

November 2006

The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER



**The Grindstone Lake Association
is a community of neighbors
dedicated to promoting the
preservation and enjoyment
of our precious lake !**

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Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

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

President's Message

Back in 1994, we heard a rumor that a developer was planning to build a fish farm on the property adjoining the Grindstone Creek. At the time, we had heard vague information about the dangers of fish farms, poisons used in harvesting, etc. and were concerned about the impact on Grindstone Lake. We wanted information. We wanted to organize a response to insure that all possible actions were taken to protect the lake and its fish populations.

Unfortunately, we were helpless. We only knew one other family to work with on the issue at that time, and had no contacts with the DNR, or any other governing body to gather information. There was no lake association, no mailing, phone or e-mail list available to activate the lake owners to lobby for proper protection from this threat.

Luckily, the rumor never became fact. But the realization of our helplessness motivated the Nilsson's and Gleason's to start the Grindstone Lake Association. Fortunately many dedicated lake property owners joined the association and today we have a valuable history of research data

collected about the environmental health of the lake, a strong positive relationship with the DNR, and a growing list of members to name just a few of the accomplishments of the association since its inception.

As an illustration of the respect for the association in the greater community, at our last board meeting, we had a developer spend over 45 minutes discussing his project in the former Skille Cranberry bog to be sure that we understood and could properly inform our members of the plans and impact of the project. [See Cranberry Update Article, page 9] When asked why he attended the meeting, the developer, Steve Sletner said "the DNR advised me to present to the board". This is a great sign that we are seen as having a role in protecting the long term health of Grindstone Lake with our ability to gather information and communicate it to our membership.

I am thrilled to be asked to operate as the board's president for the coming year. As pleased as I am with all that we have accomplished since our inception, there are two challenges that I would like

all of us to address in the next year.

First, our membership includes about 50% of all property owners on the lake. Our neighboring association, Lac Courte Oreilles has almost 66% of its property owners registered as association members. The more owners who belong to the association, the more effective we can be in communicating our concern for lake protection. If you know a lake property owner who isn't a member, please, help them to join our association.

Second, we need to reactivate our members. At our first membership meeting, we broke up into small groups which we called "Action Teams". All of those who attended the meeting joined a team and helped to set a mission and action plan for that team. I was amazed at the diversity of interests and ideas for action which were developed and executed. Fish cribs and water quality research data collection are just a few of the ideas which were conceived in that first meeting and subsequently executed by "Action Team" members. Since that time, activism has slowly evolved to rest primarily on the shoulders of the board of

directors for the association. It does not have to be that way, and I hope to encourage each of you to join a "team" working on something for Grindstone Lake that you care about and want to help preserve or impact.

Meanwhile, the board will continue to play our role of guiding the activities of the association, keeping our members informed about the lake and issues which involve its future.

Tom Gleason
President, Grindstone Lake Association



Bass Lake Board News

In October, the Town of Bass Lake Board voted to increase the Board size from 3 members to 5 members. Currently the Board is comprised of a chairman and 2 other members, all elected at large. The new Board configuration will have a Town Chairman who is elected at Large and 4 board members elected by ward divisions used for the Sawyer County Supervisor's election. Two members will be elected

from the combined electors in wards 1 and 2. Two more members will be elected from the combined electors in wards 3 and 4. The elections will take place in the spring with the two highest vote getters serving a 2 year term and the other two serving a 1 year term. Thereafter they will be elected on alternate years.

Linn Newton

July 8, 2006 Annual Meeting

Bruce Miller, President, welcomed members and started the 2006 annual meeting of the Grindstone Lake Association at 12:10 p.m. The minutes of the July 2005 annual meeting were approved. Linn Newton, Treasurer, reported that the August 31, 2005 balance was \$7,253.45. Income from membership, sales and donations totaled \$11,802.71. Expenses for dues, newsletters, boat landing, lake improvement, and other items totaled \$9,059.42. The balance on July 8, 2006 is \$9,996.74. Linn also presented the 2006 budget with funds earmarked for key studies.

