

Grindstone Trumpeter 2024

A Gem of a Lake

Message From The President

Dear Friends of Grindstone Lake,

Another season is upon us as we strive to protect and preserve our Grindstone Lake. As I heard recently at the 2024 Wisconsin Lakes conference, “It’s not ours, it’s just our turn” (Doug Duran, Conservationist). It is our time to continue to show how much we do value our favorite lake. Let’s continue to hold on to that “Up North” feeling by focusing on our priorities as outlined in the Grindstone Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan we all developed over the last two years. Here are the 2024 updates.

Your Grindstone Lake Board has been focusing on the following:

- **Aquatic Invasive Species**
 - Implement grant to remove patches of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) from Little Grindstone. Hire experts to hand remove and dispose of CLP and EWM using SCUBA divers.
 - Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW)
 - Continue our focused effort on the monitoring of boats entering and leaving the lake.
 - Relocate and continue to use I-LIDS, the enhanced video monitoring system at the DNR boat landing.
- **Fisheries and Habitat**
 - Share Fisheries survey by Max Wolter, WDNR Sr. Fisheries Biologist
 - Continue efforts to restore and create habitat for healthy fish populations.
 - Monitor the extent and quality of Grindstone’s deepwater habitat that is critical for sustaining cold-water fish species with grant funding.
- **Shoreline Restoration**
 - Support implementation of shoreline restoration projects that several lake homeowners received a Healthy Lakes grant for in 2023.
- **Water Quality**
 - Implement the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) with volunteers measuring water clarity, using the Secchi Disk method
- **Building a Grindstone Lake Community**
 - Continue to send welcome packages to new property owners with information to help them get to know more about Grindstone Lake and our lake community.
 - Support neighborhood leaders around the lake who engage with their neighbors to foster an involved and caring community.
 - Keep GLA members and other interested parties informed and involved through grindstonelake.org website, emails, newsletter, annual meeting, social opportunities.
- **Collaboration**
 - Attend WI statewide Lakes and Rivers Conference to gain expertise, recommendations and partnerships to protect the high quality of Grindstone Lake.
 - Work with WI DNR, local governments, and other lake associations.
- **Grindstone Lake Foundation**
 - Establish long-term protection and restoration of the Grindstone Lake Nature Reserve.

Grindstone Lake Association & Grindstone Lake Foundation Annual Meeting and Social Saturday, July 6, 2024

NEW LOCATION

**8:30 Registration and Coffee
More room for everyone!**

Northwoods Mennonite Church

14547 County Road K

9-10:30 Annual Meetings

The agenda will include an update on our Grindstone Lake projects for this year including water quality monitoring and AIS removal in Little Grindstone.

The Grindstone Lake Foundation will present an update on the plans for the Grindstone Lake Nature Reserve.

Our guest speaker Max Wolter, Senior Fisheries Biologist, WDNR will provide an update on the status and health of our Grindstone Lake fishery.



SOCIAL 2:30-4:30 pm

Meet and greet your friends and neighbors!

THE **BOULEVARD**

14392 County Road K

Cash Bar and light snacks

**Please RSVP for the Social at
president@grindstonelake.org**

The Grindstone Lake Association Board thanks you for your continued involvement and support.

We look forward to seeing all of you in person at our 2024 Annual Meeting. Let’s continue our conversations and find more ways to keep our lake safe and healthy.

Donna Carlson, President GLA
952.484.5211
president@grindstonelake.org



Make & Cherish Memories.



