

November 2005

# **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 2004-2005

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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

As I sit down to write this, there are several inches of snow on the ground. Deer hunting season is about to begin. The trees are stunning, all white and sparkly. And, the waves continue to crash on a very wild, windy day on Big Beautiful Grindstone Lake.

We clearly have stepped from autumn to winter! And I, for one, wish my boat lift was still not in the water. I was told that I might be the last one. Ah... a polar plunge, I guess is in order soon!

I was mulling over some of our recent accomplishments. We now, thanks to the generosity of our members and others who care about this lake have a navigable boat landing. We were able to partner with the Town of Bass Lake on that project. It should make life easier for many people next spring.

We are also making great progress with our initiative to protect our lake by conducting a septic survey. That too is a partnership, this time with the Sawyer County Zoning Office. If you have not yet signed and returned your survey, now is the time to do so. You have an envelope somewhere on that desk or table. Please send it back to us.

You also have a great board of director's... people willing to step up and

do the work. However, we can use more volunteers. We can especially use volunteers to help plan our next summer meeting and picnic; and we need to have some folks assist with set-up and clean-up at events. We are forming committees that need people who are willing to commit a small amount of time to help accomplish some great things. Please ask any board member how you can be useful... and then, please do sign up.

I have been thinking that it would be great if people were willing to share their stories of time at the lake. What was the lake like when you first discovered it... why did you come here, and why did you stay? That goes for those who discovered it 50 years ago, and those who just discovered it 5 months ago. What is it that makes this gem of a lake special to you? Over the holidays, please think about that, and let us know what it is that makes this lake your special place.

Finally, thank you for being a part of this Lake Association. It is an important organization, doing good work, and that is only possible through your support, your work, and your desire to keep this body of water clean, beautiful and safe!

Bruce Miller

# Annual Meeting July 2005

Bruce Miller, President, called the Grindstone Lake Association annual meeting to order at noon outside Bass Lake Town Hall. Cyndy MacIntosh, Treasurer, reported that the July 10, 2004 balance was \$4,904.01. The income was \$6,085.98 from memberships, tee shirt sales and interest. The expenses were \$3731.81 for a trash dive, pig roast, annual meeting, tee shirts, newsletters, fees and donations. The July 9, 2005 balance is \$7,258.18. The Board has pledged \$1,000 to Walleyes for NW Wisconsin for extended growth walleyes and \$2000 to the LCO for a lake core study. There are 98 memberships to date.

**Board membership:** Bruce Miller introduced the board members present: Ray Moeller, Vice President; Cyndy MacIntosh, Treasurer; Marilyn Lundberg, Secretary; Linn Newton; Dan Tyrolt, Water Quality and LCO Liaison; Skip Brossard; Helen Chevrier, and Camille Venners, Newsletter. Marilyn Lundberg reported that three board members had terms expiring: Cyndy MacIntosh, Skip Brossard, and Helen Chevrier. Helen opted not to run and Bruce Paulsen has agreed to serve. Cyndy, Skip and Bruce Paulsen were approved for the three vacancies.

**Updates:** Bruce Miller announced that the Grindstone Lake Association and the Wisconsin DNR were hosting a workshop to help set the direction for fish management on Grindstone Lake to be held on July 23, 2005. Everyone was urged to attend. He urged attendance at a DNR hearing on July 20 on changes proposed to NR 115, the shoreland rules. In addition, members should attend a Sawyer county hearing August 18 on changes to its shoreland zoning regarding

impervious surfaces.

Jim Garvey reported that the Couderay Regional Land Trust helped preserve the Big Timber Island and is working to preserve Moonshine Island on the Chippewa Flowage. It is also working on 12 conservation easements. He thanked the Association for its membership and also the individual members from the Lake.

Ray Moeller said the library has raised \$450,000 in its building fund and is hoping for a block grant. The library fund still needs money.

Skip Brossard said that Diver Dave Mathis is working with the Association to stage a trash dive on the lake. The Association has sponsored a dive for the past few years, pulling lots of trash from the lake.

Helen Chevrier said that park development is waiting for a grant, and it's possible development will be completed by fall.

