

Grindstone Trumpeter

Grindstone Lake Association
PO Box 292
Hayward, WI 54843

April 2004

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 2003-2004

Bruce Miller
President
14210W Poplar Ln., Hayward 715-634-5733
mportoon@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
ddtyrolt@cheqnet.net

Howard (Skip) Brossard
At Large
8669 N. Brossard Rd., Hayward, WI 54843 715-634-4314
hcbrossard@JREC.net

Mark Schmiel
At Large
8494N Hilltop Rd., Hayward WI 54843 715-638-2586
13113 Heritage Way, Apple Valley, MN 55124 651-631-4838
schmiel@pension-solutions.com

Bill Milley
At Large
8514N Williams Resort Rd., Hayward WI 54843 715-634-7517

Jim Queenan
Aquatic Plants
8141 N County Rd. K, Hayward WI 54843 715-634-3794
winter: 992 Woodshire LN #D104, Naples, FL 34105 .. 239-434-8907
jimque@cheqnet.net

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

Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

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

President's Message

Welcome to Spring! We have had a great winter, here on our beautiful, 3,111 square acre, clear, clean and pristine lake. We look forward to seeing many of our summer friends back again in the very near future.

There are a number of exciting things we will be doing this year! First, we want to make sure you all know about this year's Annual Meeting, and Membership Picnic! It will be held on July 10!

We have great plans for a pig roast, music, games and fun, fun, fun! Make sure you mark your calendar today, and make plans to join your lake neighbors at this great event.

We are also planning on asking several Association volunteers, off and on the water, to help us with communications this year. Several

people have already volunteered to help reach out to their neighbors to make sure everyone knows about the work of the Association, and about the upcoming Association events.

Finally, I want to thank the great board of directors you have elected to lead this Association. Everyone is stepping up to work, and I think that should mean we will once again have great activities and programs that both protect our lake, and which promote greater awareness and involvement in community issues.

If you have NOT paid your Association dues, please do so at this time.

And, again, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Bruce Miller
President

Mark Your Calendars !

July 10, 2004

ANNUAL GLA MEETING 12:00 Noon - 1:15 P.M.
SOCIAL TIME 1:15 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
BASS LAKE TOWN HALL

July 10, 2004

ANNUAL GLA PICNIC SERVING BEGINS 2:00 P.M.
BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)

TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)

FISH CRIBS, LAKE TRASH DIVE, AQUATIC SURVEY

Revised Shoreland Ordinance

Sawyer County's revised shoreland ordinance passed in January. It modifies what can and can't be done within 75' of a lake. New limits are set for the amount of impervious surface allowed. Permit approval may require restoration of the lake buffer zone. Septic system reporting requirements were also changed. Fines will be imposed on those not returning the card to the county that shows their septic system was pumped. GLA board is considering holding a special meeting later in the summer that focuses on restoring and maintaining healthy buffers.

Reduce Impervious (non-absorbing) Surfaces to Reduce Runoff

Unfortunately, as lake shores are developed, larger and more numerous lawns, paths, decks, rooftops and driveways and other hard surfaces funnel rain and snowmelt directly into lakes. Such runoff carries with it contaminants from roofs and roads, soil particles, lawn clippings including many nutrients. This polluted runoff not only promotes lake weed growth, it also makes the water warmer and cloudier, reduces dissolved oxygen and introduces man-made chemicals that influence the vitality of aquatic life, including fish and many of the critters they feed on.

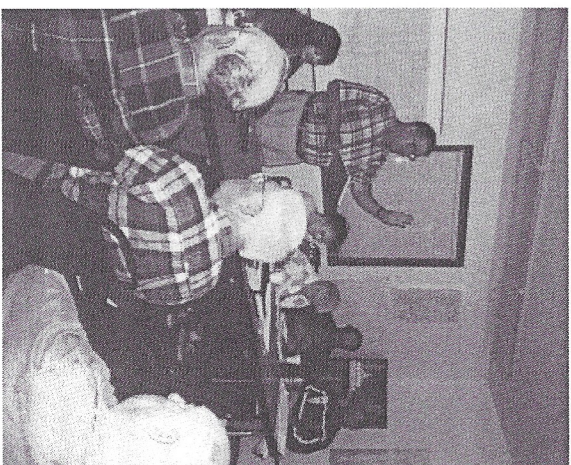
Reducing impervious surfaces and land disturbances at lakeside will protect water resources and minimize expensive efforts to clean-up of polluted or nutrient over-rich waters. The goal is locate hard surfaces and land disturbances farther back from the lake edge so runoff has a greater chance of being filtered of pollutants and absorbed, rather than

