

April 2006

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 2005-2006

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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

What does a lakeshore property owners association do?

In recent years, ours put in 236 fish cribs, cost-shared on a sediment core study conducted by the LCO, and partnered with Walleyes for NW Wisconsin to place extended length Walleye in the lake and we also hold an annual picnic/pig roast following our annual meeting to help our members get acquainted with their neighbors.

In greater detail, our Grindstone Lake Association:

- Supported the adoption of additional management and protection measures for shore land in Sawyer County;
- Encouraged members to attend the shore land hearings;
- Surveyed aquatic plants, including milfoil (no milfoil found);
- Supported the DNR self-help lakes volunteer monitoring. Partnered with the LCO and the DNR for the water quality and nutrient loading study and published information about it in this newsletter;

- Strongly encouraged the DNR to post the area by the islands as a no-wake zone;
- Supported a trash dive to remove debris (we have now done 3 of them);
- Sponsored a DNR stakeholders meeting to shape a vision for the lake;
- Following the lead of other major lakes in the area we are supporting a septic survey of lakeshore properties. Look for more information on this study in this Trumpeter and at the 2006 annual meeting;
- This past Fall, we partnered with the Town of Bass Lake, the DNR and many generous members and organizations to rebuild the boat landing off Hwy K.

I think our work demonstrates how serious we are about keeping Grindstone Lake a real Northwoods gem!

Next we need to ask you to consider becoming active with the Grindstone Lake Association. We need volunteers to serve on several committees, to help with the

annual trash dive, to help set up the annual meeting and picnic, people to help clean up after the annual picnic, people to work on water quality, and to help on other projects that the Lake Association may undertake.

If we want to continue being a successful Lake Association, it takes the helping hands, and ideas, of many people. We have a hard-working board of concerned lakeshore property owners now. We have good partnerships with the LCO tribe, with Sawyer County, with the DNR, and others. Now, we need new ideas and people to continue our list of successes. I am asking you to contact me, or one of our board members, and let us know of your interest in working with us. The best way to reach me is by email: sleepingbearcoffee@yahoo.com — and I will help you connect with the right committee chairperson.

The best way to keep Grindstone Lake a great place to live, to vacation, to fish — is for all of us to pitch in, to the

best of our abilities, and keep it as one of the Northwood's great lakes.

Bruce Miller
President



Shoreland Buffer

What is a shoreland buffer?

A shoreland buffer strip (also called a filter strip or buffer zone) separates your lawn from the lake. It typically includes taller grasses, blooming plants, shrubs and trees, as well as aquatic plants such as cattails, rushes, and lilies.

Why is a natural shoreline important?

Undeveloped or restored shorelines carpeted by woods, meadows, or marshes enhance the quality of lakes and rivers, as well as recreational opportunities. Natural shorelines help protect water quality by slowing runoff, reducing erosion, and filtering nutrients that can cause algal blooms. They also provide habitat for wildlife and can deter nuisance species like Canada geese. Natural shorelines add beauty and color to property, increase privacy, and can reduce the amount of time you spend on lawn care! By improving water quality, habitat, and appearance, a natural shoreline can

even improve your property value. If you're lucky enough to have shoreline that hasn't been developed, think before you clear it. If your property has already been altered, there are steps you can take to have a more natural shoreline.

How can I establish a shoreland buffer?

The easiest approach to establishing a buffer strip is simply to do nothing. If you stop mowing, weeding, and raking your shoreland area, many native plants will likely reestablish. Plants such as spike rush, sedges, and arrowhead have become established on some shorelines when people stopped cutting and raking. Another option is to actively restore the site by replanting native vegetation in the water and on the adjacent land.

There are four steps to restore your shore:

1. Start by assessing your site and the different ways you use it (e.g., swimming, making campfires, docking your boat).
2. Carefully plan your project and prepare the site.
3. Select and plant appropriate native plants.
4. Maintain the area so the plants become well established.