Hal Meeker said that Dr. Tim Garry has permission from the DNR for a catch and release program to relocate Mergansers and will start catching them shortly. DNR wants to survey the present level of swimmers itch.

## SPEAKERS

**Water quality:** Dan Tyrolt discussed studies underway by the LCO Tribe. The Association is contributing \$2,000 toward a \$10,000 core study. The core was collected last summer and results will show biological changes on the lake. A similar study was completed on Round Lake showing nutrient spikes with settlement, especially the last 20 years when development greatly expanded. The

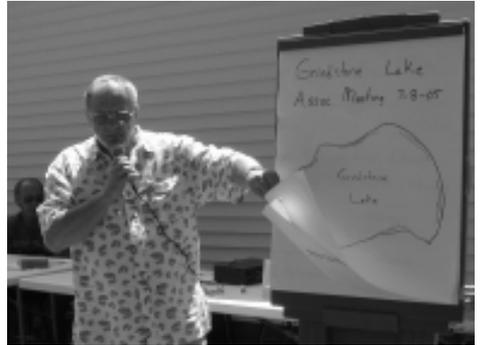


Tribe is conducting baseline monitoring and is watching for trends. While the trends are not yet statistically significant, he is seeing an increase in nutrients. He said Grindstone is very clear and recently had a secchi disk reading of 20'. The tribe also worked with the US Geological Survey to model the effect of the golf course's high capacity wells on water levels. The most the model showed was a 5 percent reduction, which shouldn't pose a problem. He said the tribe wants to work with the Association to prevent problems.

**Septic Survey:** Mert Maki said he has been working for Sawyer County on regulating septic systems since 1991. He has administered septic surveys on Spider, Teal, Ghost, LCO, Round and Tiger Cat Flowage. He explained the process for the county to survey septic systems.

1. The Association petitions lakeshore owners to see if they will agree to a septic survey.
2. 51 percent of the owners must agree to the survey, but county prefers 60-70 percent agreement.
3. When completed, the Association turns petition records into Sawyer County.
4. Sawyer county surveys lake septic systems, usually over two years.

In the past, Sawyer County has allocated \$6000 for survey work. An intern works at least 12 weeks in the summer. Systems are checked with an auger and transit. Holding tanks are checked for leakage. Failing systems get a notice and owners have one year to fix the system. There is some cost share funding available for residents that meet income requirements. Soil testers determine what



kind of system should go in, when one fails. The last resort is a holding tank.

The members moved, seconded and approved a motion to move forward with a petition to have a septic survey of Grindstone Lake owners.

**Fisheries:** Frank Pratt, Senior Fisheries Biologist, discussed the visioning session planned for July 23. The DNR and Association are hoping for maximum attendance from those interested in Grindstone Lake. They want a consensus about what is expected for lake fisheries and a clear set of fisheries objectives. He reported that Grindstone is considered a trends monitoring lake and thus is surveyed every three years. Fisheries are good. The muskies are at about the same level as historically. Walleye are reproducing well and the slot size limit is very successful. The Association's fish crib program has

resulted in very good small mouth bass numbers. There are also numerous pan fisheries. The walleye reproduction reflects on the good lake water quality. People asked about the rock ledge at the boat landing and he said the DNR is examining what could be done. It is one place dredging may be supported. Regarding Swimmer's Itch, he thought that the Merganser's relocation program was an interesting approach.



**Zone captains:** Linn asked members to be zone captains in areas of the lake where needed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board will be July 23 at noon, before the visioning session. Members were invited to attend.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. and the picnic/pig roast began shortly thereafter.

Marilyn Lundberg

## E-Mail Notices

During the summer, the GLA implemented an e-mail contact list. Members who supplied the GLA with an e-mail address were sent notices regarding Grindstone Lake events or issues via e-mail.

If you wish to be added to or removed from the list (or need to update your e-mail address) — send an e-mail message with “GLA e-mail list” in the subject line to:

Camille Venners  
evenners2@charter.net

A volunteer with Word 2003 on their computer is needed to maintain the e-mail list and send messages as needed. Training can be provided, if needed.