running directly into the lake. There are others things we can do at our waterfront property to reduce runoff like creating a rain garden to catch water from hard surfaces, using erosion control such as silt fences or removing unneeded hard surfaces near the water.

Additional information: Several brochures deal with the problems of impervious surfaces and polluted runoff. The DNR/UWEX publications Polluted Urban Runoff explains the background on this issue and Brown Water, Green Weeds uses a clever cartoon style suited for certain audiences. These and publications on rain gardens and pollution control can be downloaded. For those links and many more visit the WAL website at Lake Connection Links. If you lack Internet access, contact your county agent or DNR lake coordinator.

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

Grindstone Lake Association 2003 Annual Meeting Highlights



Board Member Changes: President Jim Garvey convened the meeting and introduced board members present: Ray Moeller, Cyndy MacIntosh, Marilyn Lundberg, Skip Brossard, Bill Milley, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Mary McJoynt, Eric Nilsson, and Camille Venners. Dan Tyrolt and Jim Queenan were absent. Jim Garvey, Mary McJoynt and Kathleen Fitzgerald, going off the board, were recognized for their service. Ray Moeller, Eric Nilsson, Bruce Miller and Linn Newton were newly elected.

Grindstone Fisheries: Dave Neuswanger, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Supervisor, Upper Chippewa Basin, Northern Region, discussed Grindstone fisheries. The six counties in his region have 2070 lakes. Previously he worked in Missouri with more staff for fewer lakes

and streams. In Missouri most lakes had management plans, while there are few here. He is hoping to initiate a more proactive program, possibly where people from similar lakes develop a vision for their lakes, with goals and objectives to work toward the vision. The fisheries staff would help meet the goals. The DNR is currently putting together a vision for the region's streams.



Grindstone's baseline monitoring, conducted about every six years, was done this year. Both the numbers and size of walleyes are good as are small mouth bass, rock bass and blue gills. The musky fisheries were not sampled. Neuswanger emphasized that lakes like Grindstone are like crown jewels and he wants to work with users keep them in good condition.

He indicated that Grindstone does not require annual restocking, since its fish appear capable of maintaining adequate reproduction levels.

Membership Report: Cyndy MacIntosh reported about 144 registered members. There are 380 property owners around the lake.

Treasurer's Report: Cyndy MacIntosh gave the financial report. Total income was \$4,338.37 (4,320 from membership). Expenses totaling \$4,054.71, pay for the newsletter, annual meeting, memberships, fireworks, fish cribs, picnic, and contributions. The June 28 balance was \$4,856.02, including a \$2000 reserve for water quality needs, such as milfoil.

Updates on Current Issues

President's Report: Jim Garvey noted many Board activities. They include: Support for the July fireworks display; Courderay Waters Regional Land Trust, Inc. formation assistance; Wisconsin Association of Lakes in its law suit about dockminiums; Bass Lake Township for law suits against Sawyer County; Sawyer County Forum for ordinance development. The board also worked to remove a polluting dock and get signs posted at private and public boat landings about cleaning boats.

Fish Cribs: Bruce Johnson discussed the \$2,400 match Grindstone Lake received by allocating \$1,000 for fish cribs. The remaining funds come from the combined funding of Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin and Sawyer County. A fish crib costs about \$100 and Grindstone will get 34 cribs. Since the program started in 1997, another 266 cribs have been installed. DNR fisheries personnel estimate that the lake could use 500 fish cribs.

Water Quality Monitoring: Dan Tyrolt

reported that LCO is continuing Grindstone's baseline nutrient monitoring and adding biological parameters to provide a better understanding of the processes occurring in the lake. In July, a sediment core will be collected to help determine historical changes from about 1800 to the present, of such things as macrophytes, nutrients and sediment.