Source: Adapted from Minnesota Shoreland Management Resource Guide

Grindstone Lake Fishery

For many years the Grindstone Lake Association has channeled funds toward improving the Grindstone Lake fishery. Some of the GLA efforts included placing fish cribs, spanning multiple years as covered by a DNR permit; walleye stocking; and trash dives to clean up the lake bottom. Recently, Bruce Paulsen spoke with Frank Pratt to explain our past efforts. During that conversation, Frank was asked for suggestions on how the GLA might prioritize spending to maximize benefits to fishery as we move forward.

Frank recommended that the GLA focus on improving shoreline buffers and accelerate coarse woody debris along the shoreline via tree drops. He also favored (re)continuing aqua-cribs as well, now that the permitting process has been better defined. In the next several months, Frank

will complete a fish management plan that might assist the GLA in making decisions.

Daniel D. Tyrolt, biologist with LCO Conservation, stated, "The reason cribs seem to be especially successful on Grindstone Lake is because of the numbers of cribs placed in an area. Some lakes only put out 10, 20, or 30 cribs in an area which doesn't seem to be effective. Completely saturating an area with cribs, placing 100 - 200 in an area as the GLA has done, produces very good results. Couple this with increasing the tree drops around the shoreline and I think you would really be providing effective cover and rearing areas for young fish."

The GLA Board appreciates input from members as goals and budgets are established. Please share your fishery opinions and suggestions.

Grindstone Lake Septic Survey Update

Thanks to everyone who has completed and returned the Septic Survey. To date, 77% of the lakeshore home owners have returned their survey. We've had a very positive response. So far, 65% of the homeowners on the lake want us to pursue the survey. If you have not returned your survey, there is still time. You can find the form and an informational sheet on the survey at the Bass Lake website www.basslakewi.gov. Click on local organizations, then the septic survey. You can mail the completed forms to GLA, PO Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843. The completed forms will be submitted to the Sawyer County Sanitarian in April.

FAQ:

Why do I need to have this done, it is checked every time I have it pumped?

According to Mr. Maki, the Sanitarian, the Sawyer County inspection will be a thorough, in-depth study. When systems are pumped, that check does not include verification testing.

When will the study be done?

The Intern, who will be assisting Mr. Maki, will arrive at the end of May. Windigo Lake is ahead of us in this process, so this summer their inspections will be done first and ours will commence after Windigo is completed. Mr. Maki feels that he will be able to complete 100-150 properties on Grindstone Lake by September. The remaining properties will be inspected during the summer of 2007.

Linn Newton

The intern assisting Mert Maki to conduct septic inspections on Grindstone Lake will most likely be a university student from Stevens Point. If anyone has information about affordable housing or can offer housing for the intern, please contact Bruce Miller 634-5733 or Linn Newton 634-6329.

Mark Your Calendars !

JULY 8, 2006

ANNUAL GLA MEETING TIME NOON
SOCIAL BREAK TIME 1:30 PM
BASS LAKE TOWN HALL AND/OR FIRE STATION

JULY 8, 2006

ANNUAL GLA PICNIC TIME 2:00 PM
BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)

AUGUST 13, 2006

BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISER PICNIC

TO BE ANNOUNCED

LAKE TRASH DIVE

Library Building Fund Close to Goal

The library building fund is getting close to its goal. We still need more funds, but we are close enough that we plan to start construction this summer. We applied for and received a \$500,000 block grant. We also had several large donations as well as many smaller donations from area residents. Mr. Dave Bishop, who is a non-resident property owner with a place on Round Lake has sent a letter to other non-residents asking



for donations to help us reach our goal. We hope this will put us over the top. The library is for everyone, residents and non-

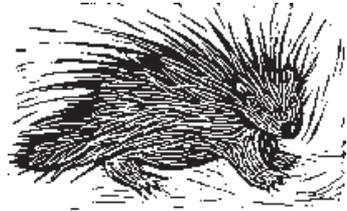
residents alike. I know that many of you have made donations, and we thank you so much for your generosity.

