



THE 2026 Grindstone Trumpeter : A Gem of a Lake

Message From The President

As we embrace the arrival of another season on Grindstone Lake, we are filled with excitement for the joy it brings, while also recognizing the importance of our shared responsibility in preserving its beauty. The work ahead may not have become easier or less vital, but it presents a continued opportunity to work together as a community. By collaborating and actively participating in conservation initiatives, we can make a significant impact, ensuring that our lake continues to captivate the heart and soul of all who encounter its beauty for generations to come.

Our 2026 goals remain focused on the areas established in our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, completed in 2023.

• Aquatic Invasive Species

*Prevent the introduction of AIS.

- Continued use of I-LIDS and boat inspections at the DNR Boat Landing.

*Respond rapidly to new introductions of AIS and reduce the impacts of established AIS.

- Continued removal of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EM) from Little Grindstone.

• Fisheries and Habitat

*Support a healthy and diverse fishery.

-Monitor fishery changes.

• Shoreline Protection and Restoration

*Combat shoreline erosion

*Support healthy, native aquatic plant communities.

- Avoid nutrient loadings

- Complete and maintain the Rain Garden at the Grindstone Lake Boat Landing

• Water Quality

*Preserve excellent water quality.

- Support Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) with volunteers measuring water clarity, using the Secchi Disk Method

• Building a Grindstone Lake Community

*Support the goals for Grindstone Lake with an engaged lake community.

- Enhanced communication through Constant Contact

- Grindstone Lake Directory

- Welcome Packages to new residents

- Support Neighborhood Leaders

The **Grindstone Lake Foundation** continues to establish long-term plans for the restoration use of Grindstone Lake Nature Reserve.

The GLA board, along with other volunteers, are dedicated to learning and collaboration through attendance at the Wisconsin regional and statewide Lake and Rivers Conference. We also prioritize partnerships with the Wisconsin DNR, Sawyer County Lakes Forum, Wisconsin Lakes Association, LCO, and other lake associations.

The Grindstone Lake Association board thanks you for your continued involvement and support. We maintain our commitment to engage the community and promote enthusiastic connections. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming annual meeting where we invite every member of our community to join the conversation, share insights, and help us cultivate an atmosphere where we are reminded how critical it is to work together to ensure a sustainable future for our Gem Of A Lake.

Donna Carlson, President Grindstone Lake Association
952-484-5211 president@grindstonelake.org



Grindstone Lake Association & Grindstone Lake Foundation

Annual Meeting Saturday, July 11th

**Northwoods Mennonite Church
14547 County Road K**

**8:30 Registration and Coffee
9-11:00 Annual Meeting**

The agenda will focus on the Comprehensive Lake Monitoring Plan (completed in 2023). Presentations will include updates on our Grindstone Lake Projects for this year with highlights from each of the critical areas outlined in the Comprehensive Lake Monitoring Plan. These will include water quality monitoring, AIS removal in Little Grindstone, Lake level reporting, and communication updates, including Grindstone Lake Neighborhoods.

The Grindstone Lake Foundation will present information regarding accomplishments and plans for the Grindstone Lake Nature Reserve. A special update on the Rain Garden project at the boat landing will include comments from Natalie Erler, Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department.

New this year:

We will host a fundraiser silent auction featuring a handmade Grindstone Lake afghan, created and donated by Tammy Brown.



Main color:
DARK DENIM
Accent Color:
BERET DAY

Pictue is of actual afghan. Refer to picture of the yarn for better color matching. Once blanket is completed, a border will be added on all sides.

**Key dates to remember: June 29-July 12
DNR Great Lakes AIS Blitz to share the
AIS Prevention message.
GLA Members will be notified.**