FYI — *All e-mail addresses are considered confidential and will not be sold or shared.*

# 2005 GLA Annual Picnic



**Mmmm,  
mmm,  
good!**

Ron and Kathy Tenney prepared the roast pig to perfection once again this year. Incredibly, we had the remarkable good fortune to select another wonderful day to host this event. Picnicers enjoyed the savory fare under the bright blue summer sky.

The annual picnic provides an opportunity for our lake community to share a magnificent meal, boast about fishing adventures, swap lake stories, and catch up on lake events. It also allows us to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. If you were unable to attend the picnic, please join us next year! We guarantee a good time and good eats!



# Public Boat Landing Repair



Grindstone Lake has a “new and improved” public boat landing. Thanks go to the Town of Bass Lake, The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, property owners on Grindstone Lake and the Grindstone Lake Association.

Many of the readers know that the public boat landing next to the cranberry farm has been a challenge for many years. The hump out 75 feet from the ramp has claimed many a prop. In time of low water it is difficult to get boats in and out.

Only in rare circumstances will the DNR dredge a boat landing. In the past the local DNR office has submitted a request to have the cement pad redone, but was reluctant to ask for dredging. In any event, the local DNR request for work on the Grindstone Lake boat landing was not funded when the State DNR office

allocated funds. According to the local DNR folks it would be three to five years before the Grindstone Lake boat landing would move high enough up the priority list to receive funding.



For the last two years, various people, including Steve Butchart, have been trying to get the boat landing repaired. In August of this year things came together when Phil Nies, Bass Lake Town Board; Frank Pratt and Dave Kafura, DNR; Doug Thompson, Thompson Sand and Gravel and Bruce Paulsen, Grindstone Lake Association all met at the boat landing. At the meeting, the DNR agreed that the landing should be dredged and that the DNR would be willing to issue a permit if \$9600 could be found to cover the cost of the project.

At its September 10, 2005, meeting, the Grindstone Lake Association Board approved funding a portion of the cost to repair the boat landing. The Board acknowledged the need to seek contributions from property owners to cover the commitment. If more funds were collected than needed, the excess would be applied to future lake improvement projects. At its September 12, 2005, meeting, the Town of Bass Lake passed a resolution agreeing to fund \$5000 of the



cost of dredging the boat landing if the Grindstone Lake Association would fund the rest unless there was grant money available to cover the entire cost of the project.

Given the show of public support for the boat ramp improvement, Joel Weinert, Hayward DNR Lands Management Technician pressured the DNR in Madison to release funds to replace the boat landing cement pad. Even though the funding request was previously rejected, the DNR folks in Madison saw the wisdom of completing all the boat landing repairs at one time and released funds to replace the cement launching pad.

All the work on the landing has been completed. The “new and improved”

landing reopened October 24, 2005. All of us will enjoy the new landing for a long time. The DNR said that given the prevailing winds and the lake bottom structure they doubted if the landing would ever have to be dredged again.

As it worked out the Town of Bass Lake received a \$4,800 grant from the DNR. The Grindstone Lake Association collected some \$6,000 to help fund the dredging and the DNR waived its \$500 permit fee.

Thank you to all who contributed to the boat landing repair. In total, 77 donors contributed. The contributions ranged from \$10 to \$500 from individuals and Muskies, Inc. The GLA Board has not officially decided where to apply the \$2,000 collected above the amount needed. However, two projects have been discussed — 1) the septic survey, if the County asks the Lake Association for supplemental funding or 2) the Association’s portion of the planned aquatic plant base line survey conducted in partnership with the Lac Courte Orielles Tribe.

Bruce Paulsen



## Walleye Stocking

On October 29, 2005, 1250 extended growth walleyes (6” to 10” in length) were stocked in Grindstone Lake. The cost of this project was \$2,000. Walleyes for Northwestern Wisconsin (WFNW) and the Grindstone Lake Association each contributed \$1,000 to fund this project. WFNW also matched funds with COLA to introduce the same number of extended growth walleyes into Lac Courte Orielle.