Membership: Linn reported that there are currently 153 members. Bruce Miller introduced board members present: Ray Moeller, Vice President, Linn Newton, Treasurer; Marilyn Lundberg, Secretary; Camille Venners, Newsletter Editor; Larry Berg; Bruce Paulsen; and Dan Tyrolt, LCO liaison. Bruce noted that he, Cyndy MacIntosh, Bill Miley, Eric Nilsson, and Skip Brossard are going off the board. Ray Moeller and Linn Newton had their terms extended. Tom Gleason, Dick Kuhns, Kathy O’Cull, Brian Pabich, and Hal Meeker were newly elected.

Adoption of non-profit status: Bruce Paulsen reported that the board has been investigating having the Grindstone Association become a non-profit (501.c3) organization. Members voted approval of this change in status.

Updates: Town Chairman, Pete Sanders, thanked the GLA for collaborating on the very successful reconstruction of the boat landing. He also discussed changes in the Fire Department and the enlarging of the first

responder program. He noted that Williams Bay Lodge and other condemned buildings are being rehabilitated. Pete discussed the new Grindstone Shallows Park located near the existing boat landing on Northwoods Beach. The town is examining how to keep the park a safe place, and will construct a buffer to show how recreation and buffers can be compatible.

Ray Moeller advised members about the library ground breaking on June 28.

Linn spoke about the septic survey. Out of 315 possible responders, 205 voted positively and 41 voted no. Only 69 did not respond. Responses are confidential. This summer Windigo will be surveyed, and then Grindstone. It should take through 2007 to finish all lakeshore properties.

Bruce thanked Rick Kramer for the spectacular fireworks display this year. GLA helps support this.



Dan Tyrolt discussed water quality work underway. The lake core study, cost-shared by GLA, will provide 150 years of data about past conditions. Grindstone is one of the few lakes with this type of study. The work is done, but DNR is still conducting the analysis. Preliminary findings show that the lake is second only to Round Lake for water quality. Changes can occur rapidly and he urged members

to ensure it stays that way. Measures to safeguard the lake include keeping or installing buffers, reducing impervious surfaces, and maintaining septic systems.

Dan noted that the LCO and USGS had studied the effects of water use by the Big Fish golf course. The use of the high capacity well should only decrease flow in the Grindstone springs about 0 to 5 percent. He said that since the upper aquifer is polluted with high nitrogen, the managers are irrigating with this source to reduce its nitrogen use. The tribe is restoring Grindstone Springs and if there are problems from the golf course, that monitoring should detect them. At this time there is no information about the future status of the cranberry bog. The water is very low in the lake. The lake is recharged with water mostly from its small watershed and the drought has reduced the water supply — rivers and streams and shallow aquifers are below normal levels.

Dan promoted a new LCO tree drop program. Trees over 10" in diameter near the shore may qualify. Felled trees will be anchored to provide habitat. Bruce thanked Dan for his involvement with the board.

Trash Dive: Dave Mathies led another trash dive this year, supported by the GLA. There were 16 divers removing trash around Williams Bay.

Lake Survey: Bruce Paulsen distributed a report with the analysis of the recent survey. There were 320 questionnaires sent and 103 respondents. The responses help provide direction. Water quality is the top concern. One issue raised was swimmers itch. This is an issue for many lake associations and DNR is trying to get a large forum for discussion, possibly in 2007. Other

issues raised include the sensitivity of the area behind the islands (the GLA board requested Bass Lake to approve buoys marking it a no-wake zone but were turned down), and the importance of buffers.

Aquatic plant study: Bruce Paulsen described the DNR grant the GLA received to study aquatic plants in the lake. While the main thrust of the study is to identify aquatic plants, efforts will also involve watershed and lakeshore surveys. Grindstone Lake is about 3000 acres and it has a watershed of about 9000 acres. Land uses and drainage in the watershed affect the lake.

