



# Grindstone Trumpeter

A Gem of a Lake

2020

## Message From The President

Dear Friends of Grindstone Lake

When we find ourselves in times of trouble, it can be difficult to focus on today and tomorrow at the same time. Each day seems to bring more challenges rather than reducing those we're now facing. However, let us all continue to resolve to have Grindstone Lake in our hearts and minds as we move forward.

Spring has been beautiful, and Summer is heading that direction too. We celebrate the inspiration of nature and the commitment of the Grindstone Lake community to the conservation and enjoyment of this special place.

Your Grindstone Lake Board has been focusing on the following:

- **Adjusting our strategy and efforts in respect to the COVID-19 challenge**
- **Preventing invasive species, including paying boat inspectors at public launches**
  - Receiving WI DNR grant for paying boat inspector
  - Proposing to expand the boat monitoring by adding volunteers
  - Installing additional Aquatic Invasive Species signage at boat landings
- **Monitoring the quality and health of water & Aquatic Invasive species**
  - Scheduling a limited AIS Survey in 2020 and planning for larger lake survey in 2021 through Grant funding
  - Grant for 2020 extensive AIS survey was not approved by WI DNR
- **Monitoring & treating invasive species**
  - Working with WI DNR to limit and/or remove Curley Pond Leaf in Little Grindstone
- **Communicating multiple times a year with timely, relevant information to our GLA membership**
  - Distributing emails on COVID-19, Oak Wilt, Fishing Opener update, Highway K gauge and other topics
  - Publishing & distributing The Trumpeter newsletter to strengthen our community
- **Maintaining & enhancing the Grindstone Lake Association website - [grindstonelake.org](http://grindstonelake.org)**
- **Maintaining working relationships and enhancing communication with local governments such as Bass Lake and Sawyer County, Wisconsin Lake Associations and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**
- **Supporting the Grindstone Lake Foundation in its continued efforts to preserve the Bog**

**Allow me to repeat myself . . . as the following message was also expressed in 2019.**

The Grindstone Lake Association needs members from the community to continue the work of caring for the lake and those who enjoy it. We seek volunteers who will **serve on the Grindstone Lake Association Board**, help monitor the lake for invasive species, participate in lake shore restoration, coordinate social events, help with education and outreach, develop new volunteer opportunities and work on grants' submissions to fund our efforts. In addition to helping the lake and the Association, **volunteering provides opportunities** to learn new skills, meet new people, and build community and social networks in the area.

**In order to make volunteering easier, we have updated our website.** To learn more about participating in volunteer activities, please visit our website and use our "contact us" form to let us know about you and your interests: [grindstonelake.org](http://grindstonelake.org).

Thanks to all for your participation and care for Grindstone Lake.  
Donna Carlson, President GLA, 952.484.5211 [president@grindstonelake.org](mailto:president@grindstonelake.org)

**GRINDSTONE  
LAKE  
FOUNDATION**



Last year we announced the formation of the Grindstone Lake Foundation, Inc. with the goal of preserving the Cranberry Bog and the Foundation's acquisition of the Bog with the assistance of a loan. It has been quite a year. With the support of many of you, we have raised \$202,000.00, with \$141,000.00 specifically pledged for the retirement of the debt.

We are pleased to announce the Foundation was awarded a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Land Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00, the maximum amount available. The grant application included letters of support from the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College Science and Natural Resources Faculty, and Hayward High School Principal both noting the field experiences the preservation of this parcel could provide its students. Letters of support from the Landmark Conservancy, Couderay Waters Land Trust and the Grindstone Lake DNR Fisheries biologist emphasized the importance of maintaining the Grindstone Lake classification as an 'Outstanding Resource Water.'

The Foundation is committed to the maintenance and enhancement of Grindstone Lake's classification as an 'Outstanding Resource Water.' As we move forward with the acquisition, our principal goals for the management of the Bog are to:

1. Protect and enhance the water quality, fishery, scenic beauty, and other natural features of Grindstone Lake;
2. Create opportunities for citizens to access the lake shoreline and shoreland areas for low impact recreation and enjoyment; and
3. Promote public education on the natural and cultural history, natural lands and habitat, lake and shoreline protection, and land-water interactions.

Please join us in our efforts to retire the debt and **Save the Bog**

Please visit our websites

<https://grindstonelake.org/lake-foundation/> and  
<https://grindstonelake.org/save-the-bog/>

for more information and to donate. We have installed a small dock off the Bog shoreline. Boat on over and take a look.