# Round Lake Core Study Results

The results of a paleoecological study of Round Lake in Sawyer County, WI, which was funded by Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Tribe and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, were authored by Paul Garrison of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and published in June 2005. Grindstone Lake is undergoing a similar study for which the report is not yet complete. While we await the results of the Grindstone Lake Study, it may be beneficial for us to consider the results of our neighbor, Round Lake.

The report begins with an explanation of the benefit of paleoecology studies. "Questions often arise concerning how a lake's water quality has changed through time as a result of watershed disturbances. In most cases there is little or no reliable long-term data. Questions often asked are if the condition of the lake has changed, when did this occur, what were the causes, and what were the historical condition of the lake? Paleoecology offers a way to address these issues. The paleoecological approach depends upon the fact that lakes act as partial sediment traps for particles that are created within the lake or delivered from the watershed. The sediments of the lake entomb a selection of fossil remains that are more or less resistant to bacterial decay or chemical dissolution. These remains include diatom frustules, cell walls of certain algal species, and microfossils from aquatic plants. The chemical composition of the sediments may indicate the composition of particles entering the lake as well as the past chemical environment of the lake itself. Using the fossil remains found in the sediment, one can reconstruct changes in the lake ecosystem over any period of time since the establishment of the lake."

Analysis of the Round Lake data reveals that little significant changes occurred before 1900. Gradually the effects of European settlement which included logging and tourism began to have an impact on the lake as shoreline development increased.

The report states that, "The core shows that Round Lake has been impacted by shoreline development beginning around the 1920s. Runoff from development lead to an increase in macrophytes in the 1950s. This impact has accelerated during the last 15 years resulting in an increase in sediment infilling and loss of oxygen in the bottom waters. If this trend continues, the lake will be further degraded with increasing nutrient levels resulting in a loss of water clarity." It also notes that, "The greatest change in the geochemical record has occurred during the last two decades. The soil erosion has not increased very much but there has been a significant increase in elements indicative of shoreline development."

Accelerated change seems to be occurring. Without intervention and attention to lake management concerns, the water quality of northern lakes may be endangered. Round Lake now has data to help plan for and implement future lake practices. Grindstone Lake also will soon have the beneficial data from a core study. As soon as results are available, they will be shared in the Trumpeter.

# Grindstone Lake Management Actions & Recommendations

While awaiting the results of the Grindstone Lake Core Study, it is useful to revisit 10 recommendations from the 1990's Grindstone Lake water study conducted in partnership with the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Tribe. The recommendations are listed below. An italicized progress note follows each recommendation.

The development of a comprehensive lake management plan for Grindstone Lake is recommended in order to prevent further degradation of the water quality. This plan should include:

1. The development of a long-term water quality goal for the lake; *Once the core study is complete, a better understanding of past lake quality will be available to enable establishment of realistic goals.*
2. An evaluation of different watershed development scenarios to determine acceptable (i.e., the water quality of the lake is within the established goal) and unacceptable (i.e., the water quality of the lake fails to meet its goal) development options; *Ongoing*
3. Recommendations for ultimate watershed development relative to achieving the lake's water quality goal (i.e. minimum lot size, maximum area of impervious surface, etc.); *Ongoing*
4. Recommendations for watershed best management practices under

- future development conditions; *Ongoing*
5. Recommendations for ordinances to control watershed development; *Supporting County and private citizen shoreland zoning revision efforts.*
6. Recommendations for the riparian owner management practices; *Providing ongoing information for landowners.*
7. Recommendations for best management plans to protect sensitive lands including wetlands, steep slopes, undeveloped land, shoreline, etc.; *Working to identify areas, map them, and prepare a plan to implement efforts to protect them.*
8. Algal study to determine species abundance and distribution; *Completed, as well as zooplankton and benthic sampling.*
9. A macrophyte study to determine the spatial coverage, density, and species composition of the macrophyte community. A special area of concern would be identification of Eurasian Water Milfoil; *Application for a study grant in progress.*
10. Volunteer monitoring program to record long-term water quality database. *Progress on this item uncertain.*

Dan Tyrolt

**The GLA Board invites and welcomes member input regarding all lake issues and programs. Please add your views to the discussion and decision process.**

**The GLA is YOUR organization!**

# 2005 Trash Dive

This years trash dive was held on July 11. Diver Dave and his group dove along the sand shelf and rock bar on the Northeast corner of Grindstone. Along with several anchors (now residing in Diver Dave's anchor garden, at Trailways), a thirty foot gill net with several dead walleyes and two small muskies was removed from the lake. The net was reported to the DNR office.



Divers stated “that Grindstone is cleaner than Lac Court Orielles”, where they dove the previous week. Many thanks to Dave McJoynt, Gary Pregracke, Don McIntosh, Hal Meeker, Dennis Keeffe, Marilyn & Don Lundberg and Skip Brossard for providing shore support. Thanks also to our friends at the town of Bass Lake for providing trash bags.

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## Septic Survey Update

At the 2005 GLA Annual Meeting, the membership voted to conduct a survey of the Grindstone Lake property owners regarding septic inspections. An information sheet was written and a survey form prepared. The Septic Survey form asks owners to indicate approval or disapproval of a septic inspection of their property.

During the latter part of the summer, GLA Board Members began personally contacting Grindstone Lake owners. In October, a letter was mailed to 1) owners who had been contacted but had not yet returned survey forms and 2) owners that board members were unable to contact .

As of November 19, 202 survey forms have been returned. This is approximately 55 percent of Grindstone Lake property owners. Currently, the majority of responses indicate septic inspection approval.

If you have not yet responded to the survey and returned your form, the GLA Board urges you to do so. Our goal is to obtain a completed form from all owners. Mailing repeated requests will increase the cost of conducting the survey. If you need another form or if a form did not reach you, please let us know and a board member will make sure that another is sent to you. The survey form will soon also be available on our website: <http://www.basslakewi.org>

# Grindstone Shallows

At long last, the reality of a park is in the near future. This fall the Town of Bass Lake was able to get some of the planned work completed at the park. The split rail fencing was installed on the east and the west property lines. Shrubbery was installed on the east side of the park. Three spruces were planted to create a privacy screen for the neighbor. Along the fence, a line of Miss Kim lilacs was planted. The rest of the work will have to wait for spring.

For those who do not know the history of the park, here are the sequences of events. The property was purchased in May, 2004, from the family of Elmer Corbin. Mr. Corbin had a small resort of three cabins on Poplar Avenue to the east of the Bass Lake town landing on Grindstone Lake. A federal grant was received to help purchase the property. The Town also owns the property across the road from the boat landing. The Town of Bass Lake Park Committee organized to develop a plan for the park. By late summer, the cabins were demolished. Public input was obtained to name the park. Several names were suggested and the winner was Grindstone Shallows. GLA Board member Linn Newton had submitted the name.

Once the park plan was complete, the committee worked to obtain a Department of Natural Resources grant to build a pavilion, install bathrooms, finish the landscaping and post signs. The grant was awarded in August, but no work could be done until the money was distributed in late September. The rest of the facilities should be let for bids this winter so the



plan can be completed in spring.

Sawyer County owns the property to the east and to the south of the Town of Bass Lake property. The Town has obtained permission from the County to utilize some of the property to put in a walking and snowshoe trail. The trail will go down to Little Grindstone. This will be a great recreational opportunity and the park will be a great asset to the community.



## GLA Website

Skip Brossard recently submitted his resignation to the GLA Board concluding many years of service. He, along with his wife, Eileen, did the investigative legwork, preparation and set-up to make the GLA website a reality. The GLA Board extends thanks to them both.

Currently the GLA Website is in need of a new mentor to oversee and maintain the content. Please contact any board member if you can help!

# Coarse Woody Debris (CWD)

*Edited from information at <http://lakeaccess.org/habitats.html>*

Before shoreline development, the land around our lake and others, the riparian zone, consisted of large trees which shaded the shoreline and provided a steady supply of organic matter in the form of leaves, branches and logs to the near shore area. Aquatic organisms in the lakes and streams evolved during a time when large trees often fell into the water.

When human development came to the shoreline, trees were removed, and logs were often pulled out of the lake. Now scientists and resource managers have come to realize the importance of coarse woody debris in aquatic ecosystems (and forested ecosystems as well).

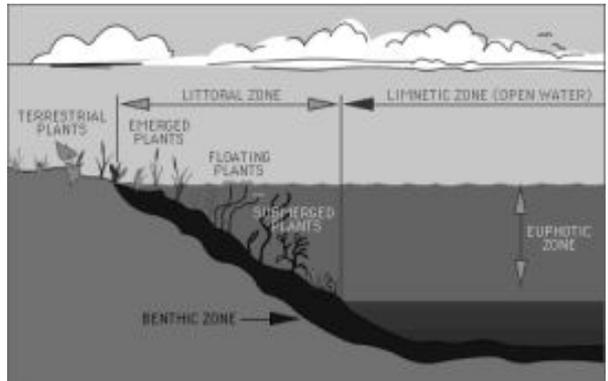
Lakeshore development may affect woody debris abundance in the littoral zone and adversely effect lake ecosystems because coarse woody debris does the following for your lake:

- provides physical structure for aquatic organisms
- alters water movements and other hydrologic processes
- affects the flow of organic matter from the terrestrial ecosystem into surface waters and affects the transport of organic material within the aquatic environment

Trees that fall into the water create important fish habitat. Small fish feed on the invertebrates (insects and zooplankton) in the wood and use the

cover to hide from predators. Musky, and other large predatory fish, often stalk these logs looking for prey.

A study by the University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology studied fish habitat in 16 northern Wisconsin lakes. Their study showed that as homes become denser the number of fallen trees



decreases. Research on the importance of CWD has really just begun. We'll most likely be hearing more in the near future. This trend cannot be totally reversed but shoreland property owners can help. Fisheries management often involves the addition of "structure", cribs etc. You could accomplish similar goals by not removing that branch or log that falls into the lake.

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## Become Active!

In an effort to provide more service to the Grindstone Lake community, the Grindstone Lake Association has formed the committees listed below. Each committee will be headed by a board member. We are searching for residents who are willing to work in these specific areas. You do not have to be a full-time

resident to be active on a committee. Nor will any committee consume overwhelming or continuous amounts of time. If you are interested, please contact the committee chairperson. If you would like to suggest additional committees, please contact any board member.

Annual picnic: Ray Moeller

Trash Dive: Cyndy MacIntosh

Fund raising: Larry Berg

Water Quality: Bruce Paulsen

Membership: Linn Newton

Communications (e-mail and newsletter):

Camille Venners

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# GLA Exploring Non-Profit Status

Becoming a 501(c)(3) will be on the agenda for the next GLA Board meeting in January. In order for the GLA Board and GLA membership to have time to digest what it means, I thought I would share all I know about what it means.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A 501(C)(3)

A 501(c)(3) is a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income taxes and usually state. The benefits include the eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Nonprofit charitable organizations may be eligible for savings such a lower or no bank fees, depending on the policies of those providing the goods or service.

Prohibited or limited activities are:

- No participation in political campaigns; local, state or federal

- Restrict lobbying to an insubstantial part of the operations
- Contributions do not enrich board members, related parties and other individuals
- Must not operate for the benefit of the founder, the founder's family, board members or others controlled by these groups
- Must not operate for the primary purpose of conducting a trade or businesses that is not related to the tax exempt purpose
- May not conduct activities that are illegal or violate fundamental public policy

The cost of filing for tax-exempt status is \$150, assuming the Associations average receipts for the last four years average under \$10,000. It is taking about 200 days for the IRS to process the request.

Filing and disclosure requirements:

- Annual information return (Form 990). For us this would be a simple filing, we could use the EZ version.
- Unrelated business tax if there are receipts of \$1,000 or more from unrelated trade or businesses.
- The application for tax- exempt status and three years of annual information returns must be made available to the public on request. We should probably have these documents available at the annual meeting
- Any donor of \$75 or more should be sent a receipt acknowledging the gift and state how much of the contribution is for goods and services provide to the giver. This is not that onerous using mail merge. We keep a list of our members and contributions anyway.

Bruce Paulsen

**Grindstone Trumpeter**

Grindstone Lake Association

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