Cheryl Clemens, from Harmony Environmental, is leading the study. Volunteers are essential and will reduce GLA's 25 percent match. Plants will be surveyed at 527 points in the lake. The healthier the native plant community, the healthier the lake. Volunteers will also inventory the watershed for land uses that could cause problems and check



waterfront property for buffers and vegetation. Results will be analyzed and recommendations will be developed. Bruce

Miller recognized Bruce Paulsen for the effort that went into obtaining the grant.

Other business: Bruce asked for comments from the members. One asked to have the board investigate keeping the channel navigable between Grindstone and Lac Courte Oreilles. Bruce Miller was recognized for his service as President of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Marilyn Lundberg, Secretary

Sweatshirt Sales Raise Money for the GLA

Thanks to all of you who ordered and purchased GLA sweatshirts this summer. We sold 95 sweatshirts and raised \$1216. At the present time there is no plan to reorder sweatshirts.

GLA Donates to Bass Lake Fire Department for First Responders

In the spring 2006, Bass Lake Town Chairman Pete Sanders and Fire Chief Chris Headley started a recruitment campaign for Medical First Responders in Bass Lake. The Town of Bass Lake covers 83 square miles and has almost 2400 residents. In recent years we have had 2 Medical First Responders in the summer and 1 or none in the winter.

They formed a Medical Responder's Auxiliary to the Fire Department so that residents who were not Firemen could be a First Responder. Four residents completed the First Responder Course in May, and 4 additional EMTs who reside in the township also joined the Auxiliary. With this influx in personal came the necessity for start-up funds to provide basic First Responder Bags to the new members. In August, the GLA Board voted to donate the money to the Fire Department to purchase one bag. Board member, Bruce Paulsen contacted Windigo and Lac Courte Oreilles Lake Associations and urged them to do the same. I'm pleased to say that with the donations from the 3 lake associations and individual residents, all of the medical First Responders have a Responders bag and we have started purchasing additional equipment that was not included in the original purchase.

On behalf of the Bass Lake First Responders I want to personally thank the Grindstone Lake Association for this generous donation.

In other Fire Department news, after almost a year's work, the Fire Department was awarded a Department of Agriculture grant and low interest loan to help with the purchase of a new fire truck. This new truck will have a CAFS system (continuous air foam system) installed which will help the firemen to put out fires with less water, causing less water damage to houses, and needing less water at the fire scene. It will not have a freeze problem in the winter and in general gives the department state of the art equipment. The new truck will be delivered in the late spring. Look for it at the Fire Department Picnic next spring.

Linn Newton

Aquatic Plant Survey

All the fieldwork for the aquatic plant survey has been completed. Over 500 points on the lake were surveyed for plants. The watershed and lakeshore were surveyed. A small group of lake association members; Dan Tyroft, Bob Oesterricher, Steve Butchart, Mike Gill, Bruce Paulsen and Steve Scheffler of Harmony Environmental are working to develop an aquatic plant management plan. Tentative goals established by the committee for the plan include:

- Monitor and reduce filamentous algae growth
- Reduce human impact on water quality
- Prevent the introduction on non-native, invasive plant species
- Respond rapidly with an organized plan to new introductions of non-native, invasive plant species
- Preserve and restore native plant communities
- Enhance fish habitat within the plant community
- Restore native shoreline vegetation

According to Steve Scheffler, we have a healthy lake. There is a lot of plant diversity. Some of the plants in our lake that are very sensitive provide evidence that our lake is healthy. As noted above a particular species of algae is present in Grindstone. Its presence is not bad as long as it does not become too abundant.

As I understand it, Grindstone has been a very clean lake with a low level of phosphorus. However, even a small additional amount of phosphorus will have a noticeable impact on the lake quality. Preliminary Core Study findings indicate that over the last decade the water quality in Grindstone has begun to degrade. (When the final report is available in December or January, the information will be included in our newsletter.) According to some of the experts, development on the lakeshore is the principle cause of additional phosphorus in the lake. Other sources of phosphorus are septic systems and lawn fertilizer. Others, more knowledgeable than I, will discuss development and the resulting impervious surfaces in depth in succeeding issues of the Trumpeter.

