

# Driftwood

The newsletter of the  
Turtle Flanbeau Flowage  
and Trude Lake  
Property Owners'  
Association, Inc.

Fall / Winter 2017

## From Smalleyes to Walleyes: Time to Change Regulations on the Flowage?

By Zach Lawson, WDNR Fisheries Biologist

You know it's funny how I spend an entire week sitting 20' up an oak tree watching deer walk by, and when I notice my heart racing, I realize that it's because I'm thinking about fish...all of that time in a tree stand made for a perfect opportunity to reminisce on this past year's fishing season. Of course, much of my pondering involved the TFF, so I thought I'd share some of my reflections with you here.

I spent a lot of time on the water this year, but was on the TFF more than any other waterbody. Mostly I was working, but I was also able to get out there plenty with a rod in hand. I fished a lot of my "milk-run" spots that have always been big producers for me, but this year it seemed like I had to fish twice as many spots to find half as many fish. I also noticed that many of the fish I caught were primarily in the 10-13" range. Now to be clear, it's not like I was catching 17" fish hand-over-fist in previous years, but walleyes in my boat this year were noticeably smaller than usual. I also noted that as the season progressed, I caught more and more of these 8-11" fish.

Now, I could walk away from this season with a bruised ego, or perhaps I could just blame it all on the weather, but I decided instead to look to our survey data for an explanation.

Here is what we concluded from efforts using nets and electricity rather than jigs and slip bobbers:

- We documented a slump in adult walleye densities during the 2016 walleye population assessment, which explains fewer large fish and the difficulty catching them;
- We consistently observed large schools of yellow perch in open water and juvenile bluegills in shallows; their abundance exacerbates the lower walleye densities,



*2017 recruitment survey work revealed a quality walleye crop in 2017 (shown below the tape, 4"-6"), and a superb yearling year class from 2016 (above the tape, 8"-10.5").*

- making it even harder to entice a bite;
- Our 2016 fall electrofishing survey revealed a very strong juvenile walleye year class;
- The 2017 fall electrofishing survey showed that the yearling walleyes (documented in the fall 2016 survey) survived very, very well and the 2017 hatch was also successful. This explains why we are catching so many 8-10.5" fish.

I'll be honest with everyone and won't mince my words; the TFF is currently climbing out of a 'valley' in a population cycle. We went through numerous successive years with poor natural recruitment, and are now feeling the effects of those weak year classes. Fishing is slightly tougher. There are fewer adult fish out there, and most of the adults are slightly smaller than historically. That said, there's a healthy

*Continued on Page 6*

President's Letter .....	p. 2
New board Members .....	p. 3
2017 Water Quality .....	p. 4
Loosestrife Warriors .....	p. 7
Letter to the Editors .....	p. 8
Mystery at Lipp Lake .....	p. 10

# President's Letter

By Jeff Malison



I'd like to take the time in this newsletter to reflect on some of the more recent activities of our association. Our goal, as specified in our by-laws, is to "maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, Trude Lake and their surroundings for the collective interests of the members and the general public." To accomplish this goal, we rely on a little bit of money, and an enormous amount of volunteer work by the members of our association.

It's important for us to acknowledge, of course, the assistance that we receive from local government specialists including the DNR, Iron County, and UW-Extension. But it is also important to recognize that cutbacks in government services are taking place at virtually all levels—federal, state, and local. Some proposed budgets now being discussed in Washington include the total elimination of the Sea Grant College Program, a cut of over 30% to environmental protection, and cuts of almost 20% to important research agencies like the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. At the state level, our University of Wisconsin system has seen significant funding cuts over the past decade. Recently, the UW-Extension, including our local office, has been forced to make dramatic cuts to personnel and services. Our state officials cannot agree whether or how to fund the maintenance of Wisconsin's roads, and I'm wondering when we will start hearing a discussion on privately funded roads. So in the face of diminishing government activity the association is forced to rely more heavily on private money and volunteer help to meet our goals.

The first thing that I would like to do here is welcome two new members to our board of directors. Both Jean Burns and Ed Hryciuk were elected at our annual June meeting, and I'd like to thank them in advance for their time commitment to our association. Jean will be working with the group that does such a great job putting together our newsletter. The

other volunteers in this group include Chad McGrath, Terry Daulton and Mike Hittle.

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that a "stakeholders" group for the TFF is being assembled by the DNR. Our hope is that there will be an annual meeting allowing all organizations with a vested interest in the TFF to express their priority concerns. In preparation for this meeting, our board is in the process of preparing concise priority lists from each of our "action" committees – water quality, invasive species, fish management, and water level. The following is a brief update on the activities of two of these committees.

Both Mike and Beth Myers have spent a great deal of time leading our efforts on water quality monitoring. For the last several years a crew of over a dozen volunteer association members have collected multiple water samples and taken water quality measurements throughout the summer from seven different locations on the flowage. Through 2016 the DNR paid for the lab testing of these samples, but funding for four of these locations was lost beginning this year. In 2017 our association picked up the tab for these four sites, and we are now looking for alternative funding to keep this long-term effort going at 100%. The good news is that a preliminary assessment of our 2017 data suggests that the water quality in several flowage locations has actually improved over previous years.

Our efforts on invasive species have been focused on identifying and controlling the spread of purple loosestrife. Diane O'Krongly has worked tirelessly leading this effort, together with another group of association volunteers and assistance from the Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department. More good news here: Zach Wilson from Iron County reports that we "are winning the war" against loosestrife.

I like to take every opportunity to encourage our members to visit our web page at <http://www.tfftl.org/>. Feel free to send us suggestions for news items or announcements of upcoming events that may be of interest to our members. One thing that I plan to do over the next couple of months is to expand the information on the website that describes the activities of our many volunteers.

One last item – elsewhere in this newsletter you should see a brief article on efforts that we would like to make to expand our membership. Many Wisconsin residents besides direct property owners have a vested interest in the flowage. For example, I know many people who live just across the street from the flowage who use and enjoy it (almost) as much as I do. We have a number of good ideas on how to raise the awareness of our association to these people, and perhaps increase our membership, but we REALLY need a volunteer to lead this effort. So I'd like to ask anyone who has a little time to spend to please contact me on this. Thanks, and have a great winter!

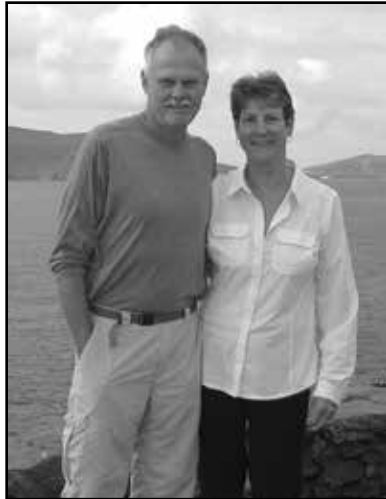


# Meet Jean Burns and Ed Hryciuk - New Association Board Members

*This past June we elected two new member of the association for two year terms on the Board of Directors. They live on nearly opposite ends of the flowage, with Jean on Trude Lake and Ed from Seifert's Point. Here is a little information on their backgrounds and interests.*

## Jean Burns

How one is brought up generally shapes how one looks at life in the future. I was born in Kenosha, WI, number four of six children. My parents always stressed the importance of family, education, living an active and productive life, respecting others and the environment. As a family we annually vacationed in northern Wisconsin in the summer and fall. I loved the woods, lakes, wildlife, all of what the northwoods had to offer.



*Jean Burns with husband, Marty*

After graduating from Marquette University, Marty and I married and settled down first in Highland Park, IL and after ten years moved to Lake Forest, IL where we raised our two daughters. We too instilled in our girls the values passed down by our parents. We both worked hard; Marty worked his first twenty-five years in Sales Administration and then switched to computer software consulting. I taught Spanish, language arts, and literature to eighth graders at the middle school. I continued my education, earning a Master's Degree in Library Science and finishing my teaching career as director of the school's Media Center. After thirty-four years of teaching I retired.

All through those years we stayed active in softball, volleyball, golf, tennis, biking, hiking, swimming and all sorts of outdoor interests. We continued vacationing in northern Wisconsin every year, appreciating its beauty more and more, and considering the possibility of owning a cabin of our own. We looked on and off but never found anything we really loved. Then, in 2006, we came across the old Camp Nokomis Girls Camp on Trude Lake. It was just being subdivided. All the old buildings and cabins were still in place. We jumped at the opportunity and were the first to pick our lot and buy. We found a great builder and "voila", we are living in the home of our dreams. The best part about living up here is that our girls, their husbands, and our five wonderful grandchildren love coming here to enjoy all the outdoor activities and beauty this superb area has to offer.

Because I find the flowage and Trude Lake so special and want the area to remain that way, I have volunteered for several years working on water quality and helping to eradicate invasive plants specifically purple loosestrife. I've joined the Board of Directors for the Property Owners' Association to work with others to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the lakes and their surroundings as stated in the association's mission statement. I am also working on the newsletter with the hope of informing our membership about much that is happening around us. This is a great place to live and we all have a responsibility to keep it that way.

## Edward Hryciuk

My northern home is on Siverts (Seifert's) Point on the Townline Lake area of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. My wife Jeanne, and sons Alec and Andy established our flowage home in March 2013. Our decision to buy our place was made in the time it took for our two sons to



*Ed and his catch*

run down to the lake, wade in and declare, "It has pillow sand." They were immediately taken by the beauty and solitude of the flowage.

I am a semi-retired pharmacist, active in my son's school, St. Gabriel Church, and Boy Scouts. I am a member of the American Legion Post in Hubertus, WI. Jeanne is a physician, Alec is a senior at UW-Madison majoring in Aerospace Engineering and Physics, and Andy is a sophomore at Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha. We are all outdoors people who hunt, fish, camp, and kayak. We appreciate the outdoor opportunities that this area provides and take full advantage of them. Jeanne participates in the water quality testing program.

I am committed to preserving the Turtle-Flambeau and the quality of the outdoor experience that the flowage provides for residents and other users of this incredible resource. I believe that the lake association provides an excellent opportunity to accomplish these goals.



# 2017 Water Quality Testing Complete

By Mike and Beth Myers

The test results are in. But first: Thank you to all of the volunteers! Without their willingness to sample, mail their samples to the state lab and enter their data on the state website, we would lose valuable insight into the health of our lakes. The new backup samplers for Baraboo have been trained and should be ready for ice out 2018. Here's the Water Quality Volunteer roster:

Location Name	Funded By	Lead Samplers	Back up Samplers	Site First Sampled
Big Water	TFFTL	Todd & Becky Jirous	Jim Blum	2009
Lake Bastine	TFFTL	Jim Blum	Todd & Becky Jirous	2010
Murray's	TFFTL	Heather Palmquist	Zach Wilson	2011
Turtle Inlet	TFFTL	Diane O'krongly	Kit Bogenschneider	2011
Trude Lake	CLMN	Jean Burns	Jeff & Leann Malison	1998
Baraboo	CLMN	Bill & Sally Stewart	OPEN	2002
Townline	CLMN	Deb Garny	Jean Hryciuk	1998

In 2016, we saw the levels of phosphorous (a nutrient) rise at the inlets of Turtle River and Murray's Landing. The chlorophyll level (indicating productivity) was rising in Townline Lake. The clarity reading (secchi disk) was declining at Turtle Inlet. The results were within the range of acceptability for impoundment lakes, but they were not heading in the desired direction.

In 2017, the results showed improvement in all three of those sites. The clarity readings improved at six of the seven sites while Townline was stable. Very good news for the health of our lakes!

To see the actual data compiled over the years for each site go to:

[www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/reportsanddata](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/reportsanddata) OR [www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/reportsanddata/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/reportsanddata/)

From this page, scroll down to Iron County and click on it. All the lakes in Iron County are listed in alphabetical order. Scroll to Turtle-Flambeau and the seven sites sampled are in alphabetical order. From there, go to "details." The data are listed by type and year. The categories have a brief explanation of what each covers.

Since the Aquatic Invasive Species grant ran out for four of the sites after 2016, the TFF-TL POA paid for the lab work and mailing costs for 2017, and will continue to provide the funds until new grant money can be sourced. Costs ran approximately \$800 this year because the first samples at ice out couldn't be collected until a new process was in place. Costs in 2018 will run approximately \$1,200.



This year's improved results made us smile. Please extend your personal thanks to the volunteers who continue to monitor our lakes' health for all of us. Consider becoming a volunteer for water quality. For more information, contact us at [mikebethmyers@gmail.com](mailto:mikebethmyers@gmail.com) or [mikebethmyers@gmail.com](mailto:mikebethmyers@gmail.com), or talk to any of the volunteers.



# Take a Walk on the Wild Side – Wildlife Update for Iron County

By Jenna Kosnicki,  
Mercer Ranger Station Wildlife Biologist

As most hunters already know, there were some significant legislative changes included in the state budget. The biggest rule change is that deer and turkey carcass tags no longer need to be validated or attached to the harvested animal and kept with the meat. Proof of carcass tags is still required while in the field. That proof, however, can be in the form of the DNR issued Conservation Card, driver's license (if in the Go Wild system), electronic copy of the Go Wild tag or the printed carcass tag. That being said, if stopped by a warden, hunters would save themselves time by having the paper or readily available electronic copy of their license and carcass tag with them; this is especially important in areas with little phone reception. Registration is still mandatory and must be completed by 5PM on the day following harvest. The second legislative change is that group hunting is again allowed on junior antlerless tags; you may recall that it was banned a few years ago. Lastly, hunters who harvest geese are no longer required to report their daily harvest. DNR issued post-season surveys will collect harvest data in the future. These rule changes do not affect bobcat, fisher, otter, sturgeon or bear.

The Department continues to ask deer hunters for aging samples. Those hunters who want to help Iron County Deer Advisory Committees (CDAC's) obtain data on herd structure are asked to bring their deer to a deer aging station. Stations can be found on the DNR website by searching "registration station." Notice that all deer must be registered prior to aging. Deer can also be aged and sampled for chronic wasting disease (CWD) by contacting DNR Wildlife Biologist, Jenna Kosnicki, at 715-476-7843. It is important to get an adequate number of deer sampled—especially does where they are legal game—so please give us a hand in making this possible.

Bear hunters had a successful season and by the time this article is published, harvest results will be available on

the DNR website by searching keyword "bear." Grouse hunters are seeing the opposite in most places throughout Iron County. Although drumming counts were high in the spring, brood surveys did not show such favorable results. Early summer weather may have played a factor in fewer broods. Turkey poults, although plentiful, are small for this time of year indicating a second or third attempt in nesting (also possibly due to the weather).



*Drawing by Terry Daulton*

Although elusive, moose continue to be seen in Iron County. A bull with half a rack continues to be seen south of the Gile to the Lake Evelyn area. A cow and two calves were seen earlier this year along Hwy 47. Two bulls were also seen in that area and along Hwy 182 throughout the spring and summer. Upper Michigan's latest aerial survey showed an uptick in its western moose population. This may be good news for Iron County as we may be lucky enough to see more moose disperse across the state border. Late September to mid-October marks their mating season, which means bulls will start to move further to find a mate. If a person is lucky, he/she may see a bull travelling in fall, shedding their velvet, thrashing saplings, and fighting other bull moose. Moose—bulls and cows—are very large and can be

aggressive. It is important to always use caution and keep your distance when in the vicinity of a moose.

Finally, visitors to the Little Turtle Flowage may have noticed lower water levels this fall. The flowage is experiencing a full drawdown from fall to spring in hopes of reducing pickerel weed, cattail and other persistent aquatic vegetation. We plan to burn off the cattail this winter as well. With the reduction in this less desirable vegetation, we anticipate more open water and greater wild rice production in the future. The sub-impoundment to the north is a refuge for amphibians, reptiles and other animals reliant on the flowage. By performing a drawdown before winter approaches, we can rest assured that animals had adequate time to adapt and find places to live and hibernate throughout the winter.



# From Smalleyes to Walleyes: Time to Change Regulations on the Flowage?

*Continued from Page 1*

slug of youngsters on-the-rise in the population. These yearlings (in the top of the picture), ranged from 8-10.5" during 2017 and should grow to 10-12.5" next year. We also have a good crop of juveniles hatched in 2017. These year classes will be the bread and butter of the flowage in the next couple of years. Our creel survey data show that harvest pressures will likely remain consistent in coming years, making it harder for these fish to get old (and attain greater size). While they will legally be of 'harvestable size', we are going to have to do something other than hold these walleyes closer to the camera to make them a more acceptable size to anglers.

These strong juvenile year classes will help increase adult walleye densities in the near future, which shows the population's capacity to rebound in numbers. However, if we want to improve densities and improve the size structure of the walleye population, we will have to exercise some harvest restraint to allow the population to rebound in all aspects. We need to protect some of these juvenile fish, to allow them to fully recruit to the adult population. This is pretty simple: let the fish live longer and they should be more numerous larger, right?



*Survey work shows plenty of these fish available right now out on the TFF, but holding them closer to the camera won't make them stretch any further on the tape!*

So, as we have detected in recent survey work, and many of you have brought to our attention, it is time to have the conversation about a more restrictive walleye size regulation on the TFF. Do I think such a regulation is best for the population? Yes. Does that mean that we will be changing the regulation for sure? Not necessarily. This would be a lengthy process, and we would need the full-support from the public before going forward with any change. I hope to hold multiple public meetings to solicit feedback from everyone, but will start as soon as possible. We will hold a public meeting at the Haines building in Mercer on December 6 at 6:00 pm to discuss potential regulations and what a timeline would look like. Stay tuned for dates and locations of subsequent meetings. Until then, I welcome any questions/comments/concerns. Please feel free to call or email me, or stop by the office to discuss the matter further. I think we are all aware that the TFF can and should be a better walleye producer, hence the need for the conversation. Best of luck on the hard-water, and we'll hope to talk with you all soon!

2017 recruitment survey work revealed a quality walleye crop in 2017 (shown below the tape, 4-6"), and a superb yearling year class from 2016 (above the tape, 8-10.5").

---

## Signs, Signs, (almost) Everywhere a Sign

Well, we hope that by now, most of our members are aware of the new driveway signs that our association began distributing this summer at our annual meeting. By our best estimate, 112 signs have been distributed to our 180 current members. The signs are free to all members, but we are asking for a contribution of \$15 to help defray the cost of the signs. So far over 105 members have contributed for their signs.

The primary purpose of these signs is to increase the awareness of our association, and especially of all of the hard work our volunteer members do to maintain, promote and expand on the wonderful recreational and environmental opportunities that our Turtle-Flambeau Flowage offers. For those members who have not yet received a sign but would like one, you can contact our president Jeff Malison at [jmalison@wisc.edu](mailto:jmalison@wisc.edu) or 608-444-2769.



# Loosestrife Warriors

By Zach Wilson

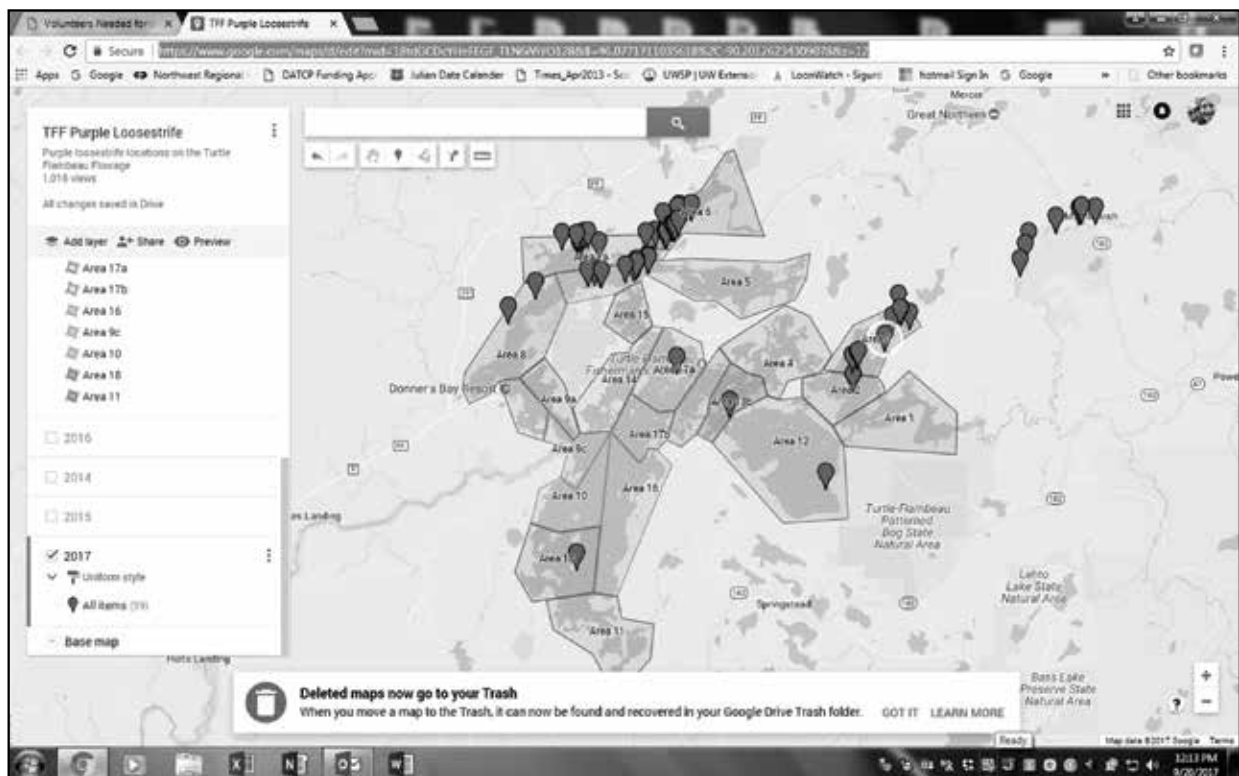
Introducing .... Purple loosestrife work crew 2017. Thanks to the many volunteers surveying their assigned purple loosestrife monitoring blocks, this year's work crew was ready and equipped for our annual work day. The crew, made up of staff from the Iron County Land and Water Conservation, the Wisconsin DNR, and many association members, did a fantastic job fighting back those pesky invasive plants. Armed with shovels, garbage bags, waders, and the herbicide "Habitat," (designed for treatment near water), this purple loosestrife posse found some major declines in the number locations of purple loosestrife and the size of the infestations. With almost 20 hardworking crew members, the team focused mostly on the Turtle River area of the flowage. We based at Sturgeon Bay boat landing and first ventured out to the previously surveyed areas to locate and eradicate purple loosestrife. To our surprise, many of the bad areas that we have visited year after year showed much improvement. We cut flower heads to stop the seed development process, or pulled or sprayed herbicide on the plants.

The two major infestations on the flowage occur near both inlets, Turtle River inlet and Flambeau River inlet near Murray's Landing. A second crew from the Land and Water Conservation Department tackled the Murray's Landing area on a different date. Both populations have seen declines in



*The loosestrife demolition crew!*

numbers. Also, thanks to volunteer Randy Payne, we are now mapping the locations year after year via google maps. Our hope is that next year we will be able to use smart phones to track our GPS locations in relation to previously surveyed areas, making monitoring and treatment much easier. Randy has also volunteered to take over Diane O'Krongly's role in coordinating the effort. Thank you, Randy. I must say that Randy has some big shoes to fill as Diane has done a great job for many years making this volunteer effort happen. I'm sure we will not lose Diane as a worker bee. Randy will now be the main contact person for future invasive species monitoring and management. Thanks, Diane, for your many years of service.



*Map of purple loosestrife on flowage and Trude Lake.*



# To the editors:

When I was an editor of Driftwood, I did not think it sensible to write a letter to the editor since I would be writing to myself, something that would be akin to talking to myself. But now that I have departed the editorial board, all restraints are off, so here goes. In the last couple of years members of my family and I have noticed an increase in bad boating and fishing manners on the flowage. A few examples follow. While walleye fishing in a river channel, a large, improperly trimmed boat came roaring by within less than a jig's throw of my modest 16-foot boat. As I rocked in its wake, I expressed my displeasure with a universal hand signal, only to have one occupant of the race-craft yell at me, "get a boat." A year ago my son was musky fishing in a narrow creek mouth, when another boat came in and began casting in the very same area. When my son pointed out that the flowage was 13,000 acres in size and suggested that they find another place to fish, the intruders justified crowding him on the grounds that they had seen a 50 inch musky there earlier in the year. Apparently seeing a fish gives one a claim to the water in which it swims. (I have it on unimpeachable authority that the fish in question, or one just like it, was not likely to have been in a biting mood, as it had been caught and released a week earlier.)



Those were isolated incidents, to be sure, even though I could cite many more. But what prompted me to write was the absolute mayhem on the water during this past Labor Day weekend. It seems that many anglers were focusing on the river channel that runs north of Big Island. Some were anchored, some drifted, and some trolled. And in and out and around and through these boats came a steady procession of people running their boats at full tilt, with no regard for how close they came to parties with lines in the water. One boat cut between a couple of musky fishermen and the shore toward which they were casting, and my son and I had to delay some casts to avoid putting jerk baits in jerks. To top it all off, some guy on a PWC came through this armada of anglers and racing boaters at something approaching warp speed. I bet he has never seen the flowage when it was down five feet.

One of the features of the flowage that members of our association have always touted is its wilderness feel; but Labor Day weekend on the flowage was anything but. Where, one might ask, is law enforcement at a moment like this? Our warden is overburdened, and there is no ranger to patrol the flowage. In the absence of anyone to put the brakes on this behavior, we run the risk of having the mentality of run and gun establish itself here, to the great detriment of this body of water and what it has always stood for. Perhaps I am alone in these concerns, though I doubt that is the case. I would encourage others to speak out, or to send some letters or emails to Madison, where law enforcement as it pertains to our natural resources seems to have fallen off the sled. If we make enough noise, maybe we can get some help in curbing this behavior. Otherwise, we are left with few tools except our own examples of ethical outdoor behavior, and the occasional hand signal.

Michael Hittle

## Get your Association Sign!

If you or your neighbors would like to acquire a TFFTL POA member sign for your driveway, please contact your local board member or President Jeff Malison, or email us on our website [www://tfftlpoa.org](http://www.tfftlpoa.org).





# Vaccinium-ate Your Landscape

By Chad McGrath

Do you get bored with your landscape plants? Or worse, do you not even notice those plants? Well, this article aims to provide a cure, an inoculation so to speak, against such boredom and blindness. This next spring go out and plant some Vaccinium. And what are Vaccinium, you ask?

Vaccinium is the Latin, hence biological rubric, for the group of plants (genus) which comprises blueberries, cranberries and lingonberries. It's a tasty group, many of whom grow within a pear's toss of the flowage. (Pears are another story, but, yes, they can be grown here.)

Here's some background on the Vacciniums:

The blueberries found within that pear-throw here on the flowage will likely be of one of two native species: sweet low bush blueberry (*V. angustifolium*) and velvet-leaf blueberry (*V. myrtilloides*). These are the commonly picked northern "wild" blueberries. They make wonderful landscape plants and can be massed for both visual effect and eventual easy picking. But there's more. There are literally hundreds of selections and cultivars to choose from too. Want a bush that gets up to six feet tall, provides large fruit and great fall color? There's a blueberry cultivar like that. How about a three to four foot tall plant with slightly smaller fruit but similarly great fall color. Got one. And let's not forget the flowers. Regardless the plant species or cultivar all blueberries produce flowers before the fruit. While small and somewhat hidden under the leaves, the flowers are lovely little urn shaped pinkish things that hang in clusters (racemes).

While blueberry plants will provide the bulk of your Vaccinium-in-ation, there are two other ingredients which provide immunity from landscape tedium. Many of you reading this have picked blueberries. But there's another Vaccinium available out there in our flowage landscape,

free for a little bog-hopping. Large fruited cranberry (*V. macrocarpon*) or small fruited cranberry (*V. oxycoccos*) are plentiful in late October and November, if you brave the bog. But you needn't slog through nature's sponge to enjoy fresh-picked cranberries. Just plant some cranberry

plants. Surprisingly, these wetland loving plants will grow well in normal landscape soil. Or, they can be grown on a deck in a container. Their flowers, although small, are held upright, above the foliage and can be quite showy. They are often pink and are shaped like a Turk's cap, four petals flaring upward, sometimes touching at the top. Most outstanding are cranberry's evergreen leaves whose needle-like shape lend the plant a mounded, fine texture.

Add small green to white to red berries as the seasons progress and you have an attention getting ornamental plant.

Our last addition to this healthy landscape is Lingonberry (*V. vitis-idaea*). Sometimes called mountain cranberry or cowberry, lingonberry is best known as a Scandinavian specialty used in pies. The plants are circumpolar in distribution, meaning they can be found in northern regions all around the globe. While native to far northern Wisconsin, they are a rare find and are listed as endangered here. But, as with the cranberry, it will grow in local landscapes. The plant is small, perhaps ankle-high, with small, waxy, evergreen leaves. Lingonberries are dark red to purple and look much like a cranberry. Best grown in a container, the plants are very slow growing but provide an unusual and culturally interesting touch.

Here's hoping you had a great Thanksgiving and consumed copious amounts of cranberries and blueberries. Maybe even a few lingonberries. And about those pears. We'll discuss those and other northern hardy fruit trees in the spring/summer issue of the Driftwood.



# The Mystery of Lipp Lake

By Terry Daulton

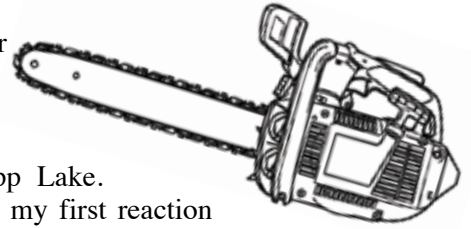
Have you ever wondered where Lipp Lake is? Over the past several years I have occasionally heard people refer to Lipp Lake or the Lipp Lake walking trail, and in the back of my mind was a nagging feeling that I really ought to know where this lake was. I had a basic idea that it was in the TFF ruffed grouse management area which lies between Popko Circle East and West on the north side of the flowage. However, as things often go, this nagging question would soon be relegated to a dusty corner of my mind until the next time someone casually referred to this mysterious lake. That was the case on Saturday, October 21st as I was driving Popko Circle to join a work crew from the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts (ICORE) and realized I had no idea where I was going. This could have been a bit of an embarrassment considering I was already ten minutes late, and as ex-president of the association, I was not giving a very professional impression.

Lucky for me there were lots of cars on the road shoulder and a few stragglers at the trailhead. The sound of at least two chain saws could be heard from the woods, punctuated by the sharp crack of branches being dragged off the trail by volunteers. Our association board member, Diane O'Krongly, organized the project along with ICORE board members Teresa Schmidt and Martha Pierpont. There were around 20 volunteers, from as far as Hurley, including one dedicated canine that retrieved as well as hauled sticks.

The Lipp Lake trail turns out to be a short loop trail on the west side of Popko Circle so I joined the clearing party with anticipation of seeing the lake soon. The trail runs through a lovely wood of big white and red pines interspersed with deciduous trees. The fall color was striking against the deep green pines. Mostly, the crew removed dead trees that had fallen across the trail and small balsam fir that were encroaching from the margins. We headed west until we were nearly to the flowage shore and then the loop

turned south. After about an hour of steady progress we arrived at the shores of Lipp Lake.

I have to say that my first reaction was shock and a stifled urge to giggle. Lipp Lake looked more like an overgrown vernal pool. For some reason the words "Walden Pond" flashed through my mind...but in reverse. When I first read Henry David Thoreau's Walden Pond in college I pictured something like Lipp Lake, a small forest bordered pond, only to find out that Walden Pond is a sizeable lake. Here I was standing by what was clearly a pond, but was called a lake. My first thought was "Why the heck did anyone even name this little puddle and secondly why did they develop this trail". Amidst my amusement, I stopped and looked up at a nearby pine. It was a huge tree and you could hear the whir of the wind in its top. As I looked back at Lipp Lake and saw it anew, disappointment dissipated with the wind; and I thought how lovely it was in the fall color, regardless of its diminutive size.



We finished the rest of the trail clearing in short order and adjourned to Popko Circle to eat homemade cookies and pack up gear. It had taken about 2 hours and everyone felt great. We had the right number of volunteers, positive attitudes and a feeling of accomplishment. With a little effort we had created a beautiful walking experience for the public.

ICORE plans to work on trails around Iron County from bike and hiking to cross country skiing and snowshoe trails. Partnerships between groups like the flowage association and ICORE can really enhance the volunteer network and give us a shared sense of community. If not for the efforts of Diane O'Krongly sharing her concerns and encouraging the project, the Lipp Lake trail would still be fairly impassable, but it took volunteers sharing a Saturday morning to make it happen.

This issue of Driftwood is loosely focusing on the importance of volunteers. If you would like to be rewarded for your volunteer efforts for the TFFTL association or another civic organization, set aside a sunny day and treat yourself to a walk on the Lipp Lake trail and enjoy the enormous pines.



*Volunteer hard at work clearing the trail!*



## Share Association News with Neighbors

- If you have a neighbor who is not a member of the association, or perhaps someone new has moved into your neighborhood, we would like to encourage you to download a membership form from the website and visit them to share information on our work.



*Newsletter committee hard at work planning this issue!*

### Guidance for the Gullible

*“Another one of the real old-time guides must be hundreds of years old from the history he recounts; he tells with sober face how he guided George Washington down the Manitowish river many years ago and maintains that he is the man who placed the rocks and boulders, which form all of the rapids in that stream, in order to make the trip interesting. He says that in those days he used to come down to his boat landing in the morning and catch two or three big muskies in order to make room to launch his canoe.”*

I.C. Rheame, “Wisconsin Licensed Guides,” Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin (July 1939).



**TFF-TL POA**  
PO Box 631  
Mercer, WI 54547



# Driftwood

The newsletter of the Turtle Flanbeau Flowage  
and Trude Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.

---

**EDITORS:** Terry Daulton/Mike Hittle  
Chad McGrath/Jean Burns  
**PRESIDENT:** Jeff Malison  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Randy Schubert  
**SECRETARY:** Bill Stewart  
**TREASURER:** Tom Mowbray  
**DIRECTORS:** Jean Burns/Ed Hryciuk  
Jim Moore/Diane O’Krongly

— *Mission Statement* —

The purpose of the Association is to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings for the collective interest of members and the general public.

*Published Twice Annually*

If you would like to contact the Association electronically, please visit our website  
[www.tfftl.org](http://www.tfftl.org) and search under “CONTACT US”