The new library will have many amenities that the old library did not have. There will be plenty of parking, and most important, the new library will be handicap accessible. We plan to start construction in July or August, and the building should be completed by March or April 2007. It has been a long hard road to get to this point, but our community will be an even greater place with this new public facility. The site of the new library is on highway 77 north, across from the Wesleyan

Church.

Thank you again for your support, and I will update you on our progress at the annual meeting. Donations for the new library may be sent to: Hayward Library Building Fund, PO Box 917, Hayward, WI 54843.

Ray Moeller
President
Library Board of Trustees



Proposed By-Law Changes for Non-Profit Eligibility

In order to be granted 501 (c)(3) status, the Internal Revenue Service requires that certain wording be included in the Grindstone Lake Association Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. Consequently, these documents will have to be changed.

The changes required are:

- Including a statement that upon dissolution, any excess funds be given to other 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organizations
- Including reference to the Internal Revenue Code rather than reference to Wisconsin statutes.

Bruce Paulsen

Grindstone Lake Sediment Core — Preliminary Report

The analysis of the sediment core for Grindstone Lake is nearing completion. The only major analysis left is geochemistry. I have asked the dating lab to reanalyze a couple of samples from the bottom of the core. The same samples are used for the dating and geochemistry. The radiochemistry recounts should be done in 1-2 weeks and it takes about 1 week after that for the geochemical analysis. The discussion below includes preliminary results from the dating work because I think it is unlikely there will be significant changes with the recount.

The mean sedimentation rate for the last 150 years was 0.007 g cm⁻² yr⁻¹ which is the lowest I have measured in 42 lakes in Wisconsin. In contrast, the mean rate for Round Lake was 0.011 g cm⁻² yr⁻¹. More importantly, the rate has been generally stable since 1960 and in fact the highest rates occurred around 1930 and during the late nineteenth century. The diatom community indicates that there have been minimal changes in nutrient levels in the lake during the last 150 years. The diatom community was used to estimate summer phosphorus levels using a weighted averaging model. Although this model predicted phosphorus values somewhat higher than has been measured in the lake, the trend should be accurate and it indicates that mean summer phosphorus concentrations have changed very little. We will have a better indication of water quality changes when we have the geochemical information. One indication of water quality changes will be a decline in oxygen levels in the deep waters of the lake. This is one of the most sensitive indicators of eutrophication.

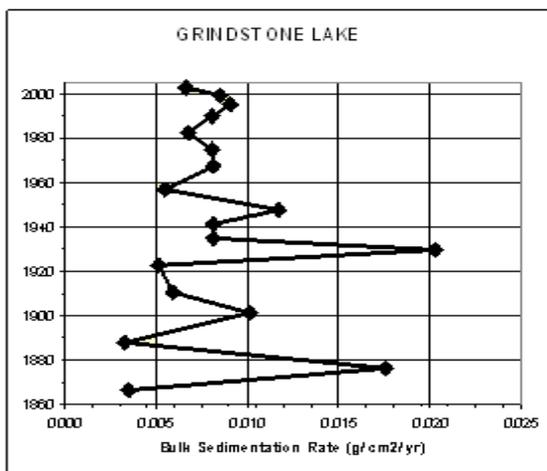


Figure 1. The sedimentation rate is generally unchanged and in fact the peak rate occurred around 1930. The rate near the bottom of the core may change with the reanalysis of these samples.