Secchi disk readings in June 2003 registered 26 feet of clarity. The LCO is working with U. S. Geological Survey on a hydrologic study of pumping associated with the high capacity well for the golf course. Tests will provide data about effects on other water bodies in the region and if base flow in streams is affected, DNR can regulate. Since phosphorus is rising in the lake, he encouraged owners to keep or install shore buffers.

Don MacIntosh was recognized for his years of monitoring Grindstone water quality for the DNR. The data is now analyzed and coordinated with the University of Wisconsin satellite imaging from outer space.

Aquatic Plant Study: Joan Busta reported on the aquatic plant study started in 2001 and continued in 2002. They are first identifying plants in the 5 to 6' range. There is no evidence of milfoil. Algae was noted in Williams Bay. Identifying plants is very difficult, since many are only slightly different. There are photos of some surveyed plants.

Litter Pick-up: Bill Miley said the Boys and Girls Club and some High School students are picking-up trash in the area. Diver Dave Mathies will be collecting underwater trash in the lake as one of Dave's Tuesday Night Fun Dives. The board hopes to do this annually.

Shoreland Protection Ordinance: Bruce Miller indicated the ordinance has been turned over to the zoning committee



and is being finalized. A vote is expected in August or September.

Smart Growth: Ray Moeller reported Bass Lake's Smart Growth Plan has been underway for two years. Members were encouraged to review the draft plan.

Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust: Jim Garvey said the new non-profit, which includes all the area lakes, is now operational. The Trust will be treasurer for funds used to buy two islands on the Chippewa Flowage.

Trumpeter: Camille Venners thanked those who helped with the Trumpeter this year and invited members to write or

suggest articles.

Computer Web Site: Skip Brossard said Grindstone Lake Association is establishing a web page at the Bass Lake Town site. It will contain basic information, contacts and current issues.

Cranberry Bog development: It continues to operate as a cranberry bog and permits for some wetland filling has been rejected. Original development approvals were contingent upon no lakeshore development.

Marilyn Lundberg
Secretary

2004 Membership Reminder

The GLA Board would like each of you to take a few minutes to renew your membership or become a new member. The membership fee for 2004 is \$25.00, as it was in 2003.

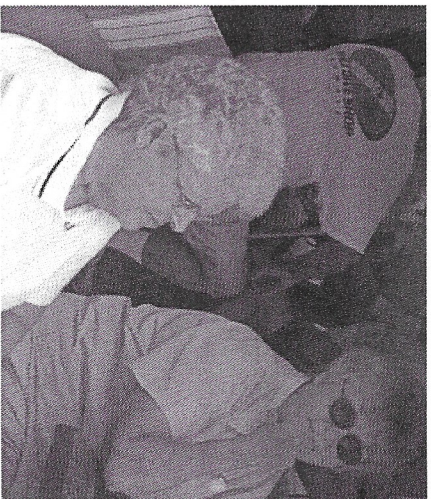
Please complete the enclosed form

when submitting your membership so we may keep our mailing list up-to-date.

If you have a new lake neighbor, please notify us so we can include them in our newsletter and announcement mailings.

2003 Annual GLA Picnic

Beautiful weather . . .

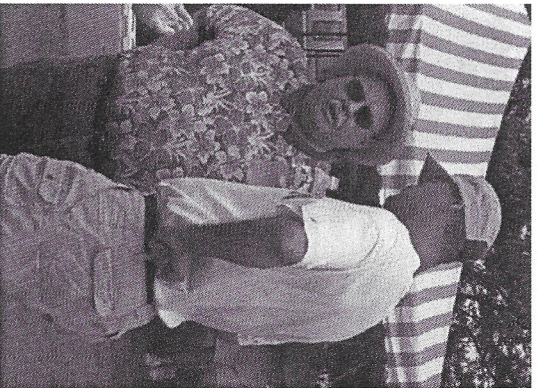


A day to fondly remember !

Great food . . .



New friends and old . . .