Some of you have asked me how we received the \$10,000 DNR grant to do the Aquatic Plant Survey. The DNR scores and ranks all grant applications for that grant cycle. I was told only two grants were awarded in the DNR's Northern region, essentially the northern third of the state. I also was told we received the highest number of points. Points are awarded in nine separate categories. Without going into the details, here are Grindstone Lake Association activities that contributed to the points we were awarded:

- Our survey of all property owners on the lake
- Our leadership in getting a septic survey done
- Our partnering with the DNR to hold a fisheries visioning session. (As an aside, I have been told the report will be issued before year-end.)
- Our lead in pursuing and funding of the boat launch dredging

- Our partnering with the LCO Conservation department in the sediment core sample and analysis
- Our partnering with the LCO Conservation Department in an assessment of the water quality
- Our funding the planting of extended growth walleyes in the lake
- Our annual trash dives
- Our receiving letters of support for the grant from the Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department and Frank Pratt of the DNR
- Our commitment that the aquatic plant survey will lead to an actionable management plan including education of lakeshore residents

Bruce Paulsen

Cranberry Bog Update

One of the few remaining large tracts of undeveloped land on Grindstone Lake is the Cranberry Bog on the southwest corner of the lake. The land was sold for development four years ago, and we have been watching the progress of the development approval process with interest.

While we all care about preserving the eco-quality of the lake and its environs, we must also understand that all of us have contributed to the growth in human development on and around the lake. Consequently, our objective is to ask the questions so that we do all we can to insure that development is undertaken in a manner which is environmentally smart, and insures that we do not do damage to the water quality, shoreline or stress the lake environment through overpopulation and unnecessary pollution.

At the Board's urging, I wrote a letter to the DNR on behalf of the Association urging them to help us maintain the quality of the lake, especially in protecting the wetlands area as the cranberry marsh is developed. I pointed out that we were particularly concerned about filling the wetlands, development of unsightly properties without the protection of trees and other shoreline vegetation, and in the installation of multi-family units in an area which is environmentally sensitive and vulnerable to damage from human activity.

The response to this letter came in the form of the developer, Mr. Steve Sletner, attending our board meeting to review his plans. Mr. Sletner was informative, and expressed his desire to work with the DNR to complete a development which had sound environmental principals at heart. Mr. Sletner explained that he has done extensive investigation to determine what areas are true wetland and should not be developed. He expressed several times that he wanted to work cooperatively with the DNR, the local government and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, to build a quality development. At the same time, Mr. Sletner remained vague as to the exact number of buildings developed along the lake shore and the number of multifamily units vs.

single family units in the development. In summary here are the main points:

- While this is a large area of land, much of it meets state definitions of wetlands. There are three areas where development can occur:
 1. There is a ridge line on the property, set back over 200 feet from the lake shore, consisting of about 28 acres. This is where the majority of the units will be located in 1 acre lots. This portion of the marsh was rezoned to residential in 2002. The rezoning was permitted since this portion of the marsh was not originally wetland.
 2. An area of land near the current DNR boat landing along the lake shore which will be filled and developed.
 3. An area of land on the east side of the property which will be filled and developed.
- In the zoning meetings, Mr. Sletner committed to a maximum of 28 units to be developed across the entire property. Units are defined as single family dwellings; however, a building may contain more than one dwelling, each sharing a common wall. Each dwelling counts as a unit, so a building which has two dwellings sharing a common wall would count as two against the maximum allowed of 28 units.
- There will be access provided to the lake in three areas from these new homes, one on the west end via road to the developed lakeshore properties, one on the east end via road to the developed lakeshore properties, and via a dike built across the bog in the center of the property which provides access to the lake shore for the homes built on the ridge line. According to the State guidelines, the development could have up to 35 boat slips.
- Mr. Sletner explained that septic would be a high quality common utility managed by a professional company and maintained by his development property owner fees.
- Some of the undeveloped area of the bog will be sold to entities interested in purchasing wetland mitigation areas. One particular example is the area visible from County K at the east end of the property which could be purchased and developed as Cedar forest land. The extent of land sold for mitigation and wetlands preservation is not clearly determined at this time.
- Cranberry bog operations would cease which would end use of significant amounts of lake water and farming chemicals in this sensitive area.
- Mr. Sletner, in an effort to keep all of us informed of his plans, sent the following summary of the development plans for our newsletter:

“Many association owners have been curious as to what the status of the cranberry operations are on the lake. Rumors surface and even some facts are known, but a good honest update is in order. My partner and I have been working diligently over the past 18 months with the WDNR, LCO, and Corps of Engineers to come up with a plan for development. We last met this week and are in the final stages of agreeing on a development plan for the project. Here are the highlights of the plan:

1. *A small area is proposed be developed next to the boat landing (where*

the airplane hangar was located). The exact dimensions of this area are being fine tuned as I write this article.

2. The existing intake area at the opposite end of our property is proposed to be placed back to pre-farming bank conditions.
3. A small area is proposed to be developed near the intake area is also proposed to be developed.
4. The number of units proposed for the entire property will not exceed the original 28 as defined by the Town and County several years ago.
5. We are proposing a common septic for all residences that would be located near the sand hill just off CTH "K" away from the lake.
6. There will not be a mass pier! Instead we are proposing 4 to 5 dock facilities that would have enough dockage for the residents. Only residents of this property would be provided lake access.
7. We would cease cranberry operations now and start removal of all equipment upon receipt of a permit.
8. The existing cranberry fields near the lake and CTH "K" would be design and planted to revert back to native wetlands that are present in the area.
9. The exact number of homes or units that would be near the 75 foot setback line may vary as the permit is developed, but the range is 7 to 10.

Our path through the process has been slow and methodical with an emphasis on open and honest discussions. It was a pleasure to share our plans with the Board of Directors and I would encourage anyone with questions to call me direct at 715-579-4849. You will get honest answers straight from the horse's mouth.

Submitted by Steve Sletner, partner in Cranberry Ridge, LLC"

In summary, we will see new homes developed on this property, with additional boat traffic. We may also see some cranberry farmland transformed into north woods wetlands. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you all informed. We do not have any specific lobbying action to recommend to our members at this time.

Tom Gleason

IF MULTIPLE FAMILIES USE YOUR GRINDSTONE LAKE PROPERTY...

and they each would like to receive the Trumpeter and other Grindstone Lake Mailings, please send us the name of the owner who receives the tax bill (that is our current source of owners) and then any additional persons who want to receive our mailings. Provide the name, address, phone number and e-mail address for the additional person(s).

Trees are Falling in Grindstone



I would like to thank the Grindstone Lake property owners who have volunteered to have a tree drop take place on their property. So far three trees have been dropped into the water to increase the amount of coarse woody debris (CWD) around Grindstone Lake.



Lindner Property (one of two)

Trees that have fallen into the water along the shoreline are one of the key factors for a healthy lake ecosystem and fishery. Unfortunately, one of the first things that is often done when a property owner discovers a tree has fallen into the water along their shoreline is to remove it so that the shoreline isn't "cluttered" with that "messy" tree. These tree drops are an easy first step that lakeshore property owners can do to restore that key element of a lake ecosystem. So far this fall we have completed tree

drops on the Paulsen and Lindner properties. Several other properties are also scheduled to have tree drops take place. Anyone who is interested in this program should contact Dan Tyrolt at the LCO Conservation Department (715-634-0102) to have their shoreline assessed to determine if it would be suitable for a tree drop.

Dan Tyrolt



Paulsen Property

Wisconsin Association of Lakes

The Grindstone Lake Association annually maintains a paid membership to the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL). Membership in this organization assists the GLA Board in keeping abreast of statewide initiatives and concerns.

The WAL website states:

“The Wisconsin Association of Lakes is a statewide nonprofit organization working exclusively to protect and enhance the quality of Wisconsin’s 15,000 lakes.