GRINDSTONE LAKE ASSOCIATION
2024 – 2025 BOARD MEMBERS
Roles and Responsibilities

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

Secretary - Cindy Parker
cparker.grindstonelake@gmail.com

Treasurer - Mike Warden
mwarden3352@gmail.com

Grindstone Lake Foundation
Cindy Parker
cparker.grindstonelake@gmail.com

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)
Greg Klausen
giklausen@gmail.com

Fisheries and Habitat (F&A)
Karen Mumford
mumforkg@uwcc.edu

Shoreline Protection & Restoration (SPR)
Sean Humphreys
grindstoneshoreline23@gmail.com

Water Quality (WQ)
Karen Mumford, Cheryl Contant
mumforkg@uwcc.edu
ckcontant@gmail.com

Building a Grindstone Lake Community (BGLC)
Membership – Cheryl Contant
ckcontant@gmail.com

Communication – TBD
grindstonelake.org Web manager – TBD

Social & Education – Donna Carlson
donnafcarlson@gmail.com

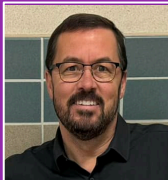
Lake Neighborhoods – Donna Carlson
donnafcarlson@gmail.com

Grants (GR)
Grants/Proposal Writing - Cheryl Contant
ckcontant@gmail.com

Grant Administration - Mike Warden
mwarden3352@gmail.com

Trumpeter Publisher – Dee Hobbie
deehobbie610@gmail.com

David Keiffer joined the GLA Board with great enthusiasm and never lost the will to contribute. He's handled communication for the Association, worked tirelessly to keep us organized and supported Dee Hobbie's fantastic efforts in producing the newsletter. Sincere thanks to Dave for his dedicated work in getting the word out to all our members as the Communications Manager on our GLA Board. However, stay tuned since he's still very involved as a Neighborhood Leader!



Clean Boats - Clean Waters

We will once again be participating in the **Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)** Program for the 2024 boating season. The WI DNR grant was obtained so we can have inspectors monitor the landing and conduct inspections to help prevent the spread of **aquatic invasive species (AIS)**. This issue has become very real for us since Eurasian Milfoil was discovered in Little Grindstone in 2023.



GLA's 2023 monitoring efforts resulted in 1,112 boat inspections over the course of 62 days (314 hours) of monitoring and boater education. A big thank you goes out to our primary CBCW Monitor Melanie Schreiber (pictured right). We are fortunate to have her return for the 2024 season. If you see her at the landing during the weekends, please say "Hello" and thank her for all of her efforts.

I-LIDS stands for **Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor**. This is a solar powered, self-contained, video monitoring and boater education system which was installed last year at the main boat landing on Hwy K. Our volunteers can only do so much monitoring for AIS, so GLA obtained a grant to help purchase this system to provide monitoring and education every day of the week. Not only does it announce an educational message to boaters, it captures video of the vehicle and trailer as part of the inspection process.

Remember, inspecting and cleaning your boat is not only the right thing to do, it's the law. The video capture is uploaded to the cloud so any violations are reported to local law enforcement. There is a small monthly fee to send the data and videos to the cloud so it can be saved for analysis. This is not covered by any grants and will be funded by our GLA member's dues and donations.

We permanently installed the system in April thanks to the help of multiple volunteers. It is now located on the left side of the landing as you face the lake, easily seen and heard by boaters as they pull into the ramp area. It is close to the large **DNR AIS Removal Station** sign. We have provided weed removal tools, now hanging from the sign, as part of our ongoing commitment to help boaters keep their boats and trailers clean.



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

Citizens Monitor Water Clarity and Fisheries Habitat

Grindstone Lake's clear waters allow our community to see their toes when they swim and spot fish and other creatures. To ensure we maintain these clear waters, the GLA enrolled in the WDNR-sponsored Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. This summer, we will track water clarity by taking monthly Secchi disk measures in Grindstone's deep hole. The Secchi disk is a black and white weighted disk that will be lowered into the lake to measure the depth at which we can no longer see the disk (see photo). In lakes where the water is not clear due to algae or suspended sediment, the disk may disappear within several inches. In clearer lakes like Grindstone, the depth at which the disk disappears will be many feet. This measure will help us determine if any changes are happening to the lake's water clarity so we can work to address them. Several years ago, GLA volunteers conducted Secchi disk measures and now we can continue that work to support a long-term record of water clarity. (Continued on page 3)