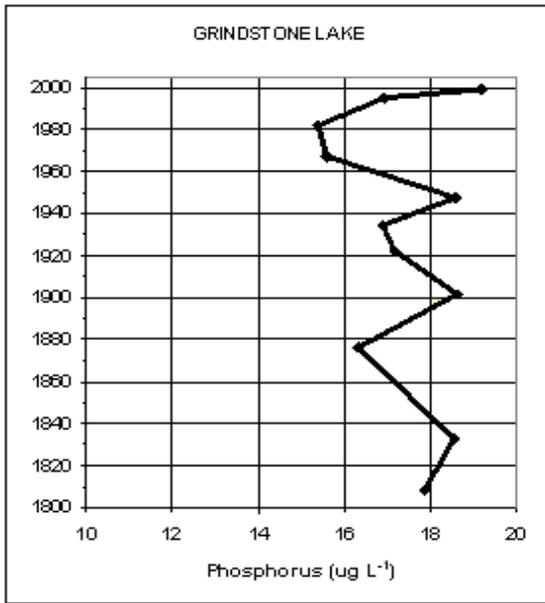


Figure 2. Diatom inferred mean summer phosphorus. Although the modelled concentrations are somewhat higher than that measured in the lake, the trend should be accurate.

WANTED: BOARD MEMBERS

Would you like to be more active in your Lake Association?

- The board meets 6-8 times a year on a Saturday morning
- Meetings are less than 2 hours long
- Much of our updates and information sharing is done via e-mail.

At the July annual meeting, there will be several board positions up for election.

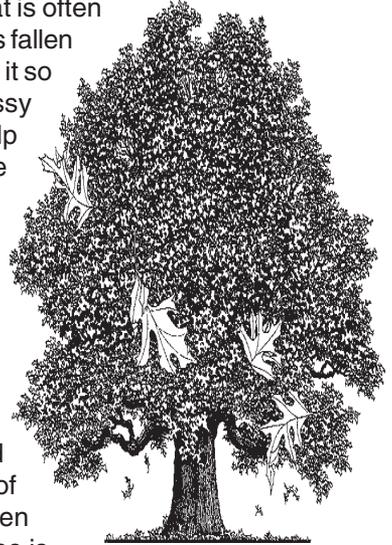
If you would be interesting in becoming a Board member...

Or have any questions about the board member responsibilities...

Contact: Bruce Miller mrponton@yahoo.com or
Linn Newton newtonsl@centurytel.net

Tree Drop Program

Trees that have fallen in 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. One of the things that can be done to help maintain and improve the fishery of Grindstone Lake is to increase the amount of coarse woody debris (CWD) that is around the shoreline. In an effort to do this, the LCO Conservation Department is providing technical assistance and funding for property owners interested in having a "tree drop" on their shoreline. This involves cutting a live tree along the shoreline and letting it drop into the water to provide the habitat that young walleyes and other fish depend upon. The tree must have a minimum diameter of 12" at the base and once it is felled it is then securely anchored to the shoreline. 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.



Reminder

Have you sent your 2006 membership dues? Your dues are the fuel that allows the GLA to finance projects. The annual \$25.00 fee is a bargain! Memberships should be sent to GLA, PO Box 292, Hayward, WI 5484.

Calling for all . . .

lake management assessment forms. If you cannot locate the forms that were mailed to you, go to the GLA website: www.basslakewi.gov. Click local organizations and you will find the forms there. If you cannot access them on the web, contact:

Linn Newton
715-634-6329
newtonsl@centurytel.net



The GLA has need of persons with website or mass e-mail skills to assist with communications. Both tasks are intermittent and occasional in nature. For further information contact:

Camille Venners
evenners2@charter.net
507-289-2885
715-634-8614

Boat Landing Repair Wrap-Up

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered



Grindstone Lake Association Board Members, Bruce Paulsen and Bruce Miller, present a check to Pete Sanders for boat landing repairs.

Overhaul of the Public Boat Landing was completed at the end of October in 2005. The gratifying outcome of the Town of Bass Lake and Grindstone Lake Association partnership in this venture is directly due to the commitment of the community and the GLA membership. This project was possible thanks to the generosity and support of many, many of our members, area fishing organizations, area fishermen, and other lake associations working in tandem with the Town of Bass Lake. This was a team accomplishment

Each time you put your boats in and out at the landing, take pride in your lake association, your community, and yourself for the success of this effort. And please remember to let the Town of Bass Lake Board know that you appreciate the commitment of our local government, as well.

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