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes formed in 1992 from the merger of the Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts and the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes. This decision to form a unified statewide citizen lake organization has proven invaluable in:

- *supporting and promoting sound lake policy*
- *building partnerships with local governments and groups*
- *networking concerned citizens*
- *assisting lake groups*
- *and organizing lake education workshops and conventions*

Collectively, we are citizens working and learning together, becoming leaders, and making positive contributions to the quality of our state’s freshwater treasures.”

WAL’s website also contains a wealth of information to explore and increase your knowledge of lake topics. Lake property owners who value the environment of water can enjoy it all the more by learning about lake ecosystems and how to protect them.

WAL Publications:

- Quarterly newsletter, the Lake Connection: Membership is required
- Wisconsin Association of Lakes E-lake letter: a free service e-mailed monthly
- Reports and special project summaries: Available online
- Books, videos, and brochures: Some for purchase and others downloadable

WAL educational opportunities:

- Wisconsin Annual Lakes Convention, held each spring with workshops and exhibits by all kinds of lake experts — all for lay lake folks like most of us. The 2007 Lakes Convention is planned for April 26-28, at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, WI. More information will be available soon.
- Regional workshops are offered each year. Board members, Bruce Paulsen and Dick Kuhns have attended workshops and would be happy to respond if you have questions about their experiences.

Explore the WAL website and discover their extensive resources for yourself!

<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/index.htm>

Water Levels Got You Down?

*Reprint from Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Lake Tides
Vol.31 No.3 Summer 2006*

What's up (or down) with those water levels the last few years? In many areas all across Wisconsin, it seems that lake levels get lower by the day. Are low levels occurring in your backyard? Just like there are many types of lakes, there are many reasons why this happens. Let's explore those reasons and see if this is always a bad thing for our lakes.

Depending on the type of lake, you may be noticing a drop in water levels. If you live near a lake where water levels are controlled by a structure such as a dam, you may not be noticing such a drastic drop as someone located on a natural glacial kettle lake. Seepage lakes, on the other hand, typically have water levels that are controlled by the elevation of the groundwater table. Because of this they are usually more susceptible to water level fluctuations.

So if groundwater plays a big role in water levels on lakes and baseflow to streams, what controls groundwater levels? Groundwater levels (the amount of groundwater in aquifers) are a reflection of the amount of water percolating into aquifers from the soil (groundwater recharge) minus the amount of groundwater discharging from aquifers to surface waters and wells. An easy way to look at it is by comparing it to a bank account, where:

Credit	-	Debit	=	<i>Net Savings</i>
Rain/ Snowmelt	-	Runoff/ Use by Plants	=	<i>Groundwater Recharge</i>

Groundwater is a product of rain and snowmelt, which is your annual credit. This credit, in terms of precipitation, equals about 31 inches per year. The rain or snowmelt that becomes runoff or is intercepted by plants, is your debit. This makes up the majority of your account, about 21 inches per year. Your net savings is groundwater recharge. Typically, in the central part of the state the net savings is about 10 inches per year. That is your profit to spend (wisely or foolishly). If you spend too much you run into the red; conversely, if you spend wisely you run into the black. If a reduction in recharge continues, or too much money is spent, you may start to see the impacts in low water levels. Sometimes this is natural, such as a drought; other times it may be influenced by our choices in land uses.

Factors like persistent drought are basically beyond our control and have been occurring for millennia. This flow of ups and downs is natural, and will continue to occur. Unfortunately, there is not a predictable cycle and these ups and downs can range over many years. While it might be a very short time for Mother Nature, for us it can be a good portion of our "riparian life." For example, we can look at groundwater

monitoring well records across the state and see that low water levels have happened before. We can see that in the late 1950s to mid-60s we experienced comparable or lower levels than we have now. Conversely, the high peak seemed to occur in the early 1990s, which coincides fairly well with precipitation trends. Since then, we have been on a decline that is nearing the previous late 1950s to mid-60s levels.