GRINDSTONE LAKE ASSOCIATION 2026 – 2027 BOARD MEMBERS

Roles and Responsibilities

President - Donna Carlson

952-484-5211

president@grindstonelake.org

donnafcarlson@gmail.com

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

gklausen@gmail.com

Fisheries and Habitat

Karen Mumford

mumforkg@uwcc.edu

Shoreline Protection & Restoration

Committee Members - Lee & Nancy Skelley

leeskell@outlook.com

nancyflowers2000@gmail.com

Water Quality

Karen Mumford, Cheryl Contant

mumforkg@uwcc.edu

ckcontant@gmail.com

Building a Grindstone Lake Community

* Membership – Cheryl Contant

ckcontant@gmail.com

* Communication – Fran Klausen

fvklausen@gmail.com

* Neighborhoods Leaders Coordinator–

Ellie Morse

emorse53@gmail.com

* Social & Education – Donna Carlson

donnafcarlson@gmail.com

* Web manager– TBD

Grants

* Grants/Proposal Writing - Cheryl Contant

ckcontant@gmail.com

* Grant Administration - Mike Warden

mwarden3352@gmail.com

Trumpeter Publisher – Dee Hobbie

deehobbie610@gmail.com



Clean Boats - Clean Waters

We continue to participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Program for the 2026 boating season as we have in the past. The WI DNR grant was obtained to monitor the landing and conduct inspections to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). GLA's monitoring efforts in 2025 resulted in 1,078 boat inspections over the course of 335 hours of monitoring and boater education.

A Big Thank You to our primary **CBCW Monitor, Melanie Schreiber**. We are fortunate to have her returning for the upcoming season. If you see Melanie, possibly with her puppy Liam, at the landing on a weekend, kindly say "Hello and Thank You, or Ruff!".



I-LIDS is an acronym for **Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor**. This is a solar powered, self-contained, video monitoring and boater education system which was permanently installed in 2024 at the main boat landing on Hwy K. Not only does it announce an educational message to boaters, it captures video of the vehicle and trailer as part of the inspection process. During the 2025 season 3,308 videos were reviewed and 822 launch videos were inspected for weeds present on the trailer or boat. Two violations were reported to local law enforcement. Our association pays \$2,775 per year for this process and video analysis. This is not covered by any grants. The cost is funded by our GLA members' dues and donations. Please consider donating this year!



Online Grindstone Lake Association Directory

We are pleased to announce the completion of our Online Grindstone Lake Directory. This directory represents our commitment to fostering connections and collaboration among our members. By bringing people together in one accessible format, we aim to enhance communication and strengthen relationships.

We're excited to share this with you.



GRINDSTONE WAVE Coming Your Way Soon

We are thrilled to announce that the Grindstone Lake Association has received a grant from the Wisconsin DNR that enables us to implement a new email-based communication system called Constant Contact, which will significantly enhance our ability to connect with members. By providing timely information regarding conservation efforts, lake level updates, volunteer opportunities, community events, and more, this system will foster a stronger sense of community among our members and residents, as well as provide a vital resource for keeping our community informed and engaged. This innovative tool will complement our communication with a visually friendly and vibrant template that will heighten the reading experience. The system not only streamlines important information efficiently, but it also prioritizes the privacy of our subscribers. We look forward to sharing this with you soon. To receive the **Grindstone Wave**, you will need to share your email address with the GLA. For more information, contact Fran Klausen at fvklausen@gmail.com.



We hope you had the opportunity to take a walk along the mowed trails at the Grindstone Lake Nature Reserve last year. If not, please come visit this summer. We would like to thank Jon Morse for volunteering his time and trailering his mower out to the Nature Reserve to mow the trails.

The Foundation received a \$30,000 grant from the Wisconsin DNR to study the hydrology and restoration of the wetlands at the Nature Reserve; you will probably see some activity out on the Bog this summer and fall. The wetlands are located on the northwestern area of property. The Foundation has no plans to remove the trees which are springing up on the eastern side of the property.



As you may recall, in late 2024 the buildings were burned down as a training exercise by the volunteer firefighters. The remnants of the buildings have been cleaned up, removing both an eyesore and potential liability.

While the Foundation's operating expenses are mainly real estate taxes and insurance, we would like to purchase equipment for the maintenance of the property as well as assist with the continued clean-up of the Reserve. Please consider a donation to the Grindstone Lake Foundation, Inc.

In addition, the Foundation is seeking individuals interested in serving as board members. If you have a passion for conservation and would like to help guide the future of the Grindstone Lake Nature Reserve, we encourage you to reach out and express your interest. Your involvement would make a meaningful impact on our ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance this special place.