GLA Web Page is Operational

Explore our web site at: <http://www.basslakewi.gov>



In 2003 Skip Brossard tackled the task of finding the most logical, effective and economical way for the GLA to get a web site operational.

He explored many options before recommending the Bass Lake Township site as our host location. Yearly fees, accessibility, as well as other local group information that our membership might find useful at the same site were all part

of the decision.

Over the summer, Skip gathered GLA information and materials to include on the site. He and his wife Eileen diligently worked to prepare the materials and get the site functioning.

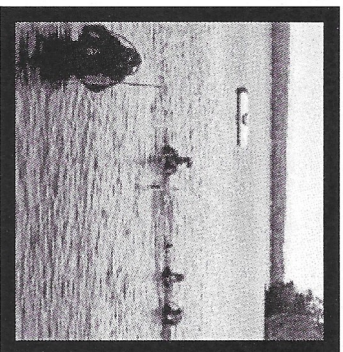
The content will expand and vary as the GLA Board and GLA members offer suggestions. This is YOUR site! What content would you find valuable?

Please contact Skip, Eileen or any board member if you have additional content suggestions or improvement ideas. Getting the web page active was protracted and now that the page is operational, let's make the most of this resource.

Hidden Lake Pollution

Grindstone Lake appears serenely beautiful as you gaze across gentle waves from one shore to another. However, no lake is immune from junk on the lake bottom. Often the reflective nature of water conceals problems that might lurk beneath the surface. Before society became more pollution conscious, lake bottoms were not considered a habitat to be protected.

Lake pollutants commonly found beneath the surface include bottles, tires, plastic bags, glass, cans, crockery, miscellaneous fishing gear and even parts of ice houses. Occasionally a treasure from past eras can be found but most often



finds are classified as junk.

While some items accidentally blow out of boats or from lakeshore areas, much of the debris that is found on lake bottoms can be attributed to sloppy disposal practices.

This past summer, Dave Mathies assembled a group of scuba divers to examine areas of the Grindstone Lake bottom and remove unwanted man-made items to improve the quality of Grindstone Lake. The

GLA Board plans to make the diving for trash cleanup an annual event but encourages lake users to become more vigilant about trash so the need will diminish.

Camille Venners



— Cleaning-up the Depths —
Even toilets were discovered littering the bottom of Grindstone Lake.

Be a Lake Friendly Motor Boat Operator

As a boater, there are many things you can do to protect your lake.

Avoid shallow water: (aside from near your pier). In the shallows (6 ft. or less), boat motors stir up the bottom, reduce water clarity and cover spawning beds. Shallow water disturbance also can cause algae blooms, because nutrients (especially phosphorus) from the bottom are mixed into the water. Motoring even at moderate speeds in shallow water can increase phosphorus by as much as 50%. Stirred up sediments also increase water temperature, meaning oxygen for fish.

Consider a 4-cycle outboard motor: If you are considering a new outboard motor, consider a 4-cycle. Studies show that 2-cycle motors can leave up to 30% of the fuel unburned, discharging it directly into the lake. Four-stroke motors use fuel more efficiently, have cleaner exhaust and run more quietly than 2-stroke engines. Several states, including Vermont, New York and New Hampshire promote 4-stroke motors and some lakes have banned 2-cycle motors entirely. When 2-cycle outboard motors were banned on Lake Tahoe, there was a distinct improvement in water quality.

By 2006, EPA regulations require low pollution emission standards for all new outboard and personal watercraft, effectively eliminating 2-stroke engines. Not surprisingly, Mercury Motors is said to be discontinuing 2-cycle motors.

The reasons for phasing out 2-cycle outboards are significant. Contaminants discharged into the water include oil residue and fuel derivatives which may be toxic to aquatic life even at low concentrations. Some of these substances are human carcinogens and there is concern about their possible biomagnification. Until you switch to a 4-cycle motor, keep your 2-cycle engine well tuned and use manufacturers' recommended mix of oil and gasoline to increase efficiency and reduce the amount of unburned fuel.