**GRINDSTONE LAKE  
ASSOCIATION  
2020-2021 BOARD MEMBERS  
Roles and Responsibilities**

**President** - Donna Carlson  
Cell: 952-484-5211  
president@grindstonelake.org

**Secretary** - Cindy Parker  
cparker.grindstonelake@gmail.com

**Treasurer** - Mike Warden  
mwarden3352@gmail.com

**Invasive Species/Boat Ramps** -  
Rich Post, Steve Boger  
Drsteve@minnetonkadental.com  
richpost1@outlook.com

**Communication and Membership** -  
David Kieffer, Cheryl Contant  
mdkieffer@comcast.net  
ckcontant@gmail.com

**Outreach and Social Activities** - TBD

**LoonWatch**  
Sean & Sue Humphreys  
quackertracker@msn.com

**Grindstone Lake Foundation and  
Conservancy** - Cindy Parker  
cparker.grindstonelake@gmail.com

**Lake Management Plan** -  
Karen Mumford, Cheryl Contant  
mumforkg@uwec.edu  
ckcontant@gmail.com

**COLA Liaison** -  
Dag Solberg  
dsohlberg@aol.com

**Trumpeter Publisher** - Dee Hobbie  
(Volunteer) deehobbie610@gmail.com



**Your dues payment to the  
Grindstone Lake Association is  
tax deductible.**



**LoonWatch**

LoonWatch has an Annual Lakes Monitoring program that we have worked with in order to include Grindstone Lake. Volunteers are asked to **monitor from ice-out to migration**, or as much as they can. Volunteers will collect information about loon productivity including: the

number of territorial pairs, nesting territorial pairs, chicks hatched, chicks surviving to juvenile age.

In addition, every 5 years since 1985 a Loon Population Survey is conducted. This survey takes place on 258 pre-selected lakes in the twenty-seven counties where breeding loons are found. **Grindstone Lake has been selected for this survey!** On July 18th between the hours of 5am and 10am volunteers will head out on these specific lakes to collect population data: the number of adult loons and the number of loon chicks observed.

**Grindstone Lake Volunteers!** Many thanks to Sean and Sue Humphreys who have volunteered to cover this invaluable LoonWatch effort. Please thank them and feel free to provide any Loon insights/secrets at quackertracker@msn.com



**Clean Boats - Clean Waters**

We are happy to report that Grindstone Lake plans to participate in the **Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)** program for the upcoming 2020 boating season. Funded by a grant awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the CBCW program serves as a front-line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) as boat launch inspectors are trained to conduct boat and trailer checks for invasive species, as well as provide AIS education to boaters during the peak times of the boating season.

In 2019 alone, Grindstone Lake's CBCW monitoring resulted in **850 + hours** of monitoring time spanning the inspection of over **1,400 boats!** While current monitoring activities are on-hold in order to promote social distancing, the DNR hopes to resume the program in the June timeframe. Should you have any interest in learning more about this program, or volunteering to be a boat launch monitor, please contact **Steve Boger** (drsteve@bogerdental.com) or **Rich Post** (richpost1@outlook.com) for additional information.

**AQUATIC INVASIVE  
SPECIES (AIS)  
AN OUNCE OF  
PREVENTION PROTECTS  
NATIVE SPECIES AND  
SAVES MONEY**



**GRINDSTONE LAKE**



Due to the limited availability of SWAG distribution opportunities in this year, we're waiting until 2021 for our next t-shirt and other exciting updates. Stay tuned. . .

**Show your love. We'll be on the lookout for you wearing your shirt and hat from years' past.**



**2020  
Grindstone  
Lake**

**Association  
Renewals  
Needed!**

**Grindstone Lake Association Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 18, 2020**  
**9 – 10:30 AM CT**

Due to the COVID-19 uncertainty for in-person meeting availability, the Grindstone Lake Association has scheduled a **Zoom Virtual Meeting** with **Conference Call** in number option. The conference call number will be available regardless of your internet capability. We will also post this information on the Grindstone Lake website, **grindstonlake.org** and add the agenda when available.

The agenda will include an update on what the GLA Board has been focusing on as well as the plans for this summer. In addition, Cindy Parker, President GLF will provide an update on the **Grindstone Lake Foundation** plans and funding efforts for the cranberry bog.

The GLA members can participate by putting the meeting number (847 2786 9515) onto the Zoom website to join the meeting. The number is all that is needed to join the meeting. The rest of the invitation information is useful for those that join by phone. Just before the meeting, we will send the invitation to the GLA mailing e-mail list as well.

**Here's how to join us at 9 am (Central Time)**  
**Saturday, July 18, 2020**  
**For our virtual meeting**

(US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84727869515>

**Meeting ID: 847 2786 9515**

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84727869515# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,84727869515# US (New York)

**Dial by your location**

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84727869515>

**Grindstone Lake Friends:** Thanks to all of you who renewed their Grindstone Lake Association membership in 2019. Your commitment every year is critical for this lake that we all cherish. Although membership is voluntary, we encourage all friends of Grindstone Lake to join. Last year your \$40 annual membership provided the funding needed to ensure the future quality of Grindstone Lake.