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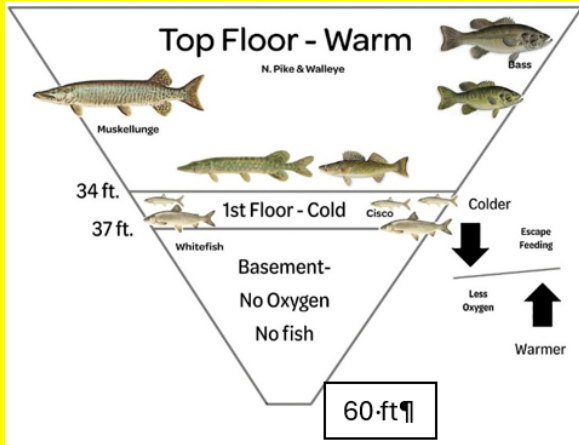
Lowering Secchi disk from boat.



Water quality is not only important for people but also for our lake's two-story fishery. By mid-summer when the lake stratifies, the upper level or top story of the Grindstone is warmer and supports warm-water species such as bass, northern pike and muskellunge. In the deeper, colder well-oxygenated story, the lake supports cold-water species such as cisco and whitefish. In the image below, you can see how different species prefer the warmer upper story while others require the colder lower story.

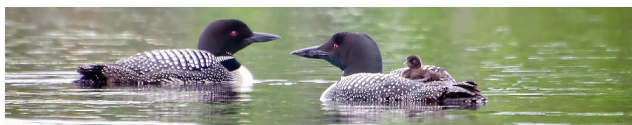
Two Story Fishery in Grindstone Lake Image modified from Courte Oreilles Lake Association (COLA)

<https://www.cola-wi.org/lco-fishery>



Concerns are growing that with a warming climate and increased decomposition, the well-oxygenated and colder lower story of Grindstone may be shrinking or disappearing. If this happens, we may lose the species that reside in the lower story. GLA received a grant for equipment to allow our volunteers to measure temperature, conductivity, and oxygen levels at various depths in the deep hole area of the lake. This means we can see whether the temperature and/or oxygen levels at lower depths support our cold-water species over the summer and into fall.

Both monitoring efforts are critical for providing the information needed to ensure that Grindstone Lake maintains its excellent water quality. If you are interested in volunteering for either of these monitoring efforts, contact Cindy Parker at cparker.grindstonelake@gmail.com; or Karen Mumford at mumforkg@uwec.edu.



Protect Our Neighbors and Our Shores

Protecting natural shorelines is critical for maintaining our excellent water quality, protecting wildlife habitat, and preserving our neighbors' shorelines. Boating at excessive speeds too close to shorelines can damage those shores. Boating at excessive speeds near our lake neighbors and friends can also be dangerous! We share our lake with kayakers, canoers, sailors, and swimmers! So, a quick refresher on Wisconsin Boating Regulations...

For Boaters:

- *Slow, No Wake speed* is required if you are within 100 feet of a shoreline, dock, raft, pier, or swimmers.

For PWCs (Jet Skis/Waverunners):

- *If moving in a circuitous manner*, you must be at least 200 feet from another vessel or person in the water.
- PWCs must be operated at *Slow, No Wake speed* within 100 feet of a vessel, dock, raft, or pier and within 200 feet of shoreline of any lake.

For Wakeboats (according to Town of Bass Lake ordinance 2018-10-08):

- Wakeboats cannot operate with an elevated wake (a trail of over 24 inches in height) for over 50 feet in length closer than 700 feet from any shoreline, dock, pier, raft or other restricted area(s)

Reminder: Little Grindstone Lake - in its entirety - is a "Slow, No Wake" zone!

Grindstone Lake Neighborhood Leaders Are Greeting Our New Neighbors

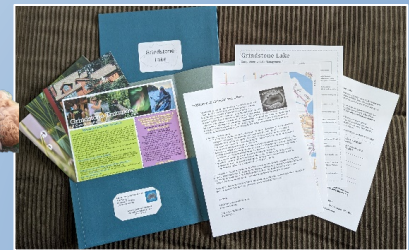
As the seasons change, so in some cases, do our neighbors. In 2024 we're giving our new neighbors some extra attention as we welcome them to our beautiful Grindstone Lake.