Run your boat at no-wake speeds near shore. No-wake is the minimal speed necessary to allow you to steer your boat. Basically, in the simplest terms, no-wake means NO WAVES! Currently in Wisconsin, boats are required to operate at no-wake speeds within 100 feet of fixed structures (boat docks and swimming rafts). Many lakes have more restrictive rules.

In shallow lakes, waves created by boats can break down shorelines, washing nutrients and decaying vegetation into the lake. Wakes also do damage to shallow water fish and wild-life habitat, including beneficial aquatic plants.

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

Additional information: The DNR magazine has had several articles including: *Partners on the Water Eco-friendly Boating*, *How Boaters Can Control Pollution*. These and other publications can be downloaded at the WAL web site's Lake Connection Links. If you lack Internet access, contact a county agent or DNR lake expert.

Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust

Please thoughtfully consider membership in the Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust (CWRLT, Inc.). The enclosed brochure was published and supplied to us last fall as they kicked-off their fundraising campaign. Our organization strongly endorses their objectives. Several members of the Grindstone Lake Association are numbered among the land trust's founders and are currently on its board of directors.

The Trust was recently recognized in the Sawyer County Record and in the Wisconsin State Journal for its role in assisting the Chippewa Flowage Property Owners Association. By acting as repository for their fundraising project (\$50,000), they were enabled to leverage monies from the state's Stewardship Fund to purchase 17 acres on Big Timber Island with 3,000 feet of frontage on the Flowage.

The Trust is currently finalizing adoption of their first conservation easement — a Grindstone Lake property — and will be holding its Annual Meeting at the Bass Lake Town Hall on June 12.

We encourage your active involvement as a committee volunteer and as a financial supporter. Please join the CWRLT, Inc. and your northwoods neighbors in helping to protect and preserve the woods, waters and environment in and around Sawyer County.

Roger Rickard

Grindstone Lakeshore Communication Districts

The GLA Board is planning to divide the lakeshore areas into districts (or regions or zones) to improve the flow of information about events and issues between the board and lakeshore owners and users. A captain will be needed for each district. The Whitefish Lake Association currently uses this type of approach.

A map indicating the finalized lakeshore districts will be available at the annual meeting and picnic. Those interested may sign up to be a captain for their area. We think this will strengthen neighborhoods and improve communication both from and to the GLA Board.

Biological Monitoring of Grindstone Lake

The LCO Conservation Department is continuing to monitor Grindstone Lake for a multitude of water quality parameters. Last year the LCO Conservation Department expanded its water quality monitoring to include biological monitoring. These biological monitoring parameters included phytoplankton, zooplankton and benthic macro-invertebrates. Throughout the summer of 2003, phytoplankton and zooplankton monitoring were done on Grindstone. Benthic macro-invertebrate sampling will occur this summer. By now you are probably wondering what all this bio-monitoring is. Hopefully the following descriptions will help to clear things up.

Phytoplankton

Phytoplankton (algae) are free-floating, mostly microscopic aquatic plants that are an integral part of the lake community. Phytoplankton use nutrients in the water and sunlight to grow and are the base of the aquatic food web. Unfortunately the phytoplankton data is still being analyzed by the laboratory and an assessment of the phytoplankton community will have to wait until the end of April when we get the data back.

Zooplankton

Zooplankton play a pivotal role in aquatic food webs because they are important food for fish and invertebrate predators. Zooplankton communities are highly sensitive to environmental variation. As a result, changes in their abundance, species diversity, or community composition can provide important indications of environmental change or disturbance.

The zooplankton data show that their density and diversity is nearly constant throughout the summer. Compared to other lakes in the area, the total density is low and the diversity is high. The zooplankton community also appears to show that Grindstone on average is more productive than other lakes in the area. What this all boils down to is that Grindstone Lake appears to be in good shape as far as zooplankton are concerned.