Thank you for your continued support. <https://grindstonelake.org/lake-foundation/>

New Wisconsin DNR Grant Provides More Funding for Aquatic Invasive Species Control

Our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan lays out our goals for protecting our Outstanding Resource Water across various potential threats (shoreline erosion, nutrient loadings, fishery changes, water quality degradation, and aquatic invasive species). In particular, two goals relate to AIS – one is to respond rapidly to the identification of new AIS discoveries; and the second is to control existing AIS populations that threaten Grindstone Lake.

The discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Little Grindstone Lake in 2023 led to a rapid response that confirmed the existence of the species, investigated alternative forms of population control, and identified possible funding sources. We received a Surface Water Grant in 2024 to control both Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and EWM through an integrated management approach of meander surveys and divers conducting hand removal of plants and fragments. These efforts, conducted in 2024 and 2025, yielded 66 cubic feet and 121 cubic feet, respectively, of AIS removal. The higher amounts in 2025 are the result of an increase of 3 days of hand-pulling recommended after year one. A special thanks to the GLA members who funded these extra days late last summer!

A new three-year grant continues this work to manage and control the AIS found in Little Grindstone where it is relatively contained and can be removed in an efficient, relatively inexpensive, and environmentally-sound manner. Waiting until these species make their way into Grindstone and then trying to control them would be much more difficult and expensive. We've also installed signage to inform boaters of the need for AIS prevention efforts through Little Grindstone. Finally, for the next three summers, we will be enhancing our volunteer AIS monitoring to provide early detection of AIS in the big lake.

Taken together, these three efforts (hand-removal, signage, and AIS monitoring in Grindstone and Little Grindstone) are an integrated way to reduce populations of AIS during the next three years. The grant covers just under \$50,000 of the project cost, with over \$16,000 needed for the GLA match. We will be asking for donations from our members to help defray the annual \$5,000 cost.

A quick reminder – our neighboring lakes spend over \$200,000 per year to control their extensive AIS outbreaks. If we keep working hard on our prevention and control efforts, we hope to avoid this heavy monetary expense and keep our lake clear of AIS!

Town of Bass Lake Wake Protection Ordinance update

On June 9, 2025, the Town of Bass Lake passed a Motorboat Wake Protection Area Ordinance that applies to all waters within the Town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County. **This includes, but is not limited to, Grindstone Lake.**

The intent of this ordinance is to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of aquatic recreation consistent with public rights and interests and the capability of the water resources to minimize shoreline erosion.

In summary, the ordinance states the following:

No person shall operate a motorboat in a manner to enhance an elevated wake for over 50 feet in length closer than 700 feet from any shoreline, dock, pier, raft or other restricted area(s) and at a depth under 30 feet within the Town of Bass Lake. An elevated wake is a trail of disturbed water left by the passage of a watercraft in excess of 24 inches in height. Such prohibited operation shall apply to wake enhancement watercraft by the use of a ballast, mechanical hydrofoil(s), uneven loading, or operation at transition speed. Transition speed means the speed at which the boat is operating at greater than slow-no-wake speed, but not fast enough so the boat is planing.

This notice has been posted at the Grindstone Boat Landing. The penalties for violation are according to WI State Boating Penalties as found in s.30.80 and include fines. This ordinance shall be enforced by the officers of Sawyer County. Justin Hall, Chairman, Bass Lake Town Board is the local contact for violation reporting. Justin can be reached at 715-634-4226.

Ciscoes and Our Coldwater Lake Habitat Need Your Help

Grindstone Lake Association received a grant from the Wisconsin DNR to study the dissolved oxygen and temperature profile of Grindstone Lake from early summer through fall of 2024 and 2025. The purpose of this study was to determine whether our lake meets the dissolved oxygen and temperature needs of two cold-water fish species, whitefish and cisco. Based on the data collected, we observed that the dissolved oxygen and temperature levels needed to support whitefish populations are no longer sustained in Grindstone. However, the dissolved oxygen and temperature levels measured may still meet the needs of ciscoes. Like whitefish, ciscoes are an important prey species for muskies, walleye and other fishes. By working to protect these conditions, we protect our lake's biodiversity and support species critical to the lake's food web. The loss of dissolved oxygen and temperature levels needed to sustain cold-water species is due to warming climate and nutrients entering the lake. To help protect our ciscoes, consider eliminating or reducing the use of fertilizers and establishing a shoreline buffer of native plants to block nutrients from entering the lake. A presentation pdf entitled Grindstone Lake Oxythermal Habitat Study has more details about this project and is located on the GLA website under the header "news" and sub-header "reports". For more information, contact Karen Mumford at mumforkg@uwec.edu.