Your membership enabled us to accomplish so much over the past year:

- **Lake Management and Monitoring** – We were able to continue our commitment to monitor Grindstone Lake public access points to help ensure that resident and visiting boats to our lake are free of invasive species. Thanks to the help of volunteers we also monitor critical areas of the lake so that invasive species introduced can be identified early, when remediation is still possible.
- **Lake Planning Workshop** – With support from a WI DNR grant, over 20 participants developed priority areas for future lake protection and began developing collaborative implementation plans between lake residents and agency partners.
- **Education for Waterfront Management Best Practices** – Providing information to residents on how to keep our lake healthy for generations to come.
- **GLA Annual Meeting** – A chance once a year for Grindstone Lake residents to reconnect with each other and recommit to our Gem of a Lake.

In addition, we are working with the Grindstone Lake Foundation for the Cranberry Bog Acquisition, communication and fund raising in order to further protect our lake.

It has been more than 10 years since our last aquatic invasive species (AIS) study on Grindstone Lake. We applied for DNR funding but unfortunately did not receive it. Therefore, the Board has voted to fund this study from GLA reserves. We appreciate any additional donations to cover the cost of this important study.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit group of volunteers who are committed to supporting the lake and all who enjoy it.

**Grindstone Lake Association! NEW or MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2020 - 21 YEAR \$40.00**

**Renewing** membership (GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK WITH US!)  **Joining** for the first time (WELCOME!)

We want to keep in touch with you. **Please print legibly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Property Address (Fire Number and Street) # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Additional has been included for AIS Study Donation

Make check payable to the Grindstone Lake Association. You can also renew on our Website [www.grindstonelake.org](http://www.grindstonelake.org)  
Please mail your check and this form to: Grindstone Lake Association Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843

**Your dues payment to the Grindstone Lake Association is tax deductible.**



## Grindstone Lake Stakeholders Identify Key Lake Protection Priorities

Thanks to a small-scale planning grant from the WI DNR, the GLA held a **one-day workshop** on July 27, 2019 to identify key lake protection strategies for Grindstone. The workshop included 12 Grindstone Lake property owners, 4 GLA Board members, 4 state/tribal government representatives, and 2 consultants. During the first half of the workshop, attendees listened to several presentations by natural resource agency staff (WI DNR, LCO Conservation, and WI Lakes Partnership).

The presentations identified several alarming trends:

### WATER QUALITY

- Lake water clarity has decreased over the past 25 years by an average of 4 inches per year
- Phosphorus loadings to the lake are key factors in algal blooms and declining water quality

### FISHERY

- Walleye and smallmouth bass fish populations are healthy and reproducing naturally but Muskellunge populations are declining
- The two-story fishery in Grindstone Lake, including Cisco, is threatened by climate change which is causing increased water temperatures and reduced dissolved oxygen levels

### INVASIVE SPECIES

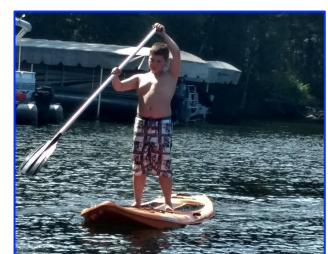
- Three aquatic invasive species are present in Grindstone Lake: curly leaf pondweed, Chinese mystery snails, and rusty crayfish.

Eurasian water milfoil is present in Lac Courte Oreilles near the entrance to Little Grindstone and may be in Grindstone Lake.

To tackle these challenges, stakeholders identified three priority areas and specific actions for follow-up by the GLA and partner organizations:

- 1. Strengthen participation of lake property owners in efforts to protect the Lake – Action:**
  - i. Improve e-communication through emails GLA website and GLA facebook
  - ii. Create in-person opportunities to engage lake homeowners in lake protection efforts
- 2. Expand efforts to prevent establishment and spread of aquatic invasive species – Action:**
  - i. Increase hours of people monitoring the boat landings
  - ii. Improve signage and equipment at boat landings for AIS inspections and cleaning
- 3. Reduce phosphorus into the lake – Action:**
  - i. Provide education, assistance, and funds to lake property owners to install buffers and native plantings
  - ii. Protect the cranberry bog from development

The challenges we and other lake communities are facing are very real. With leadership and hard work from the GLA, partner organizations, and volunteers, we **CAN** work to protect our lake and all the things we cherish about it. To review the final report from the workshop, please visit out GLA website at [grindstonelake.org](http://grindstonelake.org), select **“Reports”** and then select ‘2019 Grindstone Lake Planning Workshop’. For additional information about the workshop or workshop findings, please contact Karen Mumford: 678-296-1430.



## Lake Level Monitoring Gauge

In collaboration with Grindstone Lake homeowner Mike Shal and Lac Courte Oreilles Lake homeowner Tony Pfenf, the Grindstone Lake Board has helped facilitate the installation of a gauge on the County Rd. K Bridge. The gauge will aid in monitoring water levels to provide useful, statistical information to manage lake levels. Although the water level fluctuates over time with rainfall quantity and other factors, homeowners have had growing concerns about high water levels and shoreline erosion. The gauge was installed on June 8, 2020. The Board recognizes Tony and Debbie Pfenf for the funds they provided to cover the costs of installing the gauge. Thank you, Mike, Tony and Debbie!!!