Benthic Macro-invertebrates

Benthic macro invertebrates, or Benthos, are those organisms that lack vertebrae and occupy the benthic, or bottom, layer of a body of water for all or part of their life cycle. Much can be learned about the

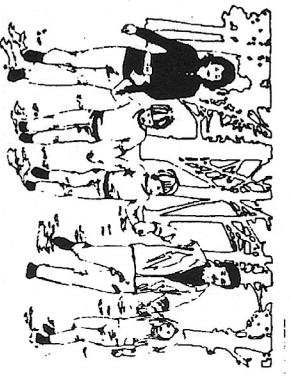
health of an aquatic ecosystem by sampling the benthic macro invertebrates that occupy it. How these animal's populations react in the presence of such pollutants as sediments, toxins, and organic runoff can be a strong indicator of water quality. Benthic macro-invertebrates are long-term indicators of environmental quality; they integrate water, sediment, and habitat qualities.

The addition of biological monitoring will help us to further understand the water quality of Grindstone Lake. If there are any questions about the water quality monitoring which LCO is conducting on Grindstone, I would be glad to discuss it with you. I can be reached at 634-0102 ext. 124.

Dan Tyrolt
LCO Conservation



Coming: New Town of Bass Lake Park on Grindstone Lake



On February 9th, the Town of Bass Lake Board of Supervisors held a special Public Meeting of the electors (any person in the town eligible to vote). The purpose of the meeting was to authorize the board to borrow money to purchase land for a park. Only 24 electors attended the meeting. After much discussion, it was approved by a vote of 14-10 for the board to borrow the money. The site of the proposed park is on the Southeast shoreline of Grindstone, off Poplar Road, at a site adjacent to the old boat landing (formerly known as Corbines Musky Resort). The board hopes to obtain a 50% grant from the DNR to help offset the price of the land (reported to be approximately \$240,000). The discussion included many topics such as picnic tables, possibly a pavilion and some bathrooms. If needed, the Town owns the property across the road where they could locate additional parking. To read the minutes of both this meeting and the Town of Bass Lake Planning Committee meeting you can access them at www.basslakewi.gov.

Linn Newton

Aquatic Plant Survey

The aquatic plant survey of Grindstone Lake began in 2001 and continued on an expanded basis in 2002 with specimens collected for over a dozen sites around the lake at a depth of one to five feet.

Eleven submerged and 7 emergent plants have been identified. Of these, 7 are pondweeds and 2 native milfoils.

Identification is tedious. Even with the expert assistance of the DNR's botanists, some specimens are still not definitely identified. Too many submerged aquatic plants have very obvious similarities while their differences are minute.

By continuing the monitoring of these plants and collecting at deeper locations, any significant changes could indicate problems, such as alien species and/or pollution.

There is no evidence yet of the presence of Eurasian Milfoil in our lake, which is the reason we began and will continue this project.

In southern Wisconsin, many lakes are totally choked with Eurasian Milfoil making them useless, ecologically and recreationally.

Some algae growth had been observed in Williams Bay and we are monitoring this area closely.

Continuous reminders to lake residents not to fertilize their lawns, nor feed the waterfowl, will hopefully help to keep the algae under control and eventually eliminate it.

Our goal for this year is to continue to monitor Grindstone Lake's plant life and keep up the surveillance for Eurasian Milfoil, in the unfortunate event any should appear. It takes over quickly so we would act quickly to get rid of it at the onset,

before it becomes unmanageable.

The long-range benefit of this continuing study is to keep our lake pure and healthy. We are fortunate to have a nearly pristine lake and with diligence we can not only keep it that way but also make it better.

We extend our thanks to everyone who collected the specimens.

I have photographed and pressed some of the plants collected. If anyone would like to see these specimens, please see me after the meeting.

Report compiled, written, and presented at the GLA Annual Meeting on June 28, 2003.

As of September 2002, the following plants have been found and identified in Grindstone Lake.

SUBMERGED

Pondweeds – Busky, Illinois, Claspings, Fern Leaf, White Stem, Large Leaf,

Grassweed

Milfoils – Whorled Leaf, Coontail

Waterweed – Common

Wild celery

EMERGENT

Pickereelweed

Northern Blue Flag

Wild Cala

Grassleaved Arrowhead

Common Arrowhead

Floating Leaf

White Water Lily

Bullhead Pond Lily

Joan M. Busta

Keep Your Lake as Wild as Possible

There are numerous reasons to keep your lake in a natural state. All aquatic creatures—insects, fish, birds, mammals—thrive in the natural plants and bottom structure of an undeveloped lake. To the extent that lake shore owners “clean up the water in front of their property”, they harm the lake’s ecosystem. This is a situation where our good city habits are directly contradictory to what should be done at the lake.