In April, we sent out a package to the new owners on the lake. It included the following: Welcome letter, 2023 newsletter, Comprehensive Lake Management Plan summary, Grindstone Lake Map & Neighborhood leader list, GLA Membership form, Publications: Protecting your Waterfront Investment, The Water's Edge, A Guide for Landowners: Controlling runoff & erosion, AIS boat cleaning information.

We're delighted to introduce them to our Grindstone Lake Association, our Neighborhood Leaders and our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan as well as inviting them to join us in maintaining the quality of our Gem of a Lake. Please welcome our four new owners from Wisconsin and two from Minnesota to your neighborhoods.

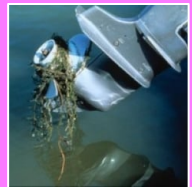


New Bay resident Gary.



AIS Removal in Little Grindstone

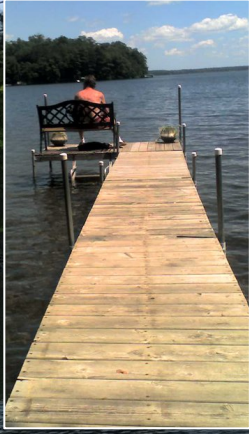
Last summer, during an aquatic plant survey in **Little Grindstone Lake (LGL)**, our consultant found two invasive species: **Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP)** which we have known to exist since the mid-2000's, and **Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)**. This latter finding is the first known existence of EWM in Little Grindstone or Grindstone. According to the consultant, EWM is most likely present as the result of boat traffic between Anchor Bay in Lac Courte Oreilles and Grindstone through LGL.



(Continued on page 4)



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



GRINDSTONE LAKE FOUNDATION Did you take a walk on the trails at the Grindstone Lake Nature Reserve last summer?

If not, take a hike this year!! The Foundation would like to thank Jim Whetstone for mowing trails last year. He has graciously agreed to do so this year as well. This summer, we plan to clean up the Nature Reserve. There are several building structures which need to be removed or taken down. This summer we are targeting the removal of two buildings, the small garage and the pump house, along with a pile of concrete. The red and green steel roofed buildings are next in line. Do you know someone with the expertise and tools to assist with these building projects? Are you that someone? If so, please contact Cindy Parker, cparker.grindstonelake@gmail.com.



Our long-term plans include wetland restoration of approximately 23 acres and trail development. We've partnered with Interfluve, a company that specializes in cranberry bog restoration. We're seeking funds for the restoration from other foundations and state and federal sources. The Foundation continues to gather information on the restoration process and will provide updates on progress. The Grindstone Lake Foundation appreciates your continued support.

(Continued from page 3) **AIS Removal in Little Grindstone**

In response to this, Board members prepared a grant request to the WI DNR and received \$17,700 in state funds to remove both invasives during the summers of 2024 and 2025. To prevent the growth and spread of these highly invasive species, we will contract with a company that has divers with SCUBA equipment to hand pull the invasives, removing the plant and its roots.



We'll continue to monitor for invasives in LGL at the end of each summer to assess the effectiveness hand pulling efforts and determine if additional action is necessary.

Please help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants by reversing your motor at the entrance to LGL to remove any weed fragments AND checking your boat/kayak/pontoon/PWC for hitchhiking plants!



"Voted most likely to get their Gear on"



"Not from around here?"

Grindstone Lake Association! MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2024 \$40.00
 We want to keep in touch with you. **Please Print Legibly**

I am renewing my membership **or** I am joining for the first time (WELCOME!)

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

Name _____ Spouse _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Lake Address (Fire Code and Street) # _____

e-mail _____ Phone _____

Additional Funds \$ _____ **Total Enclosed:** \$ _____ (\$40 dues + additional donation)

Make check payable to **Grindstone Lake Association** and mail with this form to Grindstone Lake Association, Box 292 Hayward, WI 54843

You can also join or renew at the Annual Meeting or on our Website www.grindstonelake.org



Here's to great seasons
 ... and many s'mores!