Rain Garden at the Grindstone Lake Boat Landing

A rain garden is a beautifully designed landscape feature that captures and absorbs stormwater runoff, allowing it to filter through soil and plants before it reaches our precious waterways. These gardens are not just a pretty sight; they play a crucial role in protecting ecosystems like Grindstone Lake by improving water quality and reducing flooding. By planting native plants that thrive in wet conditions, rain gardens create a habitat for local wildlife, making them a wonderful addition to our community. So, whether you're looking to enhance your yard's charm or contribute to environmental stewardship, creating a rain garden is a fantastic way to enjoy nature while helping to safeguard our beloved lake!

An area at the main boat landing has been transformed into a vibrant rain garden, where beauty meets functionality and natural sustainability. This initiative isn't just about managing stormwater – though it will do that splendidly – it's about creating a welcoming oasis that invites both residents and visitors to enjoy the stunning ecosystem surrounding Grindstone Lake. This project will not only enhance our community but will help preserve the environment. A rain garden is not just a garden; it's a demonstration of our commitment to preserving the natural beauty of Grindstone Lake!

A BIG Thank You to Nancy and Lee Skelley for their expertise in planning, excavating, and completing this beautiful and functional garden at the landing. By using some money from Shoreline Restoration Grant, donations from membership, and MANY volunteer hours, this project has come to life!

To donate to this special project: mail to Grindstone Lake Assn. PO Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843 or online at grindstonelake.org. For other questions contact Mike Warden at mwarden3352@gmail.com.



l-r Lee and Nancy Skelley with Fran Klausen



Kids won't remember their best day of television.

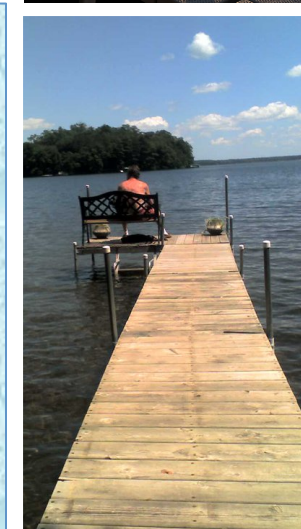
Grindstone Lake Water Level Update

In January, the DNR approved the WLPOA petition to amend the ordered water levels. This includes the amendment that Sawyer County submitted to operate the dam in a more controlled method to avoid downstream erosion. This petition is an attempt to bring the water level back closer to the pre-2021 levels.

The Billy Boy Dam operations falls under the responsibility of the Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation administrator Jay Kozlowski. This spring, the dam has been operating under this new order with positive results. The water level has since decreased due to the lack of rain in May and early June.

A group of volunteers from Grindstone, LCO, and Whitefish are communicating regularly with the Sawyer County team and will report back to our associations with any important developments. We are monitoring the readings at the LCO Thoroughfare Bridge on Hwy K and at the dam on a regular basis; more frequently when there is significant rain.

If you have questions about this matter, reach out to Greg Klausen at glklausen@gmail.com.



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

GLA 2026 Membership New, Renewal, or Gift.



Renew your membership OR join for the first time!
Add a gift membership(s) for adult children (or close family) to grow our next generation here on Grindstone. Your information will be added to our new Online Grindstone Lake Directory unless you choose to "opt out" below.
Additional donations are appreciated!

Grindstone Lake Association MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2026 \$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

☐ **I wish to opt out of being included in the Grindstone Lake Association Directory**



Add a gift membership(s) for adult children (or close family) to grow our next generation here on Grindstone.

Grindstone Lake Association GIFT MEMBERSHIP for 2026 \$40.00

We want to get your family or friends properly welcomed & informed. **Please Print Legibly**

☐ **Gift Membership** **The 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 www.grindstonelake.org

☐ **Opt out of being included in the Grindstone Lake Association Directory**