Numerous studies in recent years show that wildlife, fish numbers and sizes, are all influenced positively by the presence of aquatic plants, over-hanging trees and shrubs and finally, by large trees or other wood in the water. Rooted plants improve water clarity by trapping sediments and storing nutrients and keep winds from stirring shallow bottoms. Plants also provide spawning areas and shelter for game fish. Finally, trees in the water become virtual magnets for aquatic life.

Decaying wood from a fallen tree attracts microscopic critters and debris-eating insects, which in turn attract carnivorous insects that are eaten by small fish, frogs and crustaceans. Small fish and frogs attract game fish, which in turn attract bird and animal predators. Lake-edge trees also provide shelter from predators and for fish spawning.

While there is a need to avoid shore erosion, studies show that unnatural materials, like riprap or sea walls seriously reduce the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat. More natural alternatives are available. In 2002 new rules were drafted based upon the idea that replacing

natural shorelines with bare rock or walls leads to cumulative environmental side effects on fish and fishing. These rules have gone through extensive hearings and public comment; however, the rules have not yet been adopted. Act 118, passed by the most recent legislature, requires the DNR to make changes in various waterway and shoreland regulations affecting many kinds of activities, including shore erosion control practices. Emergency rules to implement Act 118 are expected to pass in April, 2004, and will include an update to the shore protection rules based on the work done in 2002.

Additional information: Managing Plants in Lakes is available from MN DNR and Life on the Edge, Owning Waterfront Property describes the value of aquatic plants and natural dead falls in maintaining good habitat for fish and other aquatic creature. 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 a UW Extension county agent or Regional DNR lake coordinator.

Source: 2002 Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Best Lake Practices (including WAL 2004 update information)



Camping Ordinance Meetings

Sawyer County has adopted a new camping ordinance, written with input from all of the towns in Sawyer County, allowing each town to decide how much, if any, camping it wishes to allow.

The towns can select from 4 different options to choose how restrictive they want to be. To date, all the towns except Bass Lake have made their decision.

The Town of Bass Lake Board of Supervisors asked the Planning Committee, which it recently created, to look at the options and make a recommendation of one to choose.

These are the options (for full details, please get a copy of the Sawyer County Ordinance):

- Option 1: Most restrictive - Camping not permitted. This means major recreational vehicles: A travel trailer, pickup coach, motor home, camping trailer, tent or park model mobile home which is either dependent and/ or self contained.) Under this option, it is still legal to pitch a tent in your yard.
- Option 2: Camping permitted on off water lots but not on waterfront lots
- Option 3: Camping permitted on both "lake" and off "lake" lots
- Option 4: Least restrictive- all camping permitted.

The ordinance also covers when and how camping units should be parked on properties. A complete copy of the new regulation is available through the Town of Bass Lake, or through the Sawyer County Zoning Office.

The planning committee meeting on Thursday, March 25, was well attended (in Northwoods terms) by 30-35 people! A little of the history of this ordinance was given. In Winter, WI, they were selling many 30 by 100 foot lots and people were just placing their campers on them and staying the duration. As the Town of Bass Lake includes many such small properties in Northwoods Beach, there was much discussion.

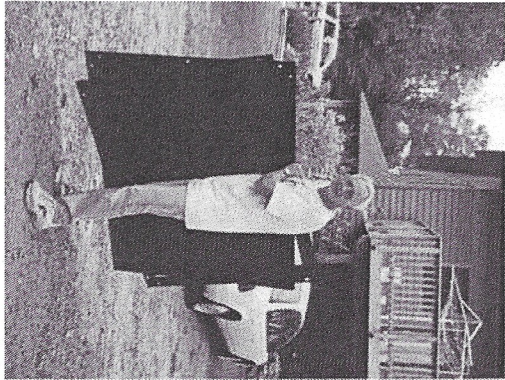
The unanimous desire of the attendees and the Planning Committee was Option 1. The only other Town to adopt Option 1 was Winter. All other towns in Sawyer County have adopted Options 2, 3, and 4.

Things noted at the meeting: a) This is a complaint driven ordinance. If anyone complains, it will be enforced. b) While definitely not allowing permanent use, the Town Board could still look at whether to allow temporary camping, and if allowed, what kind of permit or notification process will be necessary. c) If you purchase a property and have a use permit to build a house, you can place a recreational vehicle on your property for 18 months while you construct your house.

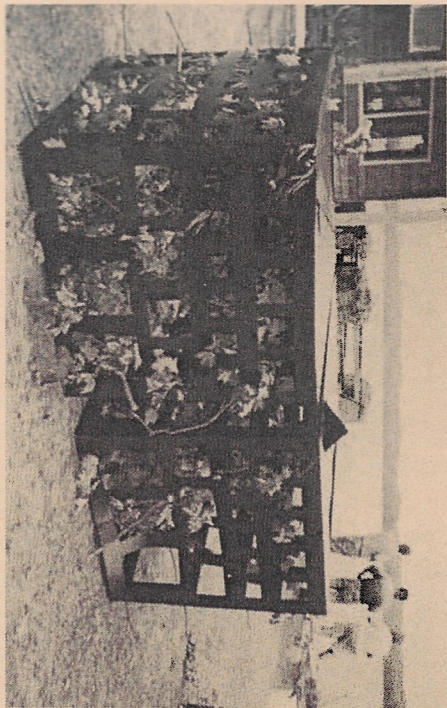
The full Town of Bass Lake Board of Supervisors will make the final decision on which option to adopt on Monday, April 12 at 6:30. If you are in the area or want to make your feelings known, please consider attending.

Linn Newton

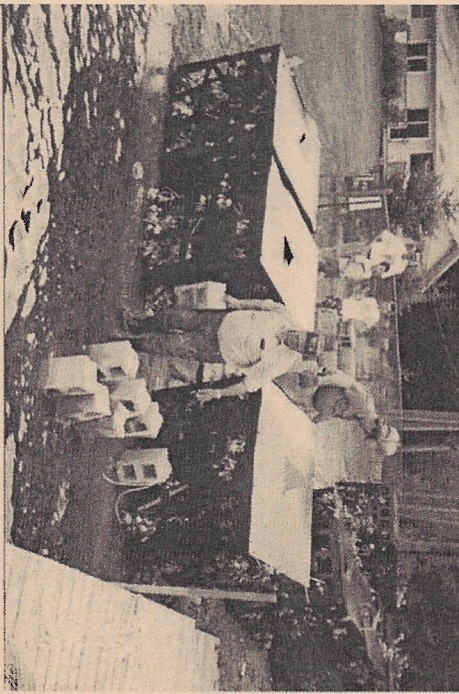
Many Willing Hands Add 34 Fish Cribbs to Grindstone Lake in 2003



Assemble



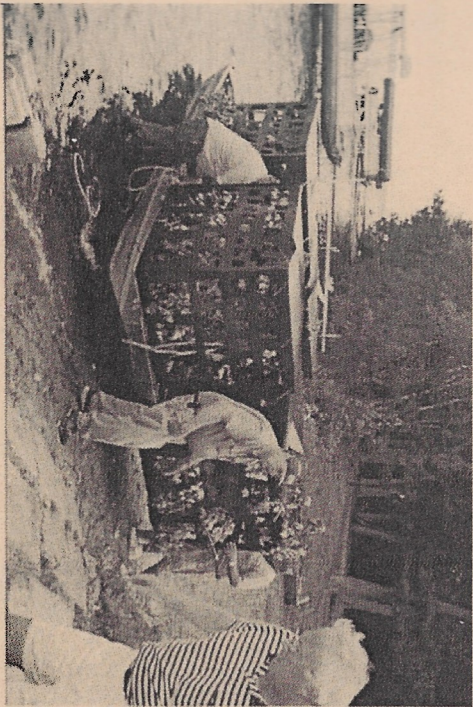
Prepare



Ready



18



19

Launch