Development along lakes has also increased since the 1960s. Many people may not recall such low levels simply because they were not on the water then. In some lakes, stumps from young trees can be found well below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) which suggests extended low water periods. These periods were low enough and lasted long enough for small trees to invade and grow before drowning out as water levels returned closer to the OHWM. Again, these cycles may occur over a relatively short period of time for the natural world but can be a long time for us.

As development pressures of our groundwater resources continue, we see that perhaps we are running a little closer to the red at times. As we have filled wetlands,

created large roof tops, and paved riparian areas and shorelines, we have increased runoff (a debit) and decreased our recharge rates (savings). As we literally tap into our groundwater bank accounts to remove water for municipal and high capacity wells, we remove even more water that is not returned as recharge, but lost as runoff and evaporation (debits). In fact, water table elevations have decreased by several feet in large urban areas and the recharge rates in heavily irrigated lands can be reduced by nearly half (about 5 inches per year). Combine this human influence with natural drought conditions and the natural low may become even lower.

But are low water levels all that bad for lakes? The natural flux has been happening for millennia and we know that many species of plants and animals have evolved to adapt to changing water levels. In fact, some high value plants such as bulrushes are dependent on this flux. As water levels decrease, emergent species

of plants along the shore expand toward the lake. When water levels return, this expansion of plants becomes habitat for fish and wildlife, removes nutrients from water, and helps increase water clarity. Think of the process as the lake healing itself. Without this normal water level flux, the species that make a lake ecosystem what it is can not survive.

There is an inherent rise and fall to lake levels. The natural low level phase should be welcomed with an understanding that this is a time of healing and rebirth for a lake.

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Postal contact info: Lake Tides, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, 800 Reserve St., Stevens Point, WI 54481

We have learned to tap into our groundwater accounts, which is necessary to some degree. However, we can exacerbate low level conditions through our land use practices that limit groundwater recharge and by overspending in lean times. Will lake levels come back? Most likely, but Mother Nature determines that. We can help her out by being frugal when we need to be.

By Scott Provost
Water Resources Management Specialist
Northeast Region Wisconsin DNR

The Channel Between the Lakes

A third year in a row of below normal rainfall, snowfall and lake levels continues to make navigation between the two lakes impossible for many boats.

A few people have inquired about dredging the shallow areas at the outlet of Grindstone and the inlet to Lac Courte Oreilles. While dredging would help, the fix would be short lived and the end result would be undesirable.

The outlet of Grindstone acts as a natural dam. During low lake levels the flow rate of water exiting Grindstone is decreased. This decreased flow rate allows sediment, primarily sand, to remain in the shallowest areas of the channel. This acts as a natural dam to maintain the water level of Grindstone. Dredging the channel during low lake levels would only temporarily allow boat traffic but also increase the flow rate of water exiting Grindstone. The end result would be Grindstone Lake levels lower than before the dredging process and soon thereafter the channel would again be too shallow

for navigation. This is the natural balancing nature of the outlet.

Hopefully, the future will bring normal rain and snow melt quantities. The good news is we are fortunate to have sand as the primary sediment in the shallow areas of the channel. With normal lake levels the exiting water flow rate is greatly increased. This increased flow rate acts as a natural dredger making the channel deeper. The channels depth is also greatly affected by boat traffic. Prop wash and jet blast stir up sand from the shallowest areas of the channel. This stirred up sediment is then carried by the higher water flow rate to deeper waters. The more sediment stirred up the deeper the channel, and the more boats that use the channel the clearer it will remain.

So, for now there is not much that can be done except to hope for rain, lots of snow and normal lake levels.

Brian Pabich

Tax Exempt Status

The revised Articles of Incorporation have been re-filed with the State of Wisconsin. Once approved, the Articles will be included in the non-profit request sent to the Internal Revenue Service.

GLA Annual Picnic

Temperature... *Hot*
Scents... *Invigorating, fresh lake air*
Unity... *Common goals*



Laughter and conversation



Warm, savory, satisfying barbecue



Reminiscing



Gathered friends

Once again the GLA Annual Picnic was a wonderful event. Thanks are extended to picnic planners Ray Moeller and Linn Newton. More thanks are due to each of the members and their family or friends who helped with preparation, set-up, serving, and clean-up.

Our lake association strives to strengthen our community. If you have not attended the GLA picnics, we encourage you to participate in 2007. The picnic and annual meeting are excellent opportunities to get acquainted with your neighbors in different regions of Grindstone Lake.

Picnic ideas and suggestions (changes, improvements, volunteers, etc.) are always welcome.

Trash Dive Yields an (Almost) Treasure

The Grindstone Lake Association's Annual Trash dive occurred in June 2006. Don MacIntosh, Jim Queenan, Dave McJoynt, Ed Venners and Skip Brossard provided boat support. The weather cooperated and the accumulated trash included numerous anchors, fishing poles, skeet shooting targets and a boat motor.

GLA member Jim Rigotti collects and restores old motors. This motor was older than those he has a special interest in, but he volunteered to pursue information regarding this motor.

Jim reports that the boat motor recovered from William's Bay is a 1 ½ H.P. Johnson model J-70. This model was only built in 1934, so it was relatively easy to identify. The cost, new, was \$85.00

and it weighed 27 lbs. Johnson also built a 2 H.P. model in the late 20's and early 30's. Both motors were head and shoulders above the competition because of their light weight, 360° steering, and tilt-up feature for beaching. The motors also came with a one year guarantee. Unfortunately, as can be expected due to extensive time submerged, this motor is in poor condition and is not restorable. Most of the steel and aluminum parts are badly corroded. However the lower unit assembly, which is mostly brass, survived quite well.

Jim has sleuthed the where and the what elements for us but the who, when and why remain a mystery of the past.

Jim Rigotti and Camille Venners



Original Catalog View



Recovered Motor

E-mail Contacts

The GLA is trying to use e-mail as an efficient membership communication tool. As more and more members have shared their e-mail address with us the GLA has been able to send meeting messages, announcements, and at times share urgent issues in a timely and cost effective manner. Members have also been contacting the GLA Board via e-mail when they have a concern.

While we are pleased with our initial efforts, we have identified areas where we can improve. We also welcome improvement suggestions from you, as well.

Problem:

We need to increase our ability to contact lake property owners with e-mail updates.

Remedy:

Add yourself to the GLA list. Send an e-mail message with the subject line: GLA e-mail addition

Problem:

In a recent e-mail to members, many e-mail addresses failed to be delivered due to errors in the address.

Remedy:

Notify the GLA of your correct e-mail address. Send an e-mail message with the subject line: GLA e-mail correction

Problem:

Some recipients may wish to discontinue receiving our e-mail messages.

Remedy:

Remove yourself from the GLA list. Send an e-mail message with the subject line: GLA e-mail removal

Send e-mail messages with addition, correction, and removal requests to:
evenners2@charter.net



Yikes! Are YOU on this List?

Electronic contact with the following members ceased due to errors in their e-mail address:

Bosman	Micah & Becky
Charette, Jr.	Mr. Clyde R
Fandler	Daniel P & Diane L
Gamble	Scott
Groberg	Gregory W & Janice B
Hammond	Bruce E & Judith A
Hanson	Gary P & Kathy L
Hatzenbihler	Denny & Deb
Holmes	David R & Virginia M
Jacobson	Thomas J & Mary G
Knight	Bruce & Nancy
Krogness	Steve & Pam
Markgren	Paul & Judith
Mc Graw	Ralph & Denise
Neuman	Bill & Kayela
Nilsson	Eric
O'Meara	Thomas R & Shaun M
Rhine	William And Audrey
Schofield	Thomas P
Severson	Alberta V
Skelley	Lee A & Nancy M
Storlie	Charles P & Terrie L

Grindstone Trumpeter

Grindstone Lake Association

PO Box 292

Hayward, WI 54843