at the fish population in that lake.

Mr. Wolter also suggested that the GLA could get a blanket approval for lakeshore residents to put the crowns of felled trees at the waterline, which would greatly improve the spawning habitat for walleye forage such as perch and suckers. We will discuss this at our annual meeting.



Dear Grindstone Lake Lover:

The Grindstone Lake Association needs you! As either a summer guest or a year round resident of Grindstone Lake, it is time to renew or become a member of the Grindstone Lake Association. By signing up now, you will be a member through June 2016. As a member, you empower the association to work as your agent to protect your investment and preserve one of the best lakes in Wisconsin for you, your children, and your grandchildren. Currently, 70% of Grindstones property owners are members, and our goal is to increase membership to 100%. **Please visit Grindstonelake.org for articles, recent announcements and volunteer opportunities!** Below are a few items to which your membership contributes:



Actions:

- Obtained a \$10,000 grant to update the 1998 water quality study AND performed a critical habitat survey documented by GLA member volunteers. The survey provided vital information to protect critical habitat and water quality
- Collected over a decade's worth of data about the ecological health of Grindstone's water, fish, plant life, shoreline, and watershed which is currently being used to develop a comprehensive lake management plan
- Placed over 300 fish cribs in the lake
- Represented Grindstone Lake Association's interests at the monthly Bass Lake Town Board and Sawyer County zoning meetings
- Hiring of a Boat Landing invasive species monitor using Grindstone Lake Association funds and grant obtained by Board. Our monitor will be working high traffic days during this boating season.
- Organized ongoing littoral zone monitoring for invasive species.
- Signed Grindstone Lake AIS Rapid Response Plan developed by the LCO Conservation Department and GLA

Social functions:

- A fun and informative annual picnic **7-4-15** at the Bass Lake Town Hall. Last year's attendance was great.

A voice in the community:

- Both the DNR and the local governments recognize the voice of our association. 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.

Board Opportunities:

- The current Grindstone Lake Association Board is actively looking for new Board Members and volunteers. Please reach out to Frank Cossetta at fcossetta@gmail.com, or Dag Sohlberg at dsohlberg@aol.com if you would like further info!

Dues payment to the Grindstone Lake Association is tax deductible.

Thank you for being a member of the

Grindstone Lake Association! MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2015-16 YEAR

Name _____ Spouse _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Lake Property Fire Number _____

Lake Property Street & Zip _____

e-mail _____ Home phone _____ Lake phone _____

Please make checks payable to the Grindstone Lake Association or visit grindstonelake.org to renew your membership.

Please mail your check and this form to:

Grindstone Lake Association
Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843

**\$30 Membership Renewal
for the 2015 – 2016 